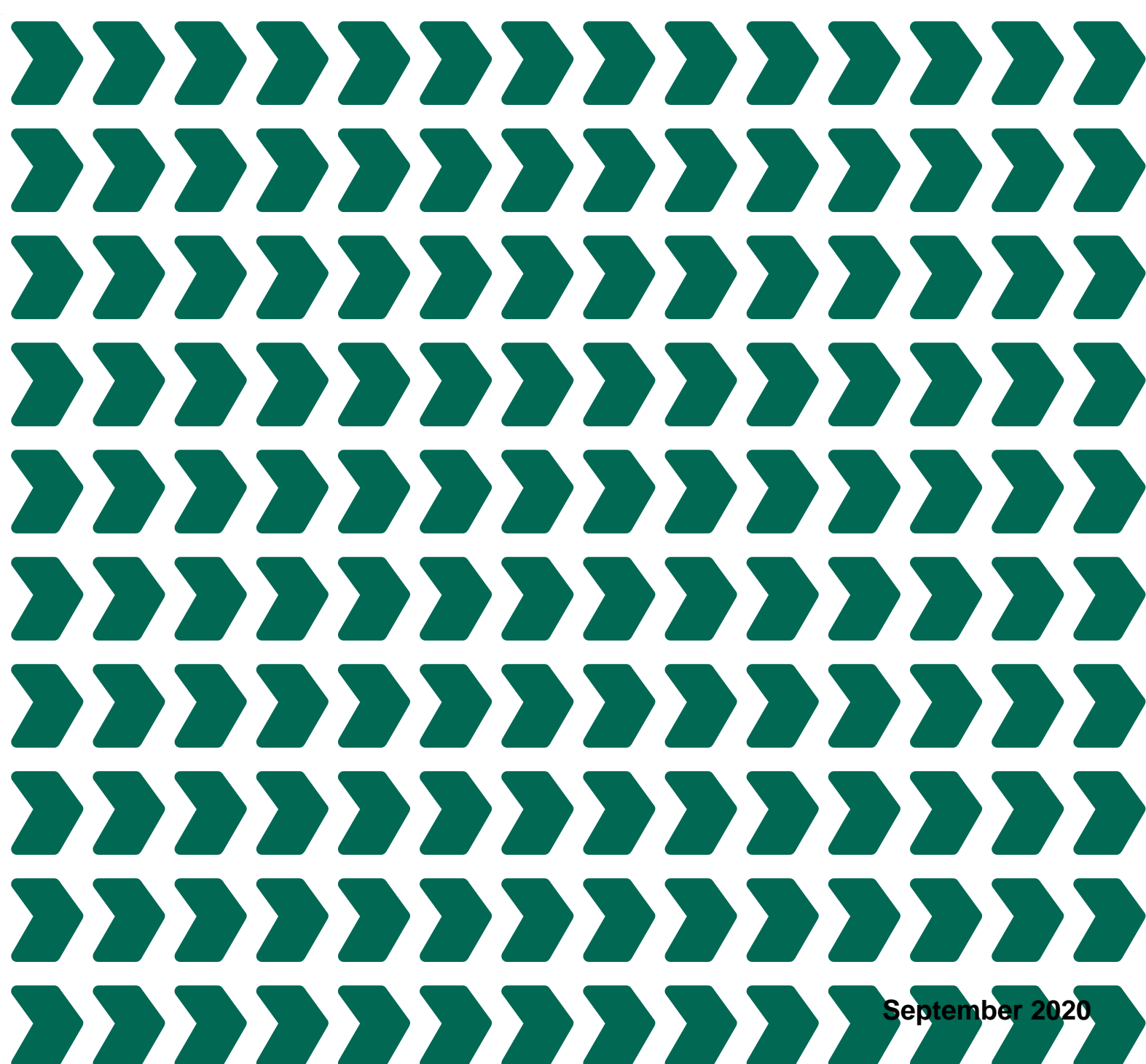




Department  
for Transport

# Issuing GB type approval from 1 January 2021

**Moving Britain Ahead**



September 2020

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# Summary

- 1 The Department for Transport published guidance relating vehicle type approval from 1 January 2021 which can be found [here](#).
- 2 The following information complements that guidance and is intended to set out proposals for the operation of a GB type approval scheme and measures aimed at ensuring the continuity of the supply of products into the GB market place.
- 3 This document sets out the details for the implementation and operation of the GB type approval scheme. This scheme will ensure the continued supply of products into the GB market for vehicles and components. In Northern Ireland separate arrangements will apply under the Northern Ireland Protocol which will be covered separately.
- 4 From 1 January 2021, **existing EU type approvals** issued by EU-27 Type Approval Authorities (i.e. excluding UK issued 'e11' type approvals<sup>1</sup>) will no longer be automatically accepted in GB for the purpose of registering vehicles for use on the road, other than for vehicles already in the UK on 31 December 2020 - where such approvals will be accepted as long as they remain technically valid (e.g. as regards emissions etc.). EU type approvals issued in the UK (e11 type approvals) will no longer be valid in the EU for the same purpose. Affected manufacturers will need to ensure that they have the correct type-approval for each market. For manufacturers selling only in UK or GB, there may be some choices, which will be highlighted below.
- 5 Products which do not usually require registration for use on the road, i.e. trailers, agricultural trailers, engines for non-road mobile machinery and components, may continue to be placed on the market with existing valid EU approvals until 1 January 2022.
- 6 From 1 January 2021, the VCA will issue provisional GB type approvals to manufacturers holding valid EU type approvals. This may include vehicles manufactured before 1 January 2021, and those not in the UK on 31 December 2020. Provisional approvals will be valid for a maximum of two years.
- 7 Manufacturers of new vehicle types launched after 1 January 2021 and brought to the GB market will also need to obtain a GB type approval before vehicles can be registered for use on the road. Initially, this may be based on an existing valid EU type approval.
- 8 It is expected that in the first half of 2021, a comprehensive GB type approval scheme will replace the provisional GB type approval scheme. This will also include details of GB type approval for trailers, agricultural trailers, engines for NRMM and components from 2022. A consultation is expected later this year.

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<sup>1</sup> National Small Series Type Approval (NSSTA) will also remain valid, holders of such approvals need take no action, the current UK IVA and MSVA schemes will also continue

