

Proposal for Supplement 2 to the 04 series of amendments to Regulation No. 17 (Strength of seat)

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from Germany aimed to close the gap for sidefacing seats in certain vehicle categories.

I. Proposal

Paragraph 5.1.1, amend to read :

"5.1.1. The installation of side-facing seats shall be prohibited in vehicles of categories M₁, N, M₂ (of class II, III and B) and M₃ of a technically permissible laden mass not exceeding 10 tonnes (of class II, III and B)."

II. Justification

UN Regulation No. 17 prohibits side-facing seats in Passenger Cars of category M1 and light Lorries or Vans of category N1. Heavier vehicles of the categories N2 and N3 are not mentioned in this Paragraph, because these vehicles are designed and constructed for the carriage of goods and not for the carriage of passengers.

In the new Annex XI of Directive 2007/46/EC there is a slight change in the footnote "G" and it will be amended to read "In case of multi-stage approval, requirements according to the category of the base/incomplete vehicle (e.g. the chassis of which was used to build the special purpose vehicle) may also be used.". The reference to the requirements of base/incomplete vehicles of the corresponding category N (based on max. mass) will be deleted. Due to this a special purpose vehicle, for example a M1 Motor-Caravan < 3,5 tonnes based on incomplete N2 vehicle could install side-facing seats, because Directive 74/408/EC and Regulation No. 17 do not prohibit side-facing seats for vehicle of the categories N2 and N3.

To close this gap and to avoid an installation of side-facing seats in those vehicles, Paragraph 5.1.1 should be amended from N1 to N.
