

Comments on Open-top Buses and Coaches

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom.

At the 85th Session of GRSG, Spain raised the question of whether the Directive 2001/85/EC is applicable to open-top buses and coaches.

The United Kingdom is of the opinion that open-top buses are not explicitly excluded.

At the 86th Session of GRSG, Spain raised the question of special construction provisions for open top buses and coaches, single-deck and double-deck.

UK offer the following comments based on our national construction regulations

The UK regulations "Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equip., Use and Certification) Regs 1981" [COIF] requires the following specific provisions,

Artificial lighting (regulation 16) is waived for open-tops by referring to *permanent tops* (roofs), and requiring a light as near as possible to the top of staircase (in a double-decker) on a vehicle *not having permanent top*

Height of bodywork (regulation 19) states that, on a vehicle *without permanent top*,

- sides shall be greater than 910mm above deck (floor), and more than 455mm above seat (cushion)
- front and rear panelling shall extend more than >1210mm above deck (floor)

Emergency exits (regulation 21(8)) are defined and the allowed variation in number of emergency exits, for vehicles *with permanent roof* and for those *without permanent roof*, is stated

Access to exits (regulation 25) is specified and the allowed variation between those *with* and those *without permanent tops* is stated.

Height of gangways (regulation 27) specifically speaks about *vehicles with permanent roofs*, with a stated concession on height on single-deckers with *hoods* (folding canvas roofs).