

Proposal to develop a new Regulation (Weight Limiting Devices - WLD)

1. Background

The problem of overloaded vehicles (trucks, trailers and semi-trailers) that damage the roads around the world is nearly as old as the automotive transport itself. There are many means of eliminating such vehicles from roads, for example, by using Weigh In Motion (WIM) technology or other vehicle weigh pre-selection techniques. These measures are effective only towards overloaded vehicles that are already present on roads and damaging them before getting caught. In most cases - such vehicles are not being eliminated from roads at all.

2. Proposal

The idea to develop a new Regulation is to introduce a Weight Limiting Devices (WLD) that would consist of a set of axle load sensors, a simple calculating processor and an ignition lock unit. The load sensors would measure a vehicle actual load while the vehicle is stationary during its loading operation, giving a driver an [audible and/or optical] warning once the vehicle maximum load is exceeded. After exceeding the vehicle maximum load by [10] percent, the ignition lock unit would make the vehicle engine impossible to start. There should be some allowance given by the calculating processor for fuel mass variations, etc.

3. Justification

The road damage caused by overweight vehicles counts in billions Euros annually. The existing means of eliminating overweight vehicles act only towards overloaded vehicles that are already present on roads and damaging them, so - using a medical metaphor - they only act as a cure to a disease that already has developed and can only diminish its symptoms. The proposal is a preventive action that is aimed to eliminate those vehicles from roads before they enter them.

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