



Vehicle Inspectorate

MOT SPECIAL NOTICE 1/2003

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All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes :**All Classes****The last Special Notice issued was****11/2002 All Classes****CONTENTS OF SPECIAL NOTICE**

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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.

ITEM 1

MOT WINDSCREEN REMINDER

For some time now we have been looking at introducing MOT reminders which motorists can place in the windscreens of their vehicles. By ensuring that as few people as possible forget their MOT expiry date, VI hopes to encourage more motorists to get their vehicles tested on time thereby improving road safety and environmental protection.

We intended to introduce reminders at the same time that the MOT Computerisation service commenced. Due to the delay in MOT Computerisation we have decided to introduce windscreen reminders as soon as possible.

The windscreen reminders will come in pads and will be issued to you automatically when you order your pads of certificates. You will also be able to order packs as individual items.

VTS Involvement

When the vehicle is presented for MOT test, the VTS should inform the presenter that if the vehicle passes the MOT Test the vehicle will have a windscreen reminder completed as part of the normal documentation.

If consent is given by the vehicle presenter, the tester should fix the windscreen reminder in a appropriate place.

If permission is not obtained then pass the reminder to the vehicle presenter with the other completed documents.

Tester

If the vehicle successfully passes the MOT test, the tester must complete the windscreen reminder and fix it to the inside of the windscreen. The reminder should not be fixed to paint work.

The windscreen reminder will be hand written with the same wording as the expiry date for the test certificate (VT20), as set out in the MOT Guide Appendix 7.

Motor Cycles, vehicle without and those with very small windscreens

As the windscreen reminder is self adhesive this could be attached to the motor cycle or vehicle, however, the presenter of the vehicle should do this. The reminder should not be fixed to paint work. This may cause constraints for some motor cycles and small vehicles, however the vehicle presenter should be encouraged to display the windscreen reminder where it would assist as a reminder which may not be part of the vehicle.

Implementation date

All MOT tests conducted after 1st March 2003 that result in a pass must have a windscreen reminder completed.

Distribution of Windscreen Reminders

Initially you will receive two pads of windscreen reminders with this Special Notice.

As of mid March 2003 all packs of test certificates issued to Vehicle Testing Stations will also be issued with pads of windscreen reminders these will be issued and posted separately.

However if you require additional windscreen reminders, these can be obtained from the VI Distribution Centre.

ITEM 2

Emissions Testing Kit Cars and Amateur Built Vehicles first used on or after 1st August 1998 (Classes III IV & VII)

These vehicles are required to obtain Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) and will receive an emissions test at SVA. All petrol and gas propelled kit cars or amateur built vehicles first used on or after 1st August 1998 (S Registration Onward) are subject to the BET test, followed if necessary by a 'cat test' to default values. The only exemption to this is where evidence is supplied by the presenter to confirm a lesser test is required i.e. age of engine or the emission standard applied at SVA. Compression Ignition powered kit cars and amateur built vehicles will also be meter checked.

ITEM 3

Amendment to Introduction Section of Manual (Classes III IV & VII)

Introduction page 4 paragraph 5 'other defects', '*The vehicle presenter should be notified of.....*', appears to indicate that any defects on the vehicle must be notified. This is not the case, whilst dangerous defects should be advised, when it comes to 'other items' it is at the discretion of the AE/NT.

ITEM 4

Temporary additional reason for refusal to test. (Class V)

A Temporary additional reason for Refusal to Test was introduced for the duration of the Foot and Mouth Emergency. It has been formally rescinded for all classes. Please now destroy SN 2/2001.

ITEM 5

British American Type Headlamps (Classes I II III IV & VII)

VI is presently in the process of aligning its testing standards. As a result the fail criteria for British American type headlamps in Classes I, II, III, IV and VII has changed with immediate effect. With regard to the Class III, IV, and VII inspection manual please remove the words 'or downwards to the nearside' in Section 1.6 page 15 reason for rejection 5 and totally remove reason for rejection 4 from page 16. In the Class I and II inspection manual the same applies except the reason for rejections affected are on pages 13 and 14 respectively.

In addition to this the following guidance should also be used when testing headlamp aim where the headlamps do not conform to any of the diagrams shown in the relevant inspection manual.

An alternative headlamp dipped beam pattern (not being one of the examples given in the inspection manual) is acceptable providing all of the beam upper edge, including any "peak" is contained within the appropriate tolerance band.

New inspection manual pages will be supplied in due course.

ITEM 6

Mercedes 'A' Class Vehicles

When testing the individual rear service brake performance of the above vehicles it is possible that the Traction Control self-test function can operate when the service brake is applied. This is due to only one wheel rotating in the brake rollers. After consultation with DaimlerChrysler it has been agreed that the rear brakes of this model must be tested with the ignition switched off therefore the following procedure must be used. Fully charge the brake servo before each wheel is tested and then switch off the ignition before conducting the test. The front brake performance must be tested in the usual manner using the procedures set out in the inspection manual.

ITEM 7

Extension to BET Test Compliance Date (Classes IV, V & IIV)

As you will be aware Special Notice 9/2001 required BET test software to be installed by 31st December 2003.

It has come to our attention that some AEs cannot currently comply due to technical difficulties related to their particular exhaust gas analyser. In order to ensure all AEs have sufficient time to either resolve these difficulties with their supplier or obtain an alternative device, VI has reluctantly agreed to extend the date for compliance.

The date by which all AEs must ensure their Vehicle Testing Stations must comply therefore has been extended to 31st March 2003.

Any Vehicle Testing Station that does not comply by the above date must stop testing petrol vehicles that require a BET test or a full emission test first registered 1st August 1992 onward.

ITEM 8

MOT Seminars "Best Practice".

Enclosed is information regarding the new series of MOT Seminars covering the theme of "Best Practice". We hope you will find these seminars informative and that they will increase your understanding of the MOT Scheme.