

Guideline working document¹ on reference laboratories as defined in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1235/2011 of 29 November 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the wet grip grading of tyres, the measurement of rolling resistance and the verification procedure

1. Background

Commission Regulation (EU) No 1235/2011 of 29 November 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the wet grip grading of tyres, the measurement of rolling resistance and the verification procedure (hereafter the Regulation), requires that laboratories testing tyres for the purpose of their labelling shall be aligned to a reference laboratory in compliance with its Annex IVa.

Under point 1 (1) of Annex IVa a reference laboratory means "a laboratory that is part of the network of laboratories the references of which have been published for the purpose of the alignment procedure in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, and is able to achieve the accuracy of test results determined in section 3".

The current network of laboratories includes 9 members and 1 observer further to the call for application distributed to Member States by letter on 17 September 2010. It is registered on the Register of Commission expert groups on: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/detailGroup.cfm?groupID=2519>. Only full members of the network of laboratories could be considered as reference laboratories within the laboratories alignment procedure.

The network of laboratories shall determine the assigned values of each alignment tyre. After two years, the network shall assess the stability and validity of the assigned values as set out in the first paragraph of point 3 of Annex IVa

2. Criteria for the selection of reference laboratories

Some criteria should be set for the periodic selection of reference laboratories with the view to guarantee the reliability and stability of the alignment procedure.

Laboratories applying to join the network of reference laboratories shall meet the following conditions:

- In accordance with point 3 of Annex IVa, they shall comply with the specifications of Annex 6 of UNECE Regulation No117 and its subsequent amendments and have a standard deviation (σ_m) as follows:
 - (i) not greater than 0.05 kg/t for class C1 and C2 tyres, and
 - (ii) not greater than 0.05 kg/t for class C3 tyres.

¹ This document contains the views of the Commission services only and cannot be regarded as the official position of the Commission

- They shall be ISO 17025 certified or compliant as set out in Appendix 1 of Annex V of Directive 2007/46.
- They shall have performed the alignment procedure before applying, in other words they must either have been a reference laboratory or a candidate laboratory as defined in point 1 (1) and (2) of Annex IVa.
- They should preferably be equipped with two machines capable to measure the rolling resistance of tyre classes C1/C2 and C3.
- They shall commit to remain in the network of reference laboratories for at least two years.
- To ensure homogeneous results, e. g. in case result deviations occur, they shall accept to implement specific prescriptions agreed with the network of reference laboratories (e.g. visit by an organisation independent from the participating laboratories or tyre controls).
- They shall have the financial resources to measure the set of C1, C2 and/or C3 alignment tyres and contribute to the total expenses of the alignment procedure including the compilation and statistical analysis of data.

The following parameters should be taken into account. The aim is to avoid a significant change in the assigned values that would result in changing the classification of tested tyres without correlation to their real performances:

- The network should not include more than 12 reference laboratories.
- The periodic turnover of reference laboratories shall not exceed 20%.
- The network should aim at parity between independent and suppliers laboratories.

3. Alignment procedure

The detailed alignment procedure, the list of machines entitled to be part of the network and the relevant alignment coefficients are detailed within the annexed report “*Report from the Expert Group on laboratory alignment for the measurement of tyre rolling resistance installed under Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009 and listed on the Commission registry of Expert Groups to the European Commission - Interlaboratory Alignment Procedure for Rolling Resistance Measurement for Implementation of the tyre labelling according to Regulation (EC) No 1222/2009*” of 2011-11-25.

Annex - Report from the Expert Group, 2011-11-25.