



# Vehicle Inspectorate

**MOT  
SPECIAL  
NOTICE  
1/2000**

March 2000

**All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in All Classes**

The last Special Notice was:    **5/99**   Classes IV , V  
  **4/99**   All Classes

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### Item 1 VT20 Security

Security of unused MoT Certificates is the responsibility of the Authorised Examiner from the moment of delivery.

If a package containing MoT Certificates is delivered with the packaging either damaged or opened you must refuse to accept delivery. Damaged or opened packaging will not be accepted as an excuse for missing certificates at a later date.

New certificate pads should be checked by an authorised person as soon as they are delivered. Upon inspection if you find that you have an incomplete pad you must

**All Nominated Testers should sign below to confirm that they have read and understood the contents of this Special Notice relevant to NTs for the classes they test. AEs must keep a copy of the signed SN on their records.**


- notify your Vehicle Inspectorate area office immediately.
  - inform the police.
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### **Item 2 VI Enforcement Activities**

Because of forthcoming changes in legislation concerning human rights, Authorised Examiners and Nominated Testers should be aware of the various methods used by VI staff to ensure that correct test standard and procedures are followed.

#### **These include**

- written instruction.
- courses of instruction in the details of the test.
- witnessing of demonstration tests to show competence.
- counselling of testers in specific areas of the test where there appear to be difficulties
- checks to ensure that garages carry out their own quality control checks.

#### **We also**

- investigate complaints about testing standards where practicable.
  - carry out 'mystery shopper' checks to see if tests are being carried out correctly.
  - carry out other more involved investigations in cases where we believe there may be significant abuses, which may include covert surveillance of sites offering MOT tests or at sites where potentially testable vehicles are present.
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### **Item 3 Testing Vehicles that have Antilock Braking Systems (ABS)**

When testing vehicles that have ABS braking systems fitted, the roadwheels should not be allowed to rotate clear of the standing surface with the ignition on.

We have had reports that on some vehicles rapid rotation of a wheel with the ignition on can cause the ABS system to indicate a "fault". Sometimes the warning light system can only be reset at a main agent, usually at a cost.

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### **Item 4 VT26 list of nominated testers**

Please note that a VTS should no longer make changes to its list of nominated testers (VT26). Your area office now updates this. You should notify your area office **immediately** of any change to your testing staff including the quality controller.

Once you have notified your area office they will issue an amended VT26. Testing will be allowed to continue prior to receipt of the amended VT26 if you follow this procedure.

If you do not receive the amended copy within a week, allowing for postage time, you should contact the VI office to arrange for another copy to be sent out.

It would be helpful when you tell them about a new tester if you could produce a copy of his Nominated Tester certificate (VT78C).

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### **Item 5 Embossing VT20 and VT30 certificates**

It is important that the customer copy of both the VT20 (test) and VT30 (notice of refusal) certificates are embossed with your stations approved MOT embossing stamp, in the box marked 'Authentication stamp' at issue.

This requirement is clearly set out in Motor Vehicle (Tests) Regulations and the 5th Edition Guide. You must remember to ensure that all of these documents are completed fully according to Section H of the Guide.

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***The remainder of this notice only applies to either classes III, IV, V or VII.***

### **Item 6 Exhaust Gas Testing of “Large Passenger Vehicles”**

Some **large** passenger vehicles, such as the Vauxhall Sintra, are being tested using the wrong emission limits because testers are not accessing the vehicle information from the correct place in their gas analyser database.

Exhaust Gas Analysers often show the data for vehicle specific testing in two sections in the same way that this is displayed in the latest edition of “In Service Exhaust Emission Standards for Road Vehicles” books.

If in doubt testers should refer to the definition of passenger car in the MoT inspection manual section 6.4 page 5. Class III, IV, and VII and Section 6,4 Page 6a Class 5.

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### **Item 7 Articulated vehicles**

Articulated vehicles, other than articulated buses, are tested under the Heavy Goods Vehicle plating and testing system regardless of their weight. These vehicles will normally be fitted with a ‘fifth wheel’ or equivalent coupling above or slightly in front of the rear axle.

If you are asked to test a vehicle that appears to be part of an articulated combination you must explain to the presenter that you cannot test it and that they must contact the Vehicle Inspectorate to arrange for testing at a Heavy Goods Vehicle Testing Station. Articulated buses may be tested either as MOT class V or PSVs (Class VI) depending on their use. If the vehicles are class V the test can only be carried out by class V stations (authorised to test articulated buses).

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### **Item 8 New Diesel Smoke Testing leaflet**

The old style “Smoking is damaging our health” leaflet has been replaced by a new postcard sized notice called “Diesel smoke testing shouldn’t leave you fuming!”

You should continue to use up your existing stock of the old leaflets before ordering the new ones.

Please remember you must not ask vehicle presenters to sign any disclaimer in respect of the MOT test.

**Item 9 Rear Registration Plate Lights**

If a rear registration plate has been moved and the lamp that used to provide its illumination no longer performs that function, then for the purposes of the test, that lamp is no longer the rear registration plate lamp.

If the rear registration plate is not illuminated by any lamp then the vehicle should be failed under section 1.1 RfR 5 a (a rear registration plate lamp not fitted)

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