



RDW

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Approval vs SMS

Justification to separate the Safety Management System (SMS) from the vehicle approval



Justification

Justification to separate the Safety Management System (SMS) from the vehicle approval to provide a better SMS and more flexibility.

Separating a SMS from vehicle approval processes offers several advantages, particularly in complex organizations or sectors such as railways, aviation, and therefore it could also be beneficial for the automotive industry. With UNECE Reg. 155 we have seen already seen example of a separate SMS.



Key benefits:

1. Flexibility in Management

- Independent of Specific Vehicles: An SMS focuses on overall safety processes, operations, and organizational culture. When separated, it can address broader safety aspects beyond vehicle-specific requirements.
- Adaptability to Changes: Changes in regulations or operations can be implemented in the SMS without affecting vehicle-specific approval procedures.

2. Process Efficiency

- Faster Vehicle Approvals: When the SMS operates independently, vehicle approval processes can proceed without requiring a whole repeated SMS evaluations, saving time and resources.
- Standardized Safety Approach: A single SMS can apply to multiple vehicles or operations, reducing duplication of effort.



Key benefits:

3. Independent Focus on Safety

- Avoiding Conflicting Interests: Separating the SMS could ensure that safety processes are not influenced by the pressure to expedite vehicle approvals, reinforcing independent safety decision-making.
- Enhanced Risk Analysis: An independent SMS can focus on systemic risks and broader operational safety, beyond the technical details of vehicles.

4. Compliance and Audit Readiness.

- Demonstration of Compliance: Separating the SMS from vehicle approval makes it possible to demonstrate that safety processes are consistently applied and independent of specific vehicles and surveillance activities can be more efficient.

5. Safety Culture.

- An SMS detached from vehicle approval helps build a safety culture consistent across the organization, regardless of vehicle specifications



Conclusion

Separation of a Safety Management System from vehicle approval processes can result in a more effective, flexible, and robust approach to safety. This is particularly valuable in organizations managing multiple vehicles approvals and operating within complex regulatory environments.

The benefits are relevant for the UNR and GTR.