

## Type-Approval Procedure

### Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

**Not examined English translation!  
Valid is only the German-language original!**

**Directive 70/156/EEC and 92/21/EEC**

**This letter edition no. 17-01** (VDIK-TK9501)

#### Question or problem:

In the past, there have been differences in opinion between the type approval authorities when it comes to determining the permissible towable mass of a vehicle in connection with the permissible loading of the drawing vehicle. The Commission has set forth the foundations for a homogenous approach. The following agreement was reached at a meeting of the type approval authorities (TAAM):

#### Result:

The Federal Motor Vehicles Department has always assumed that the decisive criteria for determining the maximum authorized towable mass according to Directive 92/21/EEC are not only the upper limits stipulated in the Directive, but also the design parameters, as well as the vehicle's ability to pull away and to stop in proportion to its permissible maximum weight. As a result, the following could be approved:

permissible maximum weight of the drawing vehicle -	2000 kg
maximum authorized towable mass -	2000 kg
permissible maximum weight of the combined vehicle -	3500 kg

In the above scenario, the driver has to ensure that the permissible maximum weight of the combined vehicle will not be exceeded during operation. This form is no longer permitted!

#### New agreement:

The current agreements assume that when determining the maximum authorized towable mass, at least the "conventional" load of the drawing vehicle permissible must always be factored in. What this means is that the number of occupants in a vehicle cannot be made dependent on whether the vehicle is towing a trailer or not. On the other hand, the mass of any excess load existing for a vehicle may be factored into the maximum authorized towable mass. Here some calculation examples:

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Without taking into account the mass of the excess load:

permissible maximum weight of the drawing vehicle	2000 kg
maximum authorized towable mass	1500 kg
permissible maximum weight of the combined vehicle	3500 kg

Taking into account the mass of the excess load:

unladen mass weight:	1300 kg
occupants: 5 seats (@ 68 kg + 7 kg)	375 kg
drawbar load	<u>75 kg</u>
vehicle mass with conventional load	1750 kg
permissible maximum weight of the drawing vehicle	- <u>2000 kg</u>
excess load	250 kg

This results in the following figures:

permissible maximum weight of the drawing vehicle	2000 kg
maximum authorized towable mass (1500 kg + excess load 250 kg)	1750 kg
permissible maximum weight of the combined vehicle	3500 kg

Here, too, the driver must ensure that the permissible maximum weight of the combined vehicle (here 3500 kg) is not exceeded.

In order to clarify this procedure for the determination of the maximum authorized towable mass in the information document as per Directives 70/156/EEC and 92/21/EEC, adequate information on claiming an excess load should be included here.

Notwithstanding the above, it is possible to use the deviations from the permissible maximum drawbar load and from the permissible maximum weight permitted under Directive 92/21/EEC, Annex II, para. 3.2.3.1. However, even then, the external conditions must be described.

The Federal Motor Vehicle Department will apply these parameters in the granting of new system approvals under Directive 92/21/EEC as of 01 June 2003 and in the granting of new vehicle type approvals as of 01 September 2003. According to current considerations, this does not affect existing approvals.

Flensburg, 23 January 2003  
412-689  
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