

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

This IST replaces IST No. 06-98

Directive 2007/46/EC - Off road vehicles (symbol G) with height-adjustable chassis

Issue

For a vehicle that fulfils the requirements according to annex II para. 4.1 for off-road vehicles it is possible to adjust the chassis manually or automatically in height for on-road use. These vehicles are usually equipped with an air-spring suspension.

At least one of the possible adjustments does not ensure that the requirements like approach angle, ramp angle or ground clearance will be fulfilled for on-road use. May such a vehicle be classified as an off-road vehicle according to 2007/46/EC ?

Result

A growing number of vehicle types are designed for the best achievable safety and comfort conditions for on-road as well as for off-road use. This often means that for on-road use the ground clearance must be lower than required for off-road use.

The provisions of annex II of directive 2007/46/EC does not explicit exclude an adjustable ground clearance, even if the achievable values does not justify a classification as off-road vehicle.

With this background vehicles may be classified as off-road vehicles, although the might be equipped with an automatically or manually adjustable ground clearance for on-road use.

The special provisions for off-road vehicles regarding sound limits, towing mass and clearance space for coupling balls may still be used.

However, the vehicles have to fulfil the applicable requirements in all possible operating conditions. Usually it is sufficient to test the particular worst case. The operating condition that actually has been tested as a worst case has to be mentioned in the test report. For possible operating conditions that leads to facts that are relevant for the passengers or vehicle safety (e.g. shifting the R-Point below 700 mm above ground level makes application of provisions regarding side impact obligatory), a respective confirmation is requested. This may be a note in the test report for WVTA or in part II of the information document.

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