Testing automated vehicles on public roads in Austria

Process and procedure

The following document describes the schematic procedure for the testing of automated vehicles and their systems on public roads in Austria.

Tests are regulated in the Ministry’s (hereinafter BMVIT) Automatised Driving Regulation (AutomatFahrV). According to the latter, the testing of the following usage cases is possible at present after a permit has been issued: I) autonomous minibus, II) motorway pilot scheme with lane-change and III) self-driving military vehicles. At the moment, vehicle manufacturers, system developers and research institutes can submit a test application.

The following scenarios for dealing with tests are described in this document:

1) Testing possibilities for advanced automated vehicles / functions in accordance with AutomatFahrV

2) Testing possibilities for vehicles / functions that are not currently regulated in accordance with AutomatFahrV

3) Presentation of automated vehicles/systems for demonstration purposes

4) Subsequent entries for test drivers/vehicles; extension of existing applications

Enquiries and test projects must be made known to the contact point for automated driving – AustriaTech GmbH (automatisierung@austriatech.at and also www.austriatech.at). The issuing of a permit is the responsibility of the bmvit. The bmvit can, where necessary, involve a Council of Experts, consisting of independent experts with legal and technical expertise, to provide advice during the application procedure. Further information can be found on the official homepage of the bmvit: https://www.bmvit.gv.at/verkehr/automatisiertesFahren/index.html
1) Testing possibilities for advanced automated vehicles / functions in accordance with AutomatFahrV

1. Interest in testing on public roads

2. Advice for the applicant from the contact point

3. Information from the applicant for the respective state Governor & road operator

4. Application filed with the contact point

5. Application evaluated by the contact point

6. Application dealt with by the Council of Experts (quarterly/as required)

7. Decision on test application in the bmvit

8. Issue of a temporary permit by the bmvit

9. Applicant supplies test report to the bmvit

The duration of the process varies depending on the test case as well as a possible need by the applicant to adapt the test procedure – the average duration can be indicated as being approx. 1-3 months.
2) Testing possibilities for vehicles / functions which are not currently regulated in accordance with AutomatFahrV

The duration of the process varies depending on the test case applied for. We recommend that planned test cases be submitted to the contact point in good time. A processing duration of a few months for the new test scenario to be incorporated into the Regulation through an appropriate amendment is realistic.
3) Presentation of automated vehicles/systems for demonstration purposes – does not comply with any tests!

1. Interest in the demonstration of automated systems on the basis of specific usage cases in accordance with AutomatFahrV

2. Advice for the applicant from the contact point

3. Information from the applicant for the respective state Governor & road operator

4. Evaluation by bmvit of whether it is a case of a demonstration or a test.

   Demonstration?
   
   NO, as it’s a test → Process according to Section 1. *(Testing possibilities for advanced automated vehicles / functions in accordance with AutomatFahrV)*

   YES → Evaluation of the need for the bmvit to involve the Council of Experts

   CounExp?
   
   YES → Decision on application by bmvit

   NO → Feedback

   Feedback

5. Evaluation of the need for the bmvit to involve the Council of Experts

6a. Ad-hoc liaison with Council of Experts by phone and e-mail and feedback to the bmvit

6b. Decision on application by bmvit

7. Issue of a temporary permit by the bmvit

The duration of the process varies depending on the test case applied for. As a rule, however, with a positive evaluation a permit can already be issued roughly *within one month.*
4) Subsequent entries for test drivers/vehicles; extension of existing applications

Applicant announces interest in extending an existing permit, or making a subsequent entry for vehicles or drivers, to the contact point.

Contact point transmits the updated data to the bmvit.

bmvit evaluates the application received.

Concerns? 

- YES: bmvit makes ad-hoc contact with the Council of Experts.
  - Council of Experts gives feedback to the bmvit.
  - bmvit issues a new permit.

- NO: 

The duration of the process varies depending on the test case applied for. As a rule, however, a new permit can already be issued within a few days.