List of Vehicle Features in Logistics Mode

A Recommendation for OEMs

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ECG The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

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I. Introduction

The ECG Quality Working Group developed a guideline defining the minimum functional requirements that vehicles should ideally meet while in logistics mode. The document aims to improve the safety, efficiency and consistency of vehicle handling across all transport modes and provides practical recommendations for OEMs when designing vehicles for the logistics process.

As vehicle technologies continue to evolve, Finished Vehicle Logistics (FVL) operators are increasingly faced with different vehicle behaviours and functionalities that can complicate day-to-day operations. Differences in key handling, electronic systems, displays, automatic locking functions and logistics mode settings can create unnecessary operational challenges and increase the risk of damage or safety incidents.

To address these issues, the guideline establishes a common understanding of what logistics mode should provide. It defines logistics mode as the minimum functional state in which a vehicle can be safely driven during loading and unloading operations on vessels, rail wagons and road transporters, while manoeuvring within terminals and, where necessary, on public roads. The primary objectives are to ensure driver safety, maintain vehicle controllability and prevent damage to vehicles and infrastructure.

By promoting greater standardisation of logistics mode functionality, the guideline seeks to reduce operational complexity, improve safety for drivers and terminal personnel, minimise damage risks and enhance efficiency throughout the Finished Vehicle Logistics chain.

II. General Principles

1. Logistics mode (also called Transport mode, Shipping mode or Factory mode) = minimum functional state in which a vehicle may be driven for:
    - Loading onto / unloading from a vessel
    - Loading onto / unloading from a rail wagon
    - Loading onto / unloading from a truck trailer
    - Driving within the terminal
    - Driving on public roads
2. Focus on:
    - Safety of driver and surroundings
    - Controllability of the vehicle
    - Prevention of damage to vehicle and infrastructure

III. New Model Launch – Vehicle Info Sheet

In case of new model launch, provide an overview of the followings:

- Vehicle dimensions (length, width, height, weight, wheel base)
- Keys (master key, mechanical key)
- Jump start procedure
- How to start, how to shut down, driving modes
- Lifting or jack points
- Emergency towing
- Lashing
- Battery disconnection
- Dome fuse – Logistics Mode information
- Loose items

IV. Minimum Functional Requirements

1) Engine / Motor

1. Ideally, restrict the max. speed to 30-50 km/h

2) Driver Visibility

1. Windshield:
    - No labels that block driver's primary field of view
    - Wipers should be operational and used in rainy conditions
    - Ventilation should work to enable window defogging

2. Side mirrors: Should not retract/fold-out automatically at ignition on (when folding out on a vessel it can damage the car next to it)

3) Lighting & Indicators

1. Minimum external lighting: Low beam or daytime running lights should be operational
2. Signalling: turn indicators (left/right) functional, hazard warning light operational
3. Brake lights: functioning and visible brake light

4) Display – Instrument Cluster

1. Display should work to enable basic functions visibility and confirmation, such as gear position, parking brake, speed.
2. Display in English or at least in a European language

5) Keys, Window & Door Locking

1. Key storage should be possible inside the vehicle, without the car locking itself automatically
2. The keycard should show the VIN of the vehicle it belongs to in order to avoid confusion
3. Possibility to lock all doors, incl. trunk (for truck and train transport)
4. The buttons on the driver door to open the rear windows disabled
5. Avoid windows self-opening

6) Handbrake

1. Preference to automatic handbrake application
2. Visible handbrake application warning light

7) Safety & Restraint Systems

1. Seat belts: Driver seat belt must be present and usable, not pre-inserted
2. Prevent drivers' seat automatically moving forward when ignition on

8) Electrical / Electronic Requirements

1. 12V system: Sufficient battery charge to start the vehicle / enable "Ready"
2. Ensure no door locking when battery is flat
3. Audio-radio: preferably disable in logistics mode
4. Reverse camera is operational and visibility on the screen ensured (if no rear window)

9) Full Body Cover (in case applied)

1. Both driver and passenger side cover should open for safe driving on public roads and on the terminal (for better visibility)
2. Headlights, turn signals and brake lights must be visible
3. Wipers should be functional
4. Fuel lid – EV charging point should be accessible without removing the entire body cover

10) Others

1. Clearly scannable VIN-labels, preferably on the left-hand rear side window
2. No plastic inserts or covers on rims if wheel lashing is the only option (if there are no lashing eyes)
3. Consistency in logistics mode features for a brand – to avoid confusion of the stevedores

V. Future development

This guideline represents the current consensus within the ECG Quality Working Group on the minimum logistics mode requirements for vehicles in the logistics flow. As vehicle technologies continue to develop, these recommendations will be reviewed and refined on a regular basis through continued collaboration between OEMs and logistics service providers, ensuring that the guideline remains practical, relevant and aligned with the evolving needs of the FVL industry.

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