Explanatory Memorandum

The Passenger Car (Fuel Consumption and CO_2 Emissions Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2004. No.1661

This explanatory memorandum is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. These Regulations and the memorandum have been prepared by the Department for Transport.

The Order is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Description

1. These Regulations amend existing regulations for the provision of fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions information for new passenger cars. The new regulations allow dealerships to use a scrolling electronic screen to display the information in place of, or in conjunction with, a poster or display.

Legislative Background

2. These Regulations transpose European Directive 2003/73/EC, which amended Directive 1999/94/EC, on the provision of fuel economy and CO_2 emissions information for new passenger cars. They are made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. The Transposition Note is included in the Explanatory Note.

3. Directive 2003/73/EC was adopted by the Committee for Adaptation to Technical Progress and therefore has not been considered by the European Union Scrutiny Committees.

Extent

4. These regulations extend to the United Kingdom. They do not deal with devolved matters.

European Convention on Human Rights

5. It is the Minister's view that the provisions of these regulations are compatible with the Convention on Human Rights.

Policy Background

6. Road transport is responsible for a significant proportion of the UK's emissions of CO_2, which is the most significant of the gases thought to contribute to climate change. Directive 1999/94/EC aims to ensure that consumers are provided with clear guidance concerning the relative fuel economy and CO_2 emissions performance of different cars.

7. Among the provisions of 1999/94/EC is a requirement for car dealerships to list the models of new car available for sale or lease from that site and their respective CO_2 emissions on a poster or display. Amending Directive 2003/73/EC makes it possible for dealerships to display this information on a

scrolling electronic screen. These regulations replace Schedule 3 to the Passenger Car (Fuel Consumption and CO_2 Emissions Information) Regulations 2001 with a revised Schedule to reflect this change.

8. This amendment was prompted by industry's wish for greater flexibility in the way the information could be presented to the consumer without diminishing the impact of the message. The department consulted widely on the Regulations and no objections were raised. Public and media interest in these Regulations is likely to be minimal.

Impact

9. No Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared as these regulations impose no additional costs on industry or the voluntary sector. Dealerships may continue to use the manual poster or display if they prefer. They impose no additional costs on the Exchequer.

Contact

10. For queries in relation to these Regulations contact Stephen McFarlane, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR; telephone 020 7944 2087; e-mail stephen.mcfarlane@dft.gsi.gov.uk.