

## Draft amendments to UN Regulation No. 55 (Mechanical couplings)

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from the European Commission to update the provisions on mechanical couplings as installed on motor vehicles, in particular concerning the information to be provided to drivers. The modifications to the current text of the UN Regulations are marked in bold for new or strikethrough for deleted characters.

### I. Proposal for Supplement 8 to the 01 series of amendments to UN Regulation No. 55 (Mechanical couplings)

*Annex 7, paragraph 1.1.4., amend to read:*

"1.1.4. When the trailer ... in the vehicle. **In such a case, the motor-vehicle's user instructions (e.g. owner's manual, vehicle handbook) shall clearly specify that the removable or repositionable mechanical coupling device shall always be removed or repositioned when it is not in use.**

If the installed ..."

### II. Justification

1. Since the introduction of a footnote in item Regulation Number 55 of Annex IV in General Safety Regulation (EC) No 661/2009, vehicle approvals are not in compliance with the General Safety Regulation if non-removable or -repositionable are installed when (partly) obscuring lighting components or the rear registration plate space (reference: Commission Regulation (EU) No 523/2012 of 20 June 2012).
2. Unfortunately, it is permitted in UN Regulation No. 55 that removable coupling can be locked with a key, which does not promote the safe removal or repositioning of mechanical couplings when is not in use.
3. To improve user awareness, clear information should be included in the e.g. instruction manual.



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