

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

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Directive 94/20/EC Annex VII, clearance for coupling balls

This sheet replaces issue no. 08-05

Question or problem:

According to Directive 94/20/EC, Annex VII, coupling balls of vehicles pertaining to the classes M_1 , $M_2 < 3.5$ t, and N_1 are required to have the clearances described in figure 30.

The lateral view shown in figure 30 has given rise to questions or misinterpretations in the respect of the required clearance.

Solution:

In Directive 94/20/EC, Annex VII, figure 30, the angle of 45° applies from above the ball to a vertical border line that lies no more than 100 mm behind the base of the clearance. The extension of the 45° line beyond the 100 mm border line is for measuring purposes only.

Figure 25 of ECE Regulation 55-01 contains other parameters in this matter that are less confusing.

In addition, it is being determined that, in reference to § 30 of the German type approval act (StVZO), the fulfillment of the requirements concerning the clearances also applies to vehicles that are exempted under Directive 94/20/EC, Annex VII, para. 2.1.1, for example vehicles belonging to class N_2 , and vehicles for which type approvals are or have been granted in accordance with national regulations.

In the national design type approval procedure for coupling balls, the clearances must comply with the requirements of DIN 74058.

In this context, please also refer to info sheet 04-01, which deals with the clearances for off-road vehicles.

Flensburg, August 24, 2005
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