



Increasing the efficiency of Road Transport in Europe

Roadworthiness test

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The roadworthiness test for trucks and trailers is a mandatory safety inspection required by every EU member state and must be conducted in the country of registration. Transport equipment operating internationally needs to be routed back to the country of registration for this annual test.

Based on figures from ETB members, 14% of trucks and trailers travel empty to the country of registration solely for the annual roadworthiness test creating additional cost, increased empty kilometres and unnecessary CO₂ emissions. There is an installed base in Europe of 2 million trailers and 1.2 million trucks, which equates to 176 million empty kilometres, 112 million kilogrammes of CO₂ emissions and €172 million extra cost per year.

The ETB strongly supports the Dutch Government's initiative, which now allow annual roadworthiness tests to be performed outside Dutch borders. Following bi-lateral agreements, Dutch equipment can now be tested in Belgium and, from 2011, also in Spain. With the European-type approval system already in place for cars, trucks and trailers there is a good base to harmonise the annual testing protocols among EU countries. This is common practise in the railway industry for many years.

Among EU countries, there is a lack of trust in national testing protocols of other countries. The general perception is that testing outside country borders is of lower quality. Given the high volume of internal EU traffic, this further supports the case for a European harmonisation of testing standards and the mutual recognition of roadworthiness tests.

The mutual recognition of roadworthiness tests would

- Increase road safety
- Reduce road congestion by 440.000 vehicles
- Reduce CO₂ emissions
- Make safety roadside check easier
- Reduce cost

European Transport Board

The ETB is a pan-European centre of knowledge for the transport and logistics industry. The board consists of decision makers from the most significant European transportation and logistics companies who, together, are responsible for almost 300,000 units in road transport.