

Submitted by the expert from Sweden

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Agenda item 2(a))

Improve the fire safety of buses and coaches - Automatic fire suppression system in the engine compartment

A few years ago Germany, France, Norway and Sweden agreed to combine their efforts to further developments of the requirements that deal with fire safety in vehicles of categories M2 and M3 (see informal document GRSG 98-08).

Requirements have been introduced to decrease the number and consequences of bus fires in Regulation No. 107 (requirements regarding fire detection in the engine compartment, separate heating compartment and separate compartments, e.g. toilets) and Regulation No. 118 (burning behavior of materials used in the interior compartment, the engine compartment or any separate heating compartment). But still one issue remains – to introduce requirements on automatic fire suppression systems in the engine compartment. Since a significant number of fires start in the engine compartment, installation of such systems is an important measure to improve fire safety.

Suppression systems are already available on the market and are fitted on a voluntary basis by manufacturers and/or operators. Minimum requirements should be defined to ensure a harmonised safety standard. A method for testing the performance of fire suppression systems has been developed by SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, and Sweden would like to present the method at this GRSG session.

If there is interest, within the GRSG, to develop type approval requirements for suppression systems, Sweden could propose such requirements at the next GRSG session.
