

Press release on Autofore Report¹

Improved vehicle safety in Europe

More frequent periodic technical inspections of older cars, inspection of electronically controlled systems and periodic inspection of motorcycles are immediate steps that could be taken to improve European road safety and environmental protection according to a recent study.

The International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee, known as ‘CITA’, in partnership with five research institutes has issued a report into the future direction of vehicle roadworthiness enforcement in Europe. The two year study, which was initiated and part funded by the European Commission, was called ‘**AUTOFORE**’, which stands for “**Study for Future Options for Roadworthiness Enforcement in the European Union**”.

On the basis of available accident data and economic analysis, the ‘**AUTOFORE**’ report recommends in the **short term**–

- (a) That older cars and vans are inspected annually (currently the European Directive only requires inspection every two years once a car or van is four years old, though some member states already require more frequent inspection);
- (b) Adding widely fitted safety relevant electronically controlled systems, such as antilock braking (ABS), electronic stability control (ESC) and airbags to the list of items that must be inspected; and
- (c) Adding motorcycles and mopeds to the list of vehicle classes that should be inspected periodically.

In addition, the report recommends in the **longer term** further work to investigate further improvements to periodic vehicle inspection, to inspect other roadworthy relevant electronically based technologies, to develop other ways of ensuring that road vehicles remain roadworthy and to further harmonise European roadworthiness standards.

¹ The opinions expressed in the study are those of the consultant and do not necessarily represent the position of the Commission.

Additional information

A digital edition of this report, its appendices and annexes is available on the CITA website.

www.cita-vehicleinspection.org

The report can be downloaded free of charge. In case of difficulties, please contact the CITA Secretariat by e-mail or telephone

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It is also published on the website of the European Commission where it can be found under the following link.

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/publications/projectfiles/autofore_en.htm

Notes to editors

CITA is the international association of public and private organisations involved in periodic and roadside mandatory vehicle inspection. It has members in most of the countries of the European Union.

The European Directives on roadworthiness are Directive 96/96/EC for periodic technical inspections and Directive 2000/30/EC for roadside inspections.

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Other CITA members and stakeholders that have contributed are:

- Slovdekra in Slovak Republic,
- European Garage Equipment Association,
- Bundesanstalt für Verkehr in Austria,
- Center for Vehicles of Croatia,
- Environmental Systems Products Inc in the USA,
- National Transport Authority in Hungary,
- Vietnam Register, and
- Association des Services des Automobiles in Switzerland.

The other members of the 'AUTOFORE' consortium are:

- argetp21 in Germany,
- Institut für Kraftfahrwesen Aachen in Germany,
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