

DEVICE FOR COUPLING TRACTOR AND TRAILER VEHICLES

ABSTRACT

5 A coupling device 1 for coupling a tractor 2 to a trailer has two spaced apart members 4, 5 having respective holes 10, 12 that are aligned on a common axis 14 which intersects a space 6 between the members. An actuator 20, such as a hydraulic ram 20R and cylinder 20C, drives a coupling member, such as a pin 16, along the common axis between a tractor-trailer coupling configuration, in which the pin passes across
10 the space and through both the holes, and a tractor-trailer disengaged configuration, in which the pin is withdrawn clear of the space. In a preferred embodiment the common axis is vertical, activation of the actuator drives the pin to the disengaged configuration, a spring 22 biases the pin to the coupling configuration, and diverging guides 40, 41 and chamfered edges 36, 38 facilitate alignment of a towing arm with
15 the coupling device. An indicator system provides distinct indications of whether the coupling device is in the disengaged or coupling configurations, or between the two configurations.

20 Figure 1