



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Road Transport: Entry into force of the third generation of digital tachographs**

A new digital tachograph activated from 1 October 2012 will have to comply with new requirements making it impossible to tamper with the recorded driving time using simple magnets. The new device will also calculate with more precision the driving time. This new generation tachograph results from a Commission Regulation adopted in 2009.

As the tachograph rules are subject to continuous adaptation to technical progress, the Commission adopted new specifications of the digital tachograph<sup>1</sup> in 2009. These specifications have been introduced in two steps. The first step, applicable since October 2011, concern software changes that allow to better calculate the driving time by a more precise rounding-up of time driven, addressing the so-called "one minute issue". Each minute is now recorded as driving only if driving is the longest continuous period within the minute – for example, 31 seconds.

The latest update concerns tachographs activated from 1 October 2012. These new generation tachographs will in addition be fully tamper-proof against the frauds which use simple magnets. The new device works with a more resistant motion sensor and a second source of motion detection. Currently, three tachograph manufacturers have received the corresponding certification from the Joint Research Centre of the Commission.

Tachographs automatically record the driving time and rest periods of professional drivers. They ensure a uniform enforcement of the social rules in road transport and avoid accidents caused by the accumulation of drivers' fatigue, create a level playing field between operators and contribute to preserving the working conditions of drivers. Manipulating tachographs using magnets has until now been a rather common fraud and will not be possible anymore with this new generation device.

In order to decrease the other types of possible frauds and further simplify the use of the device by drivers and operators, the European Parliament and the Council are currently working towards adopting a new tachograph regulation following a Commission proposal from July 2011.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 1266/2009 of 16 December 2009 adapting for the tenth time to technical progress Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport, OJ L 339, 22.12.2009, p.3

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) N° 3821/85. COM (2011) 451

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