

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

Revision 3 of the Agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for the reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions

Question or problem:

The Agreement of 1958 has undergone a revision 3, which is in force since 14.09.2017. The following changes will be discussed in more detail:

- 1. Type-approvals according to earlier versions (Art. 12, Item 4)*
- 2. Exemption approvals for new technologies (Art. 12, Item 6)*
- 3. Worst case principle (Schedule 3, Items 1.6 and 1.8)*
- 4. Revision (Schedule 3, Item 2.5)*
- 5. Information in approval documents (Schedule 3, Item 1.11)*
- 6. Numbering scheme (Schedule 4)*

Result:

1. Type-approvals according to earlier versions (Art. 12, Item 4)

The granting of type-approvals for systems, components or separate technical units according to earlier versions (series of amendments) of UN Regulations is possible, regardless of any other transitional provisions. The issuing of new type approvals basically takes place on the basis of the currently valid regulations (latest version with latest supplement). The issuing of new type approvals and extensions on the basis of older versions (series of amendments) is possible by applying the latest supplement within the respective version (series of amendments) of the regulation.

The granting of type-approvals to older versions does not regulate the usability nor is there an inevitable recognition in all user states. The user states decide whether these type approvals will be nationally accepted. Type approvals according to the latest version with latest supplement of the regulation are to be accepted by all user states.

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

It is not possible to extend a type-approval to an earlier version to that which has already been approved. In this case, a new type approval with a different type designation must be applied with a new allocated approval number. The term is regulated in item 1., first paragraph.

With regard to vehicle and trailer type approvals (WVTA), the requirements of the respective EC / EU framework regulations apply. The binding definitions of the respective UN regulations laid down therein are valid in accordance with the explanations given in Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No. 661/2009 including the transitional provisions laid down therein. The "new" transitional provisions under Revision 3 of the agreement have no widening or limiting effect on this definition.

Unless previous regulations are available, they should be made available by the UNECE.

2. Exemption approvals for new technologies (Art. 12, Item 6)

It is possible to grant exemption approvals for new technologies (procedure according to schedule 7), subject to an authorization granted by the 1958 Administrative Committee. The Information sheet for "New Technologies or Concepts" (MTK) will be revised.

3. Worst case principle (Schedule 3, Items 1.6 and 1.8)

The approval authority applies the worst-case principle. The decision and justification for the selection of the test sample, representing the type approved under the worst-case conditions shall be recorded in the approval documents.

In agreement with the approval authority, a test sample may also be selected, which is not representative of the type but has a number of unfavorable features in relation to the required level of performance. Virtual testing methods can be used to select the most unfavorable conditions. For recording the most unfavorable case within the approval documents, IST No. 06-13 shall be apply.

For the approval tests, as an alternative to the above-mentioned test methods, virtual test methods can also be applied if they are provided for in the relevant UN regulations. Basically, the conditions in schedule 8 apply.

The procedures are analogue to Directive 2007/46/EC.

4. Revision (Schedule 3, Item 2.5)

Introduction of the revision for changes, which don't have an appreciable adverse effect on environment and safety. The procedure is analogue to the procedure under Article 14 of Directive 2007/46/EC.

5. Information in approval documents (Schedule 3, Item 1.11)

In future type approvals will include a declaration of compliance with the requirements for conformity of production, as well as the date of the initial assessment and any surveillance activities since 14th of September 2017.

Type-Approval Procedure

Information System of the German Type-Approval Authority

6. Numbering scheme (Schedule 4)

The numbering scheme of the approval number changes to the number of supplement to the series of amendments to the UN Regulation. Therefore, it is necessary to specify in each application by the manufacturer or his authorized representative which version / supplement is requested. The approval is only granted if the version / supplement is specified and not inconsistent with other application documents (e.g. test report). Missing or inconsistent information lead to delays.

The adaptation of the approval number to the new numbering scheme takes place automatically at the next extension or correction of the type approval. Already previously announced numbers according to the old scheme are automatically illustrated when granted to the new scheme. At applicants option is an immediate update possible (Extension without test report).

As before, the approval mark changes when the series of amendment is changed. The illustration of the approval mark can be taken from the relevant UN Regulation.

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