

Tractor drawbars

1. Presence on the market. Tractor drawbar should have its own class. It is one of the most used coupling device all over the world. Thus many approvals will be required by Manufacturers also in the future and the “only class s option” seems to be a non-sense.
2. Past/present/future European approval approach. Tractor drawbar is a specific type of coupling. Figure and dimensions are taken from ISO 6489-3. However only 33 mm hole (30 mm pin) is specified. At least this coupling should be present and clear in ECE R 55.
3. About other diameters of ISO 6489-3. Other diameters are present in ISO, but not reported in EC directives/regulations. In particular ISO specifies 18, 38, 50, 70 mm diameter pins.
4. About “CUNA” tractor drawbars. They are present in Italian national standard (CUNA NC 338-02) as a separate figure, but dimensions, degrees of freedom and test procedures are exactly the same of other “CUNA” drawbar couplings.

ITALIAN PROPOSAL

1. Keep a separate class (i) for tractor drawbars.
2. Start from categories of ISO 6489-3.
3. Use compatibility with drawbar eyes already existing in ECE R55 as a criteria to define sub-classes and dimensions.
4. Combine class i tractor drawbars (fixed devices) only with class r drawbar eyes (swivelling devices), in order to ensure mechanical safety of the connection. This swivel/non-swivel combination is always ensured in current version of ECE R55 (motor vehicles devices).

Following the aforesaid criteria, new class I will include:

- 18 mm pin (to be connected with drawbar eye r1-22)
- 30 mm pin (to be connected with drawbar eye r2-35)
- 38 mm pin (to be connected with drawbar eye r3-50)

All other tractor drawbars will be approved in class s.