

# CAPI Car-Adaptation Protocol Initiative

CAPI is an initiative from car-adaptation industry together with three national authorities and a major customer of adapted vehicles. CAPI aims to enhance the mobility for persons with physical and/or cognitive limitations in Europe by development of a safety and quality protocol for car-adaptations. This protocol aims to stimulate EU-wide the availability of affordable adapted vehicles that are comparable safe as "standard" vehicles.

## Independent

To assure that the protocol initiative is not dominated by any industrial, national or marketing interests, an independent CAPI secretariat will be established. A steering committee, existing of stakeholders from the industry, branch organisations, authorities and customers will give guidance on the development of the protocol and keep track of the progress.

## Challenge

Driving, and thus having a driving licence and having access to an appropriate motor vehicle, is an essential part of life for all adult European citizens. (Aspirant) drivers may encounter physical and/or cognitive limitations that give reason to drive only certain types of vehicle and/or adapted vehicles. This need might become apparent during the application for a first driving licence, or after driving for some time in case of changes in the health situation of the driver. In order to assure mobility for (aspirant) drivers with physical and/or cognitive limitations in all EU countries, it is essential that properly adapted vehicles are made available at reasonable prices. Adapted vehicles should give comparable safety to the driver and the traffic, as "standard" vehicles do for "non-impaired" drivers.

## Principles

The CAPI initiative is build on several principles laid down in EU directives:

- Because of a physical or cognitive disability, driving might require certain types of vehicle and/or adapted vehicles (2006/126/EG article 5.2)
- In each Member State motor vehicles must comply with certain mandatory technical requirements; whereas such requirements differ from one Member State to another and consequently hinder trade within the EU (76/115/EC preamble)
- Drivers must at any moment have the knowledge, skills and behaviour to have sufficient command of their vehicle (2006/126/EG Annex II.II)

## Starting point

At EU level, vehicles are subject to a stringent regime of automotive directives to which all standard vehicles have to comply. Most legislation for car-adaptation is at national level and differs across the EU member states. Part of the car-adaptation industry has worked hard and consciously to design and manufacture products that fall within the national legislation(s), and also comply to industry and/or in-house standards for product performance and product liability. This requires in-depth knowledge and qualified personnel. Being aware of the importance of making car-adaptations safe, and also realising that the expertise in this field is relatively scarce, the leading car-adaptation companies in the EU decided to join efforts to make the existing knowledge available by developing industry protocols for the adaptation of vehicles for drivers with physical and/or cognitive limitations. For the content of the protocols, the CAPI initiative will draw upon existing knowledge within the industry as well as available standards, (national) best practise documents, (voluntary) accreditation schemes around the world and the results of the QUAVADIS project.

## Goals

The goals of the CAPI project can be summarised as follows:

- making the existing knowledge available by development of:
  - protocols with minimum standards for the performance of car-adaptations
  - criteria to judge the performance of a car-adaptation for a specific customer
  - (informative) test methods to check the performance criteria
  - an accreditation system for delivering an adequate end-product to the customer
- stimulating implementation in all EU countries by means of:
  - creating of awareness of the mobility and safety rights of (aspirant) drivers with limitations.
  - making the protocols available throughout the EU
  - making the EU vehicle inspection authorities and automotive industry aware of the protocols
  - workshops for information exchange amongst (national) car-adaptation industry experts

## Links to other initiatives

An adapted car must suit the physical and/or cognitive possibilities of an (aspirant) driver in order to be an adequate solution. This means that the possibilities of the (aspirant) driver have to be assessed carefully and translated to appropriate car-adaptations. The knowledge and skills needed for an assessment of an (aspirant) driver with physical and/or cognitive limitations is the subject of the PORTARE initiative started recently by the EU assessment experts. There is a close co-operation between these two projects.