



FIVA

We Protect

We Preserve

We Promote

Position paper:

Electrification of Historical Vehicles

November 2021

Background

An increasing number of individuals and companies ranging from specialist shops to large vehicle manufacturers are offering electrified vehicles for sale using historical vehicles as donors and exchanging the whole drivetrain into an electric unit with batteries to fuel the unit. This way it is possible to keep the classic appearance of the vehicle while meeting modern environmental expectations and standards. It may also incidentally increase the power available for the owner. Some of the manufacturers have even managed to get an approval for keeping the original Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the donor vehicle despite more or less changing the whole chassis.

Impact on the historic vehicle movement

Conversion of historical vehicles from their original internal combustion engines to electric power does not comply with the FIVA definition of a historic vehicle, cannot be carried out in accordance with the Charter of Turin, and does not truly achieve the goal of preserving historical vehicles. Vehicles so converted cease to be historic vehicles, except for "in period" changes.

FIVA's Position

According to FIVA, a historic vehicle is "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

FIVA's three main goals and objectives include:

- **Protecting** historic vehicles by ensuring that the development of national and international legislation does not create an adverse impact on owners of historic vehicles and the use of these vehicles on public roads without inappropriate restrictions
- **Preserving** historic vehicles, related artifacts and records, including research and cataloguing to ensure their continued enjoyment
- **Promoting** historic vehicle culture, including international events, forums, and seminars.

FIVA does understand the motivation of some owners to electrify their vehicles and acknowledges that, subject to legislation and regulation, all modifications are a matter of personal choice.

However, given the above, FIVA cannot promote to owners or to regulators, use of modern EV components (motors and batteries) to replace a historic vehicle powertrain.

If any owner, motor engineer or manufacturer wishes to make such conversions to historic vehicles, FIVA would recommend that any vehicle changes are reversible with all the original components marked and stored safely. So that the vehicle may in future, if desired, be returned to its original state and again become a historic vehicle.

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