

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

Type approval procedure **information system**

Repealing of the "Guideline on the testing of mechanical coupling devices for vehicles made of aluminium materials (RPA)" information sheet

Issue or problem

In accordance with Directive 94/20/EC, Annex I, 5.6, all parts of mechanical coupling devices whose failure could result in separation of the two vehicles must be made of steel. Other materials (e.g. aluminium) may be used provided equivalence has been demonstrated by the manufacturer to the satisfaction of the Technical Service. The "Guidelines on the testing of mechanical coupling devices for vehicles made of aluminium (RPA)" information sheet was prepared in 1994 to define supply specifications and testing regulations which ensure equivalence.

The KBA has not updated this information sheet since 1994 and does not intend to do so in the future. This involves the risk that insufficient consideration will be given to the state of the art in science and technology in the future.

Result

The information sheet does not include any current findings on the fatigue strength and corrosion resistance of aluminium parts used in mechanical coupling devices for motor vehicles. In view of this incomplete evaluation, the KBA hereby repeals this information sheet.

In the future, all Technical Services will assess mechanical coupling devices made of aluminium on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the state of the art in science and technology.

All approvals issued so far remain valid.

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