

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003192/26
to the Commission
Grégory Allione (Renew)
(3 August 2026)**

Subject: Introducing on-board fire extinguishers to improve vehicle fire safety

Recent vehicle fires, such as those in Gironde and on the A61 motorway near Carcassonne on 2 August 2026, are a reminder of the considerable risks fire poses to people travelling in vehicles, other road users and the emergency services. Several witnesses reported how quickly the flames spread, which made it much harder to act fast.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to look into introducing a requirement for company vehicles, at the very least, to be equipped with a suitable on-board fire extinguisher for a first response if a fire breaks out?
2. Does the Commission intend to examine measures to improve vehicles' on-board fire safety equipment under EU legislation on road safety or vehicle type approval?

Submitted: 3.8.2026

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(18 September 2026)**

Currently, there are no harmonised rules at EU level requiring safety equipment, such as fire extinguishers, hazard warning triangles, or first-aid kits, to be carried on board vehicles; this is accordingly a matter for the national traffic rules of the Member States. Although practices vary widely across the EU, fire-extinguishers are obligatory in at least 10 Member States ⁽¹⁾.

Moreover, measures targeting specific use cases such as company cars are more appropriate to be implemented at national level in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

Directive 2014/45/EU ⁽²⁾ lays down the minimum requirements regarding the periodic roadworthiness testing of motor vehicles and their trailers.

Annex I identifies the vehicle systems and components to be tested and the recommended methods for testing them and the criteria to be used.

Point 7.2 of Annex I includes the visual inspection of fire extinguishers, but this inspection is not a mandatory element of the roadworthiness test.

The revision of Directive 2014/45 is currently ongoing and the provisions relating to fire extinguishers in the annex were unchanged in the Commission proposal.

⁽¹⁾ https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/driving-abroad/road-rules-and-safety/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02014L0045-20230520>.