

Proposal for Supplement 3 to the 01 series of amendments to Regulation No. 138

The proposed amendments are marked in bold or strikethrough for new characters.

I. Proposal

Paragraph 6.2.7., amend to read:

“6.2.7. Pause function

Any pause function as defined in paragraph 2.7 shall be prohibited **up to and inclusive 20 km/h** ~~(+x subject to further discussion)~~. **The manufacturer shall install a function for deactivation of the AVAS outside the specification range as defined in paragraph 6.2. The function shall be located so that it is operable by the driver in a normal seating position. The deactivation has to be clearly indicated to the driver even when the vehicle is stationary. The AVAS shall not be activated when the vehicle is started upon each vehicle turn-off.”**

II. Justification

In Switzerland, every seventh person in the daytime and every eighth person at night is affected by harmful or irritating traffic noise at their place of residence. The resulting noise pollution can have a negative effect on the health of the general public so economic consequences for affected residential settlements and areas may occur. Road traffic is the most significant source of noise, causing external costs of over 2 billion Swiss Francs annually. A large sum is therefore invested towards noise protection in Switzerland, mainly in measures to combat road noise. The vehicle fleet should contribute to noise reduction! Electric and hybrid vehicles offer a great potential for noise reduction in cities and agglomerations.

The installation of an AVAS is needed for low speeds of electric and hybrid vehicles. However, with the entering into force of Supplement 1 to the 01 Series of amendments, AVAS¹ are allowed to generate more noise on the road than necessary. Actually, the maximum sound level of an “AVAS” above 20 km/h is covered by UN R51.03. Such sound level is resulting in superfluous noise pollution and undermines noise abatement. Therefore, Switzerland proposes the above amendment to UN-R 138 recalling the central idea of AVAS: “As loud as necessary but as quiet as possible”.

¹ I.e. the equipment used for AVAS sound in low speeds.