



May 1999

To all Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in all Classes  
The last Special Notice was: 1/99 sent to all classes

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Items 1 to 5 apply to all test stations, other items may apply to you, depending on the classes you test

#### Item 1 Year 2000

You should be making adequate checks to ensure that your MOT testing will not be affected by the 'Millennium Bug'. e.g. computerised VT12 register, Exhaust Gas Analyser, etc. If your equipment cannot function correctly you will have to cease testing until it is rectified. We have had a general assurance from the Garage Equipment Association that their members do not anticipate any difficulties for emissions test equipment. However, for your own peace of mind, we suggest that you seek specific confirmation from your supplier or maintenance contractor that all the equipment you will be using will not be affected by the millenium date change. The GEA millenium website is at <http://www.bug2000.co.uk>

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 2 VI staff**

We have heard of garages being contacted by persons giving the impression that they are VI staff, and visits being arranged to discuss MOT matters.

This is a potential threat to the security of your documents. You should always ask to see the official warrant that our enforcement staff carry.

If you have doubts about anyone asking to see official documents, refuse access and ring your local area office.

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**Item 3 Dormant test stations**

There are occasions when for whatever reason, test stations are not able to offer MOT tests.

We are sympathetic to this for short periods of time, but are not prepared to allow long term suspension of testing.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> edition MOT Testing Guide Appendix 8 para C page 2  
“failure to offer appointments” carries a 50 point penalty.

It is not our intention to use this penalty when the local Area Enforcement office is satisfied that there is a genuine unavoidable reason to suspend testing, and a reasonable period of time will be allowed before any penalty point action is contemplated.

You are reminded that you must inform your local Area Office straight away when there is any change to your MOT operation.

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**Item 4 Refresher training**

We asked you in the last Special Notice to contact us if you were overdue for refresher training. We have had a massive response, Thank you.

Please don't ring us up if you have not yet had a course date, we are dealing with the requests as fast as we can.

Remember, If you ever need to write to us on any matter, always include your VTS number..

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**Item 5 'Making the change moving to lead free petrol' leaflets**

You will receive a supply of these leaflets when you order VT30 pads. Your local area office also has a small supply. Please issue these leaflets to owners of older vehicles that may be affected by the phasing out of leaded petrol.

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**Item 6            Smoke test print outs**

A reminder that the new MOT Testing Guide tells you to keep the exhaust gas analyser catalyst test print outs **and** the diesel smoke meter print outs for 3 months. We are aware that a few smoke meters will not print a second copy, in which case the print out must still be retained and the customer given a photocopy if requested.

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**Item 7            High level brake lamps**

Some vehicles are fitted with what appears to be a high level stop lamp, but which in fact is not connected to the wiring loom. In this case it is not a 'lamp' for the purposes of the MOT test.

The difficulty is knowing this, as you are not permitted to dismantle.

When extra lamps are fitted and there is doubt whether they are connected, the benefit of this doubt should be given to the presenter and 'pass and advise' is the correct course of action.

All lamps that light when the foot brake is applied must meet the criteria laid down in the inspection manual.

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**Item 8            Seat belt flow chart**

To help you identify vehicles that may require a seat belt installation check MOT, we have included with this S/N a flow chart. You may find it useful. It does not alter anything that is already in your Inspection Manual in section 5.

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**Item 9**

**Addition to seat belt installation exempt list. LDV Pilot and Convoy minibuses**

There is **an addition** to the chassis number range of LDV Pilot and Convoy minibuses that have fully type approved seat belt installations, therefore they do not require a seat belt installation check MOT.

**They have an X as the 7<sup>th</sup> character of the VIN number**, please make a note of this in your manual, pending the issue of an updated page.

Class IV section 5.1 page 9.

Class V section 5.1 page 10

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cont.

**Item 10            Suzuki 1.8 Baleno saloon**

Some of these cars are coming up to 3 years old. They are fitted with electronically controlled suspension.

If you test the suspension of one of these in the normal way it will appear that the shock absorbers have no damping effect.

Before failing, check that the ignition is on and the suspension mode switch located beside the hand brake is in the sports mode. If the shock absorbers are in satisfactory condition they will now show firm resistance.

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**Item 11            Brake hoses and fittings**

When testing vehicles, in particular motorcycles, fitted with replacement brake hoses and anodised alloy banjo fittings, give close attention to the banjo union nuts if they are not stainless steel, as corrosion can occur resulting in the nuts breaking under hydraulic pressure. If the nuts are not stainless, advise the presenter even if the nuts appear sound at the time of the test, as all alloy fittings are not recommended for road use.

John MacLellan  
Head of MOT Scheme Management