



FIVA

Position paper:

We Protect

We Preserve

We Promote

The FIVA Definition of a Historical Vehicle

Background

November 2021

For many decades, the transition of a vehicle to a “historic vehicle” has been determined by the passage of time. While most vehicles would end up being scrapped after their period of use, some would survive to be enjoyed as a part of history and to pass them on to future generations as a rolling museum.

With the advent of stricter environmental regulation alongside the increased durability and longevity of vehicles came the need for a definition for a historic vehicle so that the distinction between a historic vehicle and another vehicle could be understood by regulators and society.

FIVA defines a historic vehicle as:

A mechanically propelled road vehicle:

- ***which is at least 30 years old;***
- ***which is preserved and maintained in a historically correct condition;***
- ***which is not used as a means of daily transport;***
- ***and which is therefore a part of our technical and cultural heritage.***

The FIVA Definition aligns in respect of vehicles closely, though not exactly, with the coding 9705 of the harmonised coding system of the World Customs Organisation.

Many countries within FIVA comply fully with the definition but not all nations currently use an equivalent definition for such matters as recognition of a vehicle as historic within their registration system, treatment of historic vehicles within Low Emission and Clean Air Zones or for roadworthiness testing requirements.

There might also be countries needing to have vehicles in the category more in line with the FIVA definition of a Youngtimer vehicle but yet again they could be called differently to follow national law.

Impact of the definition of a historic vehicle

These definitions allow decision makers to understand the difference between an a historic vehicle and other vehicles and so ensure that legislation designed to achieve environmental goals does not impact on historic vehicles thereby furthering the preservation of our motoring heritage.