

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

Type approval of coupling devices for AOF (agriculture or forestry) vehicles according to Directive (EU) 2015/208

Question or problem:

With Directive (EU) No. 167/2013 and the delegated Directive (EU) 2015/208 regarding functional safety, the wording for the approval of coupling devices has changed compared to the previous Directive 2009/144/EC.

Wording of directive 2009/144/EC, Appendix IV, 1.1:

Among the **various types** of mechanical coupling components for tractors a **basic** distinction is made between:

clevis type (see Figures 1 and 2 of Appendix 1),

towing hook (see Figure 1 - 'Hitch-hook dimensions' in ISO 6489-1:2001),

tractor drawbar (see Figure 3 of Appendix 1).

Wording of the new Directive (EU) 2015/208, Appendix XXXIV, Appendix 1:

Mechanical coupling types on tractors

'Clevis type mechanical coupling': see Figures 1 and 2.

'No-swivel clevis mechanical coupling': see Figure 1d.

'Towing hook': see Figure 1 - 'Hitch-hook dimensions' in ISO 6489-1:2001.

'Tractor drawbar': see Figure 3.

'Ball type mechanical coupling': see Figure 4.

'Pin (piton) type mechanical coupling': see Figure 5.

In Directive 2009/144/EC, only a few of the many types of couplings - together with their essential characteristics - were listed by way of example; as a result, the Kraftfahrt-Bundesamt (KBA; Federal Motor Transport Authority) has also approved towing racks and drawbars as types of coupling devices.

In Directive (EU) 2015/208, on the other hand, all the coupling devices that can be approved under this Directive are explicitly mentioned.

Towing racks and drawbars are not found in this list.

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

Result:

Type approval of coupling devices according to Directive (EU) 2015/208:

A separate type approval for a towing rack or a drawbar is no longer possible on the basis of the new Directive.

According to Directive (EU) 2015/208, a towing rack or a drawbar can be considered to be a fastening element for a coupling device. Together with the application for type approval for each type of a mechanical coupling device, the documentation referenced in point 4.3., in which the mounting devices are also described, is to be submitted. Furthermore, the fastening elements for the coupling device are also to be examined in accordance with point 4.2. and Appendixes 2 and 3.

According to Directive (EU) 2015/208, Appendix XXXIV, point 1.2, the type of the mechanical coupling device is a type classification criterion. A separate application for type approval is required for each mechanical coupling device referred to in Appendix 1, including their fastening elements.

Flensburg, 30 May 2016
400-332/040#001
Peter Jennerjahn