- 9 It should be noted that the UK is also a contracting party to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's 1958 Agreement (UN-ECE) and will continue to recognise UN-ECE approvals for systems and components issued by other contracting parties where the UK is a signatory.
- 10 Due to provisions in the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), EU approvals can still be used for sale and registration in Northern Ireland. Manufacturers who do not export outside the UK and do not hold an EU approval, can request a UKNI approval (issued by the VCA according to the EU type approval regulations) to gain access to the NI market.

# Introduction of GB type approval

- 11 The GB type approval scheme will be introduced in two stages:
  - 1 Issue of provisional GB type approvals from 1 January 2021 (end of the transition period)
  - 2 Conversion of provisional GB type approvals to comprehensive GB type approvals and issue of comprehensive GB type approvals for new products (expected in Spring 2021)
- 12 The provisional GB type approvals required to maintain access to the GB market for existing products will be prepared by the VCA upon request from manufacturers. These will be issued and valid from 1 January 2021, as soon as the transition period ends.
- 13 The provisions for a GB type approval scheme are underpinned by national regulations made under the powers set out in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. The scheme will take effect from 1 January 2021. From this date manufacturers will require a GB type approval (or legacy/continuation e11 approvals) to register vehicles for use on the roads.
- 14 At the end of the transition period, the GB technical requirements will be the same as existing EU requirements. Hence, existing EU type approvals which are valid at the end of the transition period may be used to demonstrate compliance with the technical requirements of the provisional GB type approval scheme.
- 15 It should be noted that UN-ECE type approvals are not affected, whether they have been issued in the UK or by another contracting party.

# Stage 1 – Issue of provisional GB type approvals

- 16 To obtain provisional GB type approvals, manufacturers already in possession of an EU type approval (except UK issued EU approvals, 'e11') will need to provide the VCA with:
  - a list of EU whole vehicle type approvals they use on the GB market
  - the corresponding (and current) EU type approval certificates
- 17 For 'e11' approvals used solely in GB, manufacturers need to take no action, as these will be accepted under UK law provided they are valid at the end of the transition period. If a manufacturer with an 'e11' approval intends to continue selling in the EU, please see the section on transferring these below.
- 18 As the end of the transition period approaches, the VCA will prepare to issue a corresponding provisional GB type approval number for each EU approval submitted.
- 19 To assist traceability, GB type approval numbers will be based on the EU type approval number. To differentiate between EU and GB type approvals an alternative to the 'e' at the beginning of EU type approval numbers will be used. For example, 'p' for provisional GB type approval.

Examples of approval number formats:

