COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 1999/55/EC

of 1 June 1999

adapting to technical progress Council Directive 77/536/EEC relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors [1], as last amended by Directive 97/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council [2], and in particular Article 11 thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 77/536/EEC of 28 June 1977 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors [3], as last amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 11 thereof,

(1) Whereas, in order to improve safety in the face of the growing variety of tractors on the market, provisions are now required to ensure equal treatment for tractors with a reversible driving position, that is to say, having a reversible seat and steering wheel designed to increase operational versatility and improve the supervision of implements;

(2) Whereas the arrangements for testing roll-over protection structures should be harmonised with the arrangements defined in code 3 of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for the official testing of protection structures for agricultural tractors (dynamic tests);

(3) Whereas the measures provided for in this Directive are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for Adaptation to Technical Progress established by Article 12 of Directive 74/150/EEC,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Annexes I, II and III to Directive 77/536/EEC are hereby amended as shown in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

1. From 1 July 2000, Member States may not:

— refuse to grant EC type-approval, to issue the document provided for in the third indent of Article 10(1) of Directive 74/150/EEC, or to grant national type-approval, in respect of any type of tractor, or

— prohibit the entry into service of tractors,

if the tractors in question meet the requirements of Directive 77/536/EEC as amended by this Directive.

2. From 1 January 2001, Member States:

— may no longer issue the document provided for in the third indent of Article 10(1) of Directive 74/150/EEC in respect of any type of tractor which does not meet the requirements of Directive 77/536/EEC as amended by this Directive,

— may refuse to grant national type-approval in respect of a type of tractor which does not meet the requirements of Directive 77/536/EEC, as amended by this Directive.

Article 3

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 30 June 2000 at the latest. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law that they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

[1] OJ L 84, 28.3.1974, p. 10.
[2] OJ L 277, 10.10.1997, p. 24.
[3] OJ L 220, 29.8.1977, p. 1.