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Height of Rear Centre Head Restraints

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Rear Centre Seat Head Restraint Height

Paragraph 5.2.1 of the Euro NCAP Assessment Protocol AOP v6.0 (application for rating from January 2014) states the following:

5.2.1 Prerequisite

For a seating row to score points in the rear whiplash assessment, any centre seating position in that row needs to comply with the requirements of UN-ECE Regulation 17-08. This may be achieved by use of a separate head restraint or otherwise but, in any case, all vehicles in the model range must be equipped as standard with what is needed to ensure compliance. Manufacturers will be asked for evidence (approval, technical service report) that the rear centre seat complies with the requirements of UN-ECE Regulation 17-08. For example, a vehicle with 3 seating rows having a restraint as standard in row 2 but not standard in row 3 can score points for row 2 only. Cars which have no rear centre seating position (4 seaters for example) will automatically fulfil this prerequisite.

The intention of this paragraph is to ensure that a minimum height of 700mm (according to the ECE 17 method for establishing height) is provided as standard in the rear centre position, with or without the use of a separate head restraint.

In fact, the regulation allows for approval of the rear centre seating position without a head restraint (separate or integral), in which case there is no requirement for height.

Therefore, paragraph 5.2.1 shall be interpreted as follows:

For a seating row to score points, any centre seating position in that row must have a head restraint, integral to the seat-back or separate from it, fitted as standard equipment across the model range and which meets the 700mm height requirement of ECE Regulation 17-08 when measured in accordance with that regulation.