

Introduction of the generic decision

1. CONTEXT

The Commission has in total assessed eight applications concerning technologies that contribute to improving the efficiency of 12V alternators, and five applications concerning technologies that contribute to improving the efficiency of exterior lighting systems by the use of LED, and has approved them as eco-innovations for the purpose of Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 443/2009.

Based on the experience gained from these assessments, it has been demonstrated that a 12V alternator with a minimum efficiency, and appropriate combinations of exterior LED lights, meet the eligibility criteria referred to in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 725/2011 and provide a reduction of at least 1 g CO₂/km as compared to a baseline vehicle.

To simplify the deployment of these eco-innovation technologies and the certification of the CO₂ savings, the Commission has adopted two generic approval Decisions. This paper provides an overview of the effects of these decisions for applicants for eco-innovation approvals and for manufacturers' certification applications.

2. HOW DOES IT WORK: APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS OF ECO-INNOVATIONS

What happens if you apply for the approval of a LED lighting/alternator as an eco-innovation?

If the 12V alternator or the exterior LED lighting is not compliant with the conditions described in the corresponding generic decision, a new application has to be submitted to the European Commission following the usual procedure for the approval of innovative technologies, as described in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 725/2011 and in the Technical Guidelines. The application will be assessed by the European Commission, and a new specific decision approving the new 12V alternator or the new exterior LED lighting will be published if every eligibility criteria are met.

If the 12V alternator or the exterior LED lighting is compliant with the conditions described in the corresponding generic decision, the components are considered as eco-innovations pursuant to the generic decision and no further assessment or approval of the Commission is needed. A manufacturer may install the component in the vehicle and the certification of the CO₂ savings can be requested directly to the type approval authority (see part 3). As a result, applications concerning technologies that fall within the scope of a generic decision would become irrelevant.

What happens with existing approvals – how should they be referenced?

Existing approvals remain valid, meaning that approval decisions already published will remain valid, and certifications of CO₂ savings by reference to a specific decision will remain valid as well.

In other words, no change is required for vehicles already approved with an eco-innovation, and a manufacturer using a LED lighting/alternator already approved as an eco-innovation can still certify CO₂ savings for a new vehicle by referring to the corresponding specific decision, or as an alternative, by referring to the corresponding generic decision. It is nevertheless encouraged to use the generic decision when possible.

3. HOW DOES IT WORK: CERTIFICATIONS

What happens with LED lighting/alternator compliant with the generic decision?

If a 12V alternator or an exterior LED lighting is compliant with the conditions described in the corresponding generic decision, a manufacturer has the possibility to apply for the certification of the CO₂ savings directly to the type approval authority without any new application and assessment of the European Commission.

In this context, the manufacturer has to provide a verification report from an independent verification body confirming the compliance of the 12V alternator or the exterior LED lighting with the corresponding generic decision, together with the application for certification submitted to the type approval authority (see article 11 of Regulation n°725/2011).

Then the type approval authority checks that the 12 V alternator or the exterior LED lighting satisfies the conditions described in the generic decision. Where that is the case, the certification of CO₂ savings can be done as described in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 725/2011, otherwise the application for certification of the savings should be rejected.

What happens with LED lighting/alternator non-compliant with the generic decision?

If a 12V alternator or an exterior LED lighting is not compliant with the conditions described in the corresponding generic decision, or the relevant specific decision if reference is made to such decision, a new application for the approval of the LED lighting/alternator has to be submitted to the European Commission. The application will be assessed following the usual procedure for the approval of innovative technologies, as described in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 725/2011 and in the Technical Guidelines.

4. WHAT ARE THE MAIN ADVANTAGE TO USE THE GENERIC DECISION:

For suppliers of technologies meeting the eco-innovations generic criteria:

A supplier of a component that falls within the scope of a generic decision can offer the component as an eco-innovation to a manufacturer. A verification report from an independent verification body should be provided by the supplier to confirm that this is the case, however, no further assessment or approval of the component is required from the Commission. This means a significant reduction in the time needed to assess and approve a technology as well as in the administrative burden.

For manufacturers' certifying the savings:

Every component that satisfies the conditions of a generic decision can be certified by reference to the same generic eco-innovation code (described in the corresponding generic decision). This means that a manufacturer has the possibility to apply for the certification of the CO₂ savings from several compliant eco-innovation components by a single certification application.

In this context, a manufacturer can choose to still approve different vehicle versions with specific CO₂ savings, or approve one single version with the worst case CO₂ savings to offer more flexibility on the production line (possibility to use different components representing the same eco-innovation e.g. 12V efficient alternators or different efficient exterior LED lighting, without the need to define different vehicle versions for each separate eco-innovation).

Example of vehicle fitted with different efficient alternators:

