



# **SIX TIPS FOR DESIGNING A VEHICLE COMBINATION**



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## INTRODUCTION

When designing a new truck or vehicle combination, it makes sense to start with the functional specifications and requests that the customer has. But sometimes it is good idea to broaden your perspective a little and ask whether there might also be other factors – direct or indirect – that should actually influence the choices you make.

A proactive dialogue with the customer might allow you to identify such factors and thereby come up with a vehicle solution that will benefit the customer even more. Here are some tips for things the customer might not have thought about, but that might benefit them even more.

# 1.

## THE CHOICE OF COMBINATION

Have I chosen the right combination? It's not just a vehicle and trailer; there are many combination options, and the choice of combination may limit both use and customer benefit. It is therefore a good idea to review both the advantages and disadvantages of different combinations based on the customer's needs and intended use.

Remember that there may be different requirements for the coupling equipment depending on the combination you choose and that you need to take into account the lengths of the individual vehicles in the combination.



## 2.

### CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT

Will the vehicle combination be used for international transport?

If so, it is important to be aware of the rules applicable to vehicle length, width and height in the countries concerned. The permissible total weights for different countries may also influence the best design for the customer.

Are there national rules for the labelling of certain types of vehicle combinations? In some countries, the rear end of the rearmost vehicle must be labelled. In several countries, 25-metre combinations must be labelled “25 m”.



### 3.

## IS ANY SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING IS ABOVE BOARD?

Even if you are accustomed to designing various vehicle body extensions and functions, it may be advisable to consult a specialist.



If you are extending a crane, for example, experts from both the bodybuilder and the chassis supplier may be required to ensure the appropriate strengths, axle pressure, etc.

## 4.

# CURRENT REGULATIONS – AND FUTURE?

You are likely aware of both the local regulations and the rules applicable in the countries where the vehicles may be used. But it is also important that you are aware of any changes to laws that might be on the cards.



For example, the rules for underrun protection are changed and updated from time to time. If you are aware which changes are due to be made to laws, you can make sure that the vehicles are adapted for expected changes as well.

## 5.

# CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE VEHICLES WILL BE USED

What are conditions like in the areas where the vehicles are to be used? In harsh and exposed conditions, it may be particularly important to facilitate maintenance. Coupling equipment exposed to harsh conditions and significant wear requires regular cleaning and lubrication – this can be done automatically. Will the vehicles be on the road during the winter? If so, automatic snow chains might be the perfect solution.

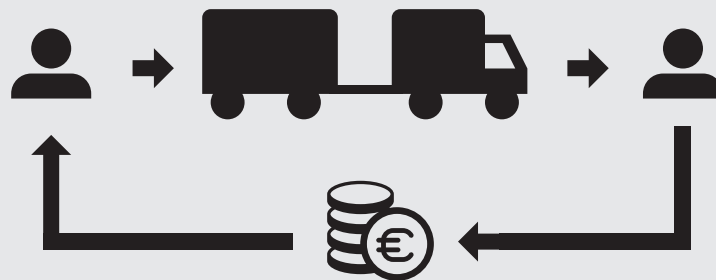




## 6. ON TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Might the vehicles be sold on in the future?

If so, it makes sense to ensure that they can also be registered in other EU countries. The export option might give them a higher second-hand value – and your customer will be even more satisfied.



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