

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**

of 20 July 1981

**amending Council Directive 74/408/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the interior fittings of motor vehicles (strength of seats and of their anchorages)**

(81/577/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee <sup>(3)</sup>,

Whereas Council Directive 74/408/EEC of 22 July 1974 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the interior fittings of motor vehicles (strength of seats and of their anchorages) <sup>(4)</sup> does not permit EEC type-approval of a vehicle concerning the strength of the seats and of their anchorages if these seats have built-in safety belt anchorages;

Whereas in the interests of road safety, Directive 74/408/EEC should be amended without delay for vehicles with seats fitted with one or more belt anchorages, in order to make them more comfortable to use by a larger number of adult occupants and thus increase the rate of belt wearing; whereas such an amendment has been made possible by technical progress in motor-vehicle construction,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

Directive 74/408/EEC shall be amended as follows:

1. Article 1 (2) is replaced by the following:

'2. This Directive does not apply to folding (tip-up) seats or to side-facing or rearward-facing seats.'

2. Section 2.7 of Annex I is replaced by the following:

'2.7. "Folding (tip-up) seat" means an auxiliary seat intended for occasional use and which is normally folded out of the way.'

*Article 2*

Member States shall bring into force the provisions necessary in order to comply with this Directive within six months of its notification. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

*Article 3*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 July 1981.

*For the Council*

*The President*

P. WALKER

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 87, 9. 4. 1980, p. 7.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 265, 13. 10. 1980, p. 77.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 230, 8. 9. 1980, p. 6.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No L 221, 12. 8. 1974, p. 1.