

EN
E-001414/2024
Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.9.2024)

Regulation (EU) 2019/631¹ sets CO₂ emission standards for new passenger cars and vans, thus contributing to achieving the EU economy-wide climate targets. Pursuant to its Article 2(3), the Regulation does not apply to special purpose vehicles, as defined in Part A, point 5, of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/858² on the type-approval of vehicles. According to point 5.5 of that definition, special purpose vehicles include wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Special purpose vehicles are identified on the basis of the information given by the vehicle manufacturer in the certificate of conformity and in the underlying type-approval documents issued by the type-approval authorities. The country of origin of the vehicles and the location of the manufacturer's headquarters or production facilities are not relevant in this respect as Regulation (EU) 2019/631 applies to vehicles first registered in the EU, in accordance with Article 2(1) of the Regulation.

The exclusion of special purpose vehicles from the scope of Regulation (EU) 2019/631 does not hamper achieving its decarbonisation objectives, as such vehicles represent only a marginal share of all new cars and vans registered in the EU.

In line with its Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities³, the Commission aims to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. It recognises that accessibility is a precondition for participation in society and in the economy on an equal basis with others.

The Commission is not in a position to further comment on the specific Court case referred to by the Honourable Member, as the legal proceedings are ongoing.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02019R0631-20240101&qid=1724684986012>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018R0858-20240528&qid=1724748421771>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>