

Department of Contracts
Notre Dame Ravelin
FLORIANA

To Permanent Secretaries
Directors General
Directors
Heads of Public Sector Organisations

15 November 2021

PUBLIC CONTRACTS INVOLVING HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES

Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDVs) comprise trucks, buses and coaches. They are defined as follows:

- Trucks – Freight Vehicles of more than 3.5 Tonnes
- Buses and Coaches – Passenger Transport Vehicles of more than 8 Seats

The Heavy Duty Vehicles fleet is very heterogeneous, with vehicles that have different uses and drive cycles.

The European Commission's Roadmap (*Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a Competitive and Resource Efficient Transport System*) which outlines the necessary actions for moving to a competitive Low Carbon Economy indicate that by 2050 the Transport Sector should reduce its Carbon Dioxide (CO²) emissions by around 60% of its 1990 level. Accordingly, Heavy Duty Vehicles emissions will need to be curbed if this objective is to be met.

Heavy Duty Vehicles Categories¹

For the purposes of this Circular, the following Vehicle Categories shall apply:

- 1) Category M consists of motor vehicles designed and constructed primarily for the carriage of passengers and their luggage, divided into two (2) sub-categories as follows:
 - *Category M₂*: Motor Vehicles with more than eight (8) seating positions in addition to the driver's seating position and having a maximum mass not exceeding five (5) Tonnes, regardless of whether those motor vehicles have space for standing passengers.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council

- *Category M₃*: Motor Vehicles with more than eight (8) seating positions in addition to the driver's seating position and having a maximum mass exceeding five (5) Tonnes, regardless of whether those motor vehicles have space for standing passengers.

2) Category N consists of motor vehicles designed and constructed primarily for the carriage of goods, divided into two (2) sub-categories as follows:

- *Category N₂*: Motor Vehicles with a maximum mass exceeding three and a half (3.5) Tonnes but not exceeding twelve (12) Tonnes.
- *Category N₃*: Motor Vehicles with a maximum mass exceeding twelve (12) Tonnes.

Technical Specifications / Terms of Reference

Contracting Authorities which within their Procurement Calls include Technical Specifications aimed at curbing HDV emissions are to ensure that the following proviso and relevant wording is included in the Technical Specifications / Terms of Reference section of the Procurement Document.

'All vehicles used in carrying out the service must have engines meeting a Minimum of EURO V Standard. Accordingly, such information shall be stated in the Vehicle's Registration Certificate (known as the logbook).

For instances, where vehicles are not certified as EURO V, but technical after-treatment has achieved the same standard, or the vehicle has been retrofitted with a Heavy Duty Dual Fuel System, such shall also be reflected in the Vehicle's Registration Certificate.'

Verification: Procurement Proposal Submission

Further to the above requirements in relation to HDV emissions, as part of their Procurement Proposal submission, when submitting a bid, Economic Operators shall be requested to present the Vehicle's Registration Certificate (specifically indicating the emission standards) as proof of conformity. For those vehicles where technical upgrade has achieved EURO V standard this shall also be indicated in the Vehicle Registration Certificate.

In the case of Procurement Proposal submissions related to vehicles retrofitted with Heavy Duty Dual Fuel (HDDF) systems, in addition to the Vehicle's Registration Certificate, Economic Operators must also present a valid Emissions Test Report generated at a

licensed VRT Station following a vehicle road worthiness test. The test report shall prove that the opacity result for the vehicle in question is lower than the maximum threshold applicable for EURO VI (or latest standards) which currently is that of 0.7m^{-1} . This report, stamped and signed by the approved VRT technician, must be included in the Technical Offer as part of the Procurement Proposal.

Accordingly, for instances wherein Contracting Authorities include Technical Specifications aimed at curbing HDV emissions, they shall also ensure that the above-mentioned Verification Documentation is requested as part of the Technical Proposal submission to be provided by the bidding Economic Operators.

Contact

With regard to the generic content of this Circular, Contracting Authorities are encouraged to submit any queries to the Department of Contracts' Customer Care service on info.contracts@gov.mt or +356 21220212.

In addition, for any supplementary information in relation to Heavy Duty Vehicles, all interested parties (including Contracting Authorities and Economic Operators) are to contact Transport Malta on info.tm@transport.gov.mt or +356 2122 2203.

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