Annex 1

Examples of the “installation data supplied by the vehicle.”

Most vehicle manufacturers do give some kind of description of the mounting points in their owner’s manuals. However the quality of the given information is rarely sufficient for an approval authority to check if the design of the towbar (i.e. fixing points & position of coupling point) is correct. See examples below.

Example 1:
Fixing points drawing taken from an owners manual

For the fixing points:
Only measurements in one dimension are given here.
And the measurement "555 mm" is not necessary because the coupling device is fitted to the inside of the two chassis beams.

With regard to the position of the coupling point:
Only the height dimension is given.
No dimension is given for the maximum permissible overhang.

Remark:
This fixing points drawing is only suitable for a vehicle with VIN ...132225 or higher (2005 →).
The towbars on the older models (2003 - 2005) were fixed with 5 points on each side.
The 2 deleted points on each side are still shown in this drawing, which causes more confusion.

Example 2:
Fixingpoints drawing taken from an owners manual

For the fixing points:
There should be six fixing points given in this drawing, i.e.:
four points against the rear end of the chassis and two points on the underside of the bottomplate.
Only some indication is given for the position of the two points under the bottomplate.
Example 3:
Fixing points drawing taken from a "Masses & dimensions" certificate (EU directive 92/21)

If you look at the drawing, it seems as though a towbar should be fixed with 6 bolts: 4 on the right-hand side and 2 on the left-hand side. However, if you look at the "Parts identification", it seems as though you only need four bolts to fix the towbar.
Explanation ???

PARTS IDENTIFICATION
A  HITCH ASSEMBLY (REFERENCE SAMPLE)
B  BOLT  M12 X 1.25 (4 EA)
C  FRAME ASSEMBLY
D  SPARE TIRE
Example 4
Two towbars, both designed for the same vehicle.

This is an example where two towbars, from different manufacturers, but designed for the same vehicle type, are fixed to the vehicle in different ways.

This is the approved towbar make A

This is the approved towbar B

If you take a close look, you will see that the towbar “B” does use the central towing eye as a fixation point (indicated by the letter “C” in the drawing). But the towbar “A” does not use this point.

This mistake was caused by the fact that the fixing points drawing in the car owner’s manual had a mistake in it. This drawing was used by manufacturer A

On the other hand manufacturer B produced the towbar by order from the vehicle manufacturer and could have access the the original fixing points drawing of that vehicle.
Example 5:
Fixing points drawing taken from the WVTA certificate

No information is given at all about the fixing points (number ?, position ?)
Example 6:
Fixing points drawing taken from the "Masses & dimensions" certificate.

Although the position of the coupling point is given in the text, the information about the fixing points is totally unclear (see drawing below).