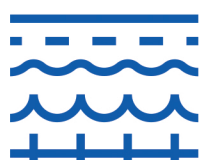


# Recommendation on the required information for vehicle transport

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Version 2, December 2025



**ECG**

The Association  
of European  
Vehicle Logistics

## Recommendation on the required information for vehicle transport

### 1) Background

In 2024 the ECG Quality Working Group received a comment from a shipping line member that some information crucial for the carrier, such as the power type of the vehicle, is not shared by OEMs at the moment of booking the vehicle for transport. On the other hand, OEMs say that some shipping lines are asking them to provide what is seen as non-essential information, which can make the administration very burdensome.

The shipping lines and OEMs present agreed that ECG should investigate this matter, so ECG convened a small working group, composed of LSP and OEM representatives, to discuss the issue and also conducted a short survey to understand the data currently being shared. This work resulted in the publication of a short document in August 2024, emphasizing the importance of data sharing. ECG slightly updated it in December 2025, linking the joint standard with Odette on the VIN label into this document, as well as a link to the emissions calculation and reporting in FVL as accurate data is also crucial for this field.

### 2) Recommendation

According to a questionnaire conducted among LSPs (of which the detailed results can be seen in Annexe I) the following information would be mandatory:

Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4WD, AWD	Other
6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6	2/6	4/6		3/6		

According to the questionnaire conducted among OEMs (of which the detailed results can be seen in Annexe II) the following data set is already shared with the LSPs:

Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4WD, AWD	Other
3/4	4/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	1/4	1/4				

Based on the above results, we propose the following information to be shared with the LSPs:

Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4WD, AWD	Other
Mand.	Mand.	Mand.	Mand.	Mand.	Opt.	Mand.		Opt.		

Emergency handling guide should be sent once for every model, the link to which could also be included in an EDI message or via a QR or barcode on the VIN-label.

Some LSPs also mentioned the need to know the State of Charge of the HV battery for maritime transportation. But this is not an information transmitted for the transport and it is covered by the bilateral contract.

### 3) Data to be shared

Based on the questionnaire results the following pieces of information are recommended to be shared.

- Power type
- Calculated weight (given value from systems which is assumed to be sufficiently accurate but may not be individually verified)
- Width (mirror folded in or out, without mirror, depending on the OEM)



- Length (excluding bumper protectors if fitted)
- Height (including any fitted accessories; if they are not included, the OEM is advised to contact the LSP so that an agreement could be found to cover the case)

The participating OEMs agreed on the process of giving information on the vehicle dimensions to support efficient load preparations. The OEMs provide the best data available from digital systems but they are not individually verified and thus they might differ case by case. The transmitted data is intended to improve digitalisation of logistics processes and the overall information sharing.

#### **4) Means of data sharing**

It is essential to use standard digital messages for the information sharing with the LSPs and move away, where possible, from use of Excel files and e-mails. The [ECG-Odette-VDA standard](#) on digital messages gives a good industry guideline and it is already being implemented by many OEMs.

The data fields identified as essential for the shipping lines already exist in the ECG-Odette-VDA transport order (FV14a) message.

#### **5) Importance of accurate data sharing on the VIN labels**

The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) label is a critical tool in the vehicle distribution process as the VIN is the central point of reference for vehicle identity and key specifications. Accurate and detailed information on the VIN label not only ensures traceability but also optimises the logistics process by enabling better planning and handling of vehicles.

Providing as much information as possible on the VIN label in a human readable format – including weight, dimensions, power type (e.g., ICE, hybrid, electric), and other relevant attributes – helps logistics operators allocate resources appropriately, manage space efficiently and improve operational safety. Enhanced VIN label data also reduces errors in transport and storage, streamlining the entire vehicle delivery process. It also allows for the visual identification of Alternative Fuel Vehicles in the supply chain, especially in port terminal operations.

ECG and Odette have elaborated a standard for the VIN labels where fields are already foreseen for all data points highlighted in this document. The standard provides a layout suggestion, but this can be adapted to individual OEM designs. It also recommends the rear left window as the place on the vehicle to affix the VIN labels: this way all actors handling the vehicle would know where to look for the needed information on the VIN label and the scanning procedures would also be more streamlined.

For detailed recommendations and best practices, please consult the ECG-Odette Recommendation on VIN Label in Vehicle Distribution Process.<sup>1</sup>

#### **6) Importance of accurate data in emissions reporting**

Accurate and transparent data sharing is indispensable also in addressing the growing environmental challenges faced by the transport and logistics sector. For transport emissions reporting, it is essential to base calculations on primary data wherever possible rather than relying on secondary data or default factors. Primary data enables companies to measure, monitor, and reduce their carbon footprint more effectively, meeting regulatory requirements and customer expectations.

Moreover, harmonised data-sharing practices across the supply chain foster collaboration and comparability of emissions data, driving more informed decisions towards sustainability. The VDA and ECG Recommendation – Emissions Calculation and Reporting Guideline for Automotive Supply Chains (the Guideline), provides a structured approach to collecting and reporting emissions data, ensuring reliability and consistency throughout the supply chain. The Guideline provides a standard digital message for data sharing on emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ecgassociation.eu/publications-and-reports/vin-labels-in-the-vehicle-distribution-process/>

For more information and guidance, please refer to the ECG and VDA Emissions Calculation and Reporting Guideline for Automotive Supply Chains.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ecgassociation.eu/activities/sustainability-working-group/>

## Annex I

### Questionnaire among LSPs

The questionnaire in 2024 enquired about the information that the LSPs consider as mandatory for sharing so that an LSP can associate it with the VIN number in its booking system.

6 shipping lines completed this questionnaire.

#### Mandatory information for the LSPs

LSP	Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4WD, AWD	Other
LSP1	X	X	X	X	X		X				
LSP2	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		
LSP3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				New/Used unit
LSP4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
LSP5	X	X	X	X	X				X		Model name
LSP6	X	X	X	X	X						POL, POD, Any extraordinary handling instruction

Another question was the list of information which the shipping lines consider as ‘nice to have’, i.e. not essential information but something that facilitates their work.

#### ‘Nice to have’ information for the LSPs

LSP	Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4WD, AWD	Other
LSP1						X					
LSP2						X		X			
LSP3											Special additional elements
LSP4											Whether vehicle equipped with aluminum or steel rims or towing eye
LSP5						X	X				SOC
LSP6						X	X	X	X	X	

Furthermore, shipping lines noted in the questionnaire that they ask for emergency handling guides for EVs. “However, these are seldom received at the time of booking and very often we have to request them from the shipper when we face some problems (e.g. towing instructions, or specific procedures for non-starters). Ideally these should be sent every time a new model is booked for shipment.”



## Annex II

### Questionnaire among OEMs

The questionnaire in 2024 enquired about the information that the OEMs are already sending to the shipping lines on the vehicles.

4 OEMs completed this questionnaire.

#### Information already sent by the OEMs

OEM	Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4W/ AWD	Other
OEM1	X	X	X	X	X			X			
OEM2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
OEM3	X	X									VIN model sometimes model code
OEM4		X	X	X	X						

ECG also asked the OEMs to note which pieces of information are difficult to share with the LSPs.

#### Information labelled as 'difficult to send' by the OEMs

OEM	Fuel type	Weight	Length	Width	Height	Ground clearance	Emergency handling	Colour	LHD/RHD	SWD, 4W/ AWD	Other
OEM1						X				X	
OEM2								X	X		
OEM3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	all are difficult: all information taken manually from (different) system(s)
OEM4	X						X	X	X	X	



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