

Proposed amendment to Regulation No. 46

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Note: The text below is based on Document TRANS/WP29/GRSG/2002/10

PROPOSAL

In the table of paragraph 15.2.1.1.1, amend the third cells in the second and third rows to read:

Vehicle category	Exterior mirrors				
		Main mirrors (large) class II			
M ₂		Compulsory 1 on the driver's side and 1 on the passenger's side <i>(but see paragraph 15.2.1.1.4.)</i>			

Vehicle category		Exterior mirrors				
		Main mirrors (large) class II				
M ₃		Compulsory 1 on the driver's side and 1 on the passenger's side (<i>but see paragraph 15.2.1.1.4.</i>)				

Insert a new paragraph 15.2.1.1.4., to read:

"15.2.1.1.4. For vehicles in category M2 and M3 of classes I,II or A, the Class II nearside mirror specified in the table in 15.2.1.1.1 above may be replaced by a Class IV mirror, provided this mirror is installed to meet the requirements of paragraphs 15.2.2., 15.2.3. and 15.2.4.2.2."

JUSTIFICATION

This proposal is based on experience in the UK regarding the use of nearside exterior mirrors on buses, particularly in urban areas.

Reports from bus operators over a number of years have indicated that use of a large 'Class II' exterior mirror is not always ideal for the nearside of a bus., particularly for low-floor or double-decker buses. In these vehicles, the tops of the lower deck vehicles tend to be low, so the driver cannot always see the top of a Class II mirror which has been positioned at the required 2m distance from the ground. Also, on 'kneeling' buses larger mirrors are more prone to hitting the passengers' heads at bus stops.

In recognition of these problems, the UK Construction and Use regulations have allowed the use of smaller mirrors with a tighter radius (such as Class IV) mirrors to be used in place of the standard Class II mirrors for a number of years. The above proposal would allow urban buses to be type-approved to Regulation 46 with a Class IV mirror as an optional replacement for the nearside Class II mirror.