

EN

E-000303/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(6.3.2026)

The EU law<sup>1</sup> provides that all motor vehicles must have a towing device fitted at the front. This allows for the removal of damaged or stranded vehicles from the road. The installation of towing devices in the rear of passenger cars<sup>2</sup>, on the other hand, depends on whether these cars are suitable for towing loads. This is a choice of the manufacturer and needs to be declared by the vehicle manufacturer in the information document<sup>3</sup> when applying for the approval of the respective vehicle type.

Towing devices fitted to the vehicles shall be able to withstand a tractive and compressive static force equivalent to the force of gravity acting on at least half the technically permissible maximum laden mass of the vehicle. Depending on their specific design and technical characteristics as well as approved wheel tyre combinations, different variants or versions of the same vehicle model and brand may differ as regards their suitability for towing loads.

The manufacturers must clearly specify in the vehicle technical handbook or user's instructions the information on the towing capabilities of the vehicle and on the mechanical coupling devices installed.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02018R0858-20240701>.

<sup>2</sup> Vehicles of category M<sub>1</sub>.

<sup>3</sup> See point 2.11.5 of the information document referred to in Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/858.