Safer vehicles: improving road safety legislation on historic vehicles in Brazil

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Introduction: The United Nations Resolution A/RES/64/255/2010 invites Member States to implement road safety activities on vehicle safety. The Brazilian Traffic Code establishes the safety requirements for motor vehicles including historic vehicles (vehicles made more than 30 years ago and substantially unchanged or unmodified from the original manufacturer’s product). Objective: Review and update the current regulatory framework on vehicle safety related to historic vehicles. Methods: Descriptive study based on analysis and review of regulations issued by the National Traffic Council (CONTRAN) and National Traffic Department (DENATRAN), published since 1998. Results: The CONTRAN Resolution No. 56/1998 is the current national regulation on historic vehicles. The vehicle should have been manufactured for more than 30 years ago. For the vehicle registration, a certificate is necessary. The certificate should attest the original manufacturing characteristics only. The safety conditions and any modifications made during the vehicle’s life are not mandatory to issue the certificate. Modifications and changes allowed in the original vehicle structure are defined by the CONTRAN Resolutions No. 290/2008 and 291/2008 and do not include criteria and procedures for historical vehicles. Conclusions: The national legislation on historic vehicles should be reviewed and include criteria related to modifications made to the vehicle that should be integrated to it and respecting its original structure, safety requirements and appearance, as well as criteria for preservation, restoration and modification of registered vehicles as historic. A work group proposed by CONTRAN will to revise the current legislation on historic vehicles and propose a new regulatory framework.