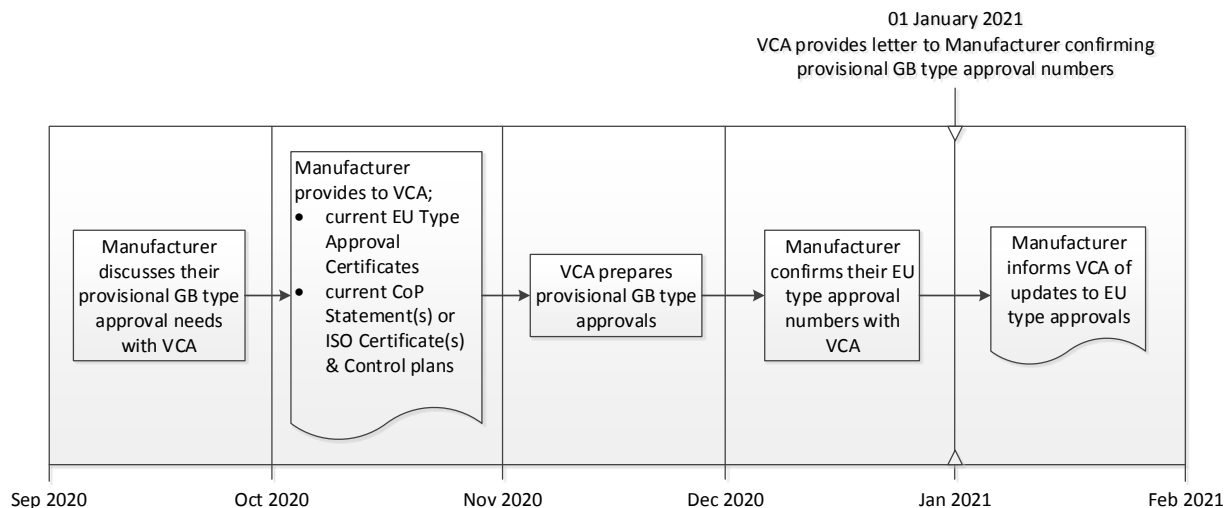
e1\*2018/858\*2349\*00 → p1\*2018/858\*2349\*00

This example represents the progression of a whole vehicle type approval issued in Germany (e1...) through to a provisional GB type approval (p1...).

- 20 The provisional GB type approval number does not need to be marked on a vehicle or certificate of conformity.
- 21 Each manufacturer that has requested provisional GB type approval will receive a communication on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport which lists their provisional GB type approval numbers.
- 22 The communication will be regarded as the type approval certificate and will contain the following information:
  - Provisional GB type approval number(s)
  - Validity of at least two years (or less if the EU type approval on which it is based loses validity in the EU before two years has expired)
  - A requirement for the manufacturer to notify VCA of extensions to the underlying EU type approvals (so that the provisional GB type approvals can be managed appropriately)

- Within the two-year validity period, all provisional GB type approvals must be converted in to comprehensive GB type approvals
- 23 The VCA retains the right to request further documentation or carry out a physical inspection in a case of doubt about the validity of an EU type approval certificate.
- 24 The process of issuing provisional GB type approvals applied for before the end of the transitional period will be carried out at no charge to manufacturers.

### Process Schematic Diagram



## Motor Vehicles

- 25 Provisional GB type approval only applies to whole vehicle type approvals. This means that it is not necessary to convert EU type approvals which exist for vehicle systems, separate technical units or components which form part of the whole vehicle type approval.
- 26 Vehicles with provisional GB type approval must continue to be provided with their original EU Certificate of Conformity and be fitted with the original EU statutory plate.
- 27 Where vehicles have an EU type approval obtained using the multi-stage approval process, a provisional GB type approval will only be mandated for the final stage of production, i.e. complete or completed vehicles. This means that an EU type approval to cover the base vehicle (whether incomplete or complete), or an intermediate stage need not be converted.

## Non Road Mobile Machinery, Trailers and components

- 28 Provisional GB type approval will be optional (available, but not compulsory) during the first stage of the GB type approval scheme. Manufacturers can continue to place these products on the market in GB on the basis of their existing valid EU approvals, or appropriate UNECE approvals in the case of engines for non-road mobile machinery or vehicle components, until 1 January 2022. The DfT will consult later this year on applying GB type approval to these products.



# Stage 2 – Comprehensive GB type approvals and conversion of provisional GB type approvals

## New GB Type Approval Scheme

- 29 During 2021 further regulations will be made setting out the comprehensive GB type approval scheme which is expected to cover:
- Motor vehicles and their trailers
  - Agricultural and forestry tractors
  - Motorcycles and quadricycles
  - Non-Road Mobile Machinery
  - Certain components or separate technical units
- 30 Under this scheme new products brought to market for the first time in the GB will need to comply with GB type approval requirements in all respects, including markings, before they can be placed on the market, sold, registered or entered into service in the GB.
- 31 We expect the legislation setting out the full details and implementing the second stage to be in place following consulting with stakeholders. It is expected that the following will be introduced under the comprehensive scheme:
- GB approval number marked on the vehicle/product
  - GB Certificate of Conformity supplied with all vehicles
  - Manufacturer's representative based in UK
  - VCA Conformity of Production checks.
- 32 Until this is in place, manufacturers bringing new model types to market will continue to be issued with provisional GB type approvals following the procedures set out in Stage 1 or, if appropriate for their needs, National Small Series or Individual (Single) Vehicle Approvals.