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P-000520/2026

E-000615/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.3.2026)

As mentioned in the reply to written question P-001106/2024, the EU vehicle emission type-approval requirements¹ are in place to make sure a reagent solution remains available for use in cold temperatures.

The active ingredient in a reagent is typically urea in a concentration with deionised water. For AdBlue the urea concentration is nominally 32.5%² by weight and has a freezing point of approximately minus 11 °C. This is very close to the lowest possible freezing point for the mixture, while still providing effective emissions reduction capabilities.

The EU legislation does not require the use of AdBlue as reagent. As mentioned in the reply to written question E-002846/2024, EU emissions legislation would allow for improved reagents with lower freezing points to be placed on the market. Nevertheless, the Commission is aware of practical obstacles and the need for recertification. The Commission is discussing with national type-approval authorities possible ways for simplified approval procedures.

There exist several other measures to ensure that a reagent remains available and effective at low ambient conditions, including heating systems or insulation.

To increase awareness of freezing of reagent solutions under extreme cold weather conditions in some Member States, targeted enforcement activities by national (Nordic) market surveillance authorities to verify compliance to the existing vehicle emission type-approval requirements on this topic could be considered.

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No 582/2011, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/582/2026-01-01> and Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1151, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1151/oj>.

² Defined by ISO 22241.