



CIRCULAR No 42/03-3-1

INTERPRETATIONS

Attached is an interpretation issued by the Board in respect of Australian Design Rule No 42/03 – General Safety Requirements.

Interpretation No 1 (Clause 19.2)

Question: Would a television or visual display unit incorporating at least one driver's aid such as satellite navigation be prohibited under clause 19.2, if the image on the screen is visible to the driver from the normal driving position and there is no special arrangement for ensuring that the device cannot function in another mode, such that it is not acting as a driver's aid, when the vehicle is in motion.

Answer: Clause 19.2 clearly does not prohibit drivers' aids. Therefore, multi-function television or visual display units incorporating at least one driver's aid are permitted by clause 19.2.

However, the policy intent behind clause 19.2 is to avoid a situation where the driver could be distracted by images from a visual display unit that are not related to the driver's aid function of the device. It is an area where manufacturers will have duty of care responsibilities.

Furthermore, it should be noted that although this issue is not covered by an ECE Regulation, it is addressed in ECE Guidelines for Design and Installation of Information and Communication Systems in Motor Vehicles – Consolidated Resolution No 3. These guidelines state that:

“6.2.....Information that is likely to greatly distract the driver visually (for instance TV, video, commercials) must either be switched off completely while the vehicle is in motion or may be presented only in a way that the driver cannot see it directly.”

Drivers' aids include satellite navigation, road/driving condition advisory systems and television camera based rear vision systems.

The Australian Road Rules prohibit drivers from watching television while driving.