

Information Note;

EU proposal for a Regulation on L-category vehicles.

The term 'L-category vehicles' covers a wide range of vehicles including two- and three-wheel mopeds, two- and three-wheel motorcycles, motorcycles with side-cars, and four-wheel vehicles including quads and mini-cars.

In summary the proposed Regulation presents a legal framework for the type approval and market surveillance of L-category vehicles which will replace the existing Framework Directive 2002/24/EC.

The new regulations will improve safety for riders of L-category vehicles who belong to a vulnerable road user group with the highest fatality and injury rates among all road users. Also there will be environmental benefits through emission reductions of L-category vehicles which currently are not reducing in line with other road vehicles such as cars, buses and goods vehicles. The main emphasis of the proposals are-;

Vehicle Safety Improvements;

- ABS (anti-lock braking system) or CBS (combined braking systems) to improve safety in emergency braking situations
- Anti-tampering with the power train which may increase speed and performance beyond the design limits of other vehicle components such as brakes and transmission
- automatic daytime running lights

Improve the environment;

- introduce three stages of exhaust emissions limits
- Anti-tampering measures to prevent modifications that increase emissions
- Durability requirements for the emissions control systems to help maintain low emissions over the life of the vehicle

Provide easier access to repair and maintenance information;

- Manufacturers will be obliged to provide repair and maintenance information to non-franchise operators in the repair business which will ensure fairer competition and which will ultimately benefit the vehicle owner through reduced servicing and repair costs
- In addition access to such information will also benefit manufacturers who wish to make replacement parts for these vehicles

Simplification of the type approval process.

- The existing framework Directive (2002/24/EC) and it's 13 associated directives will be repealed and replaced with one Regulation supported by three delegated acts covering;

- Environmental and propulsion performance
- Functional safety
- Vehicle construction.
- Include measures for new technologies including plug-in hybrids and full electric power vehicles
- Use global harmonised legislation (UNECE) where possible
- Implement market surveillance to ensure that type approval applies and that effective measures are taken where non-compliant products which may cause safety or environmental threats are found. Also market surveillance will support recalls of dangerous or problematic vehicles.

More details on the proposal are available on the [European Commission website](#).

Implementation of the new regulation is expected in January 2013.

If you have any comments on the proposed Regulation please contact the Vehicle Standards section of the Road Safety Authority at vehiclestandards@rsa.ie or 096-25014 before the 29th October 2011.