

WORKING GROUP 4: ROAD SAFETY

Motivation

Road safety is a key parameter for the acceptance of CCAM. Large-scale testing and pre-deployment activities can increase the knowledge on the safety of automated vehicles and their interaction with other road users and the road infrastructure. Many activities are already on-going across Europe. To increase efficiency and synergies, these activities could be better linked together. In that regard, the CCAM platform will enable for the various actors to share their experience, knowledge and expectation for the safety assessment of Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs) and their operation on the roads.

The same goes concerning the road safety legal framework used for large-scale testing and pre-deployment activities. Each Member states uses a different procedure for checking the safety of automated vehicles and allowing large-scale testing and pre-deployment activities. With a strong collaboration and understanding from public and private sector, vehicle suppliers, road authorities and testing facilities providers, it is possible to streamline this procedure. For instance, by using the same requirements for checking the safety of the vehicle by the authorities across Europe.

The CCAM platform must help to ensure the safe integration of CAVs into the existing road traffic without compromising road safety. This aspect will be of even higher importance during the period of coexistence of conventional vehicles and CAVs. In that same context, it will be important to explore possible harmonisation of human-machine interfaces fitted to vehicles in order to ensure that all drivers and users can interact with vehicles so as to avoid any negative effects on road safety.

Scope

This working group will focus, inter alia, on the development of recommendations related to:

- identify current and future activities on testing and pre-deployment relating to road safety;
- identify road safety gaps which would benefit from testing and large- scale testing activities;
- identify which pre-normative activities, standards and technical specifications would benefit from testing and large- scale testing activities;
- promote collaboration between the various actors (e.g. industry, public authorities, traffic managers etc.) through testing and pre-deployment activities in favour of CCAM road safety issues;
- identify actions needed towards a safe system approach for CCAM
- identify which road testing and pre-deployment activities could be useful towards a common safety assessment methodology for CAVs and road infrastructure that take into account acceptable behaviour (especially in mixed traffic);

- review those road safety legal issues that could affect the testing and pre-deployment of CCAM, such as national traffic rules and vehicle legislation;
- discuss how legal hurdles for testing and pre-deployment could be addressed in the context of projects, e.g. Coordinating/ Harmonizing the safety rules for allowing testing in Europe;
- Use testing and pre-deployment to fuel the discussion on a code of conduct for the safe transition to the higher levels of automation, to make sure that requirements and procedures take road safety considerations (mixed traffic, interaction with other road users, platooning) fully into account, in particular ensuring coherence among national traffic rules and avoiding contradiction with EU vehicle rules.
- use testing and pre-deployment to identify the need for reviewing relevant road safety-related legislation or international traffic conventions which might be affected by the increasing market uptake of CAVs, such as e.g. legislation on driving licences, roadworthiness, training of professional drivers and driving times.