



Vehicle Inspectorate

**MOT
SPECIAL
NOTICE
1/2002**

March 2002

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils Class – IV, V & VII

The last Special Notice was: 7/7a/2001 All Classes
8/2001 Classes I and II
9/2001 Classes IV, V & VII

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1	1	Guidance for AEs on SN 9/2001	AEs

Item 1 Declaration of Conformity for Exhaust Gas Analysers

Special Notice 9/2001 detailed the requirements placed on AEs to ensure that their EGAs continued to comply with the 1996 specification. Continued compliance is mandatory for all EGAs used for MOT testing. A declaration form was attached for completion by both the AE and their calibrating engineer.

VI has received a number of enquiries where AEs complained that calibrating engineers were not willing to complete the conformity form. Consequently, VI had a meeting with the Garage Equipment Association (GEA), who represent the majority of analyser manufacturers, to re-emphasise the guidance we provided when Special Notice 9/2001 was issued.

The purpose of this Special Notice is to bring you up to date on what has been agreed between VI, manufacturers and the GEA at that meeting. Included is a list of the most commonly asked questions.

Manufacturers were concerned that they did not have a Siemens Business Services (SBS) read/write device or any equivalent kit to test their analysers with. They felt this was the only way they could ensure that analysers would communicate at roll out. We reminded the GEA that we were only requiring a certificate to confirm continued compliance with their original approved (96 EGA) specification and that should not require special software.

To accommodate the delayed start to the checking process, VI has agreed to extend the deadline for declarations till the end of September 2002 to allow the check to be done at the normal calibration interval for most analysers.

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.

Manufacturers also felt there would be a benefit for them and their customers if, they could amend or reproduce the form with a serial number along with the manufacturers company name. VI had no objection to this provided the content of the form remained intact. However, it remains the responsibility of the AE to submit the form, whether it's VI's standard or the manufacturers customised form, to their local VI office.

Below is a list of commonly asked questions.

Q - why do I need the check done now?

A - the communications socket has always been part of the 1996 EGA specification. Until MOT Computerisation came along it should not have been used therefore, you do not know if it still works. We have asked you to have its function checked and carry out any necessary repairs within the 6 month calibration cycle rather than risk the inconvenience and possibly high cost of having an unscheduled call out when your VTS is rolled out.

Q - the calibration engineer won't sign the form because he does not have a test kit, what am I supposed to do now?

A - following clarification from VI, the GEA and manufacturers have accepted that they do not need SBS test kit and will complete the check within the March to September period.

Q - do I have to pay to get the form signed?

A - if your analyser fully meets the 1996 EGA specification then VI would expect no more than a nominal fee to be charged by the engineer. If there is a problem then you will need to agree the charge with the manufacturer or agent to return the analyser to its original condition. This must be done before the declaration is signed.

Q - if my EGA does not comply, what repairs do I have to pay for?

A - if repairs are needed because the analyser, as supplied did not fully comply with the 1996 specification then these should be paid for by the equipment manufacturer. If they are needed because of wear, tear, damage or unauthorised modification then it is your responsibility to return it to full working order, unless this is covered by your service contract.

Q - the calibration engineer has told me that I have not had my Basic Emission Test (BET) upgrade installed, do I have to have this done before the declaration is completed?

A - no, SN 9/2001 gave you until December 2002 to have this done. That deadline has not changed, however it may be advantageous for your engineer to install this upgrade at the same time as the calibration visit.

Q - when I bought my analyser it needed an adapter lead supplied to meet the (96 EGA) specification which wasn't supplied. Now I'm being told that I need to buy a lead before the engineer will sign the form?

A - a charge should not be made if the lead was part of the approved equipment and was never supplied. However, if the lead has been lost or damaged then replacement will be your responsibility and it can only be expected that an additional charge will be made.

Q - I was told that there would be no cost for MOT Computerisation, so why do I have to pay?

A - the message from VI has consistently been that there would be no capital cost for the computer equipment - you would have to supply somewhere to put the kit, a phone and power sockets. It has always been the AEs responsibility for ensuring that the test equipment is in full working order.

Q - what will happen if my analyser doesn't communicate when SBS visit, will we have to stop testing or pay for another visit?

A - not necessarily, if you have met all our requirements you will be able to enter the emission test results at the SBS supplied VTS device for a reasonable period to allow for repairs. The SBS read/write device will still be fitted or may be left with you to fit once the EGA has been repaired. However, if you have failed to return a completed declaration we may be less sympathetic.

Q - I think my supplier has charged me again for something I believe I paid for when I purchased my analyser. Will VI pay for this?

A - no. Although VI agreed and published the 1996 EGA specification the purchase contract was between the supplier and the AE. If you consider the analyser supplied is not fit for its intended purpose is incomplete or not to specification you should take it up with your supplier. If you are still not satisfied contact your local Trading Standards office.

Q - what happens if only one of my two analysers has been issued with a declaration?

A - you will be allowed to continue testing but only using the analyser for which you have submitted a declaration.



Alan Wilson
Head of MOT Scheme Management