

CAR LABELLING REGULATION

Key points for consumers

Why it matters to consumers

Buying a car is a major decision for consumers. Beyond the initial investment, they expect reliable information about the fuel or electricity consumption, the range, the battery state of health, the overall condition or the environmental performance of a car. This is particularly true on the second-hand market, where most consumers buy their vehicle and look for accurate, credible and comparable data. A well-designed car label can therefore help consumers navigate the market and choose a car that fits their needs.

This paper summarises [BEUC's position](#) on the proposal to revise the Car Labelling Directive. Overall, BEUC welcomes the [proposal](#) as it would help consumers make informed car choices. However, targeted improvements are needed to make the label a truly reliable tool to steer consumers towards the most efficient cars and protect their budgets.

[Read our position paper](#)



The table assesses the proposals with the following symbols, illustrating:



what BEUC supports



what can be improved



what BEUC considers problematic

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

BEUC POSITION

HARMONISING THE LABEL FOR BETTER CONSUMER INFORMATION



Fragmented national labels confuse consumers; a harmonised EU label provides clarity and comparability.

INCLUDING USED CARS TO SUPPORT ALL CONSUMERS



Second-hand car buyers deserve the same level of transparency as those purchasing new vehicles. That is why the label should apply across the entire market. Particular attention should be paid to older vehicles approved under different cycles or without digital database.

DISPLAYING THE BATTERY HEALTH TRANSPARENCY FOR SECOND-HAND CARS



Knowing the battery's state of health in a second-hand battery electric or plug-in hybrid car gives consumers valuable insight. It offers reassurance, builds confidence in electric technologies, and provides a reliable indication of the vehicle's remaining range.

NOT PROVIDING REAL-WORLD FUEL CONSUMPTION DATA FOR ALL SECOND-HAND PETROL AND DIESEL BUYERS



Petrol and diesel buyers want access to real-world fuel consumption data, as it directly affects their bills. Luckily, this data already exists in the vehicle through the On-Board Fuel and energy Consumption Monitoring (OBFCM) system. Making it easily accessible is therefore simple and would allow consumers, especially online buyers, who cannot verify it during a physical inspection, to access this information easily.

SETTING RULES FOR ONLINE VISIBILITY OF THE LABEL



Having the label online makes sense, given how communications technology has completely changed since 1999. But if it's buried under several clicks and simply not easy to find, it's useless. We need it to be visible and up-front.

ONLY MANDATING A LIMITED DATASET TO STRENGTHEN CONSUMER INFORMATION



The current label already provides consumers with a range of useful information. However, some key elements could be made accessible, notably via the QR code presented on the label: national subsidies, vehicle repair history, and more granular emissions data, including NOx and other pollutants.

SETTING UP A LABEL THAT IS NOT FUTURE-PROOF



As it stands, the label makes no distinction between electric vehicles. Yet while EVs are generally a positive choice for consumers, their energy efficiency can vary significantly. The label should therefore encourage manufacturers to produce electric cars that make the best possible use of energy.