



October 1999

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes 4 and 5
The last Special Notice was: 4/99 All Classes

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Item 1 Seat belt checking advice

Vehicles that last year needed a seat belt installation check MOT ('A' class) are becoming due for another MOT.

This Special Notice will help you make the right decisions when testing these vehicles. You should use the flow chart we sent you with SN2/99 to correctly identify vehicles that require a seat belt installation check MOT. ('A' class)

Remember, testing vehicles of a class you are not authorised to test carries a potential 500 point penalty, so it is in your own interest to follow the flow chart!

Completion of seat belt boxes on VT20

If you are a class 5 test station and therefore authorised to carry out seat belt installation checks:

You are reminded that when you complete the 'number of belts fitted' box on the VT20 that this should include ALL seat belts that are fitted including the driver's.

If you are a Class 4 test station:

You may now be getting vehicles presented for test that you could not test last year because they required a seat belt installation check MOT.

Provided that you see the last VT 20 test certificate showing that an installation check was carried out, and check that there are no more seat belts fitted than are entered on the VT20, you may test the vehicle. (cont)

Remember to:

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- enter on the new VT20 the same 'seat belt installation check date' that was on the old VT20
- enter on the new VT20 the same 'number of seat belts fitted' that was on the old VT20
- tick the 'no' box for 'seat belt installation checked this test?'
- enter on the new VT20 the serial number of the old VT 20

The 'A' class test is intended to be a one off check. (unless more belts are fitted)

For it not to be carried out again you must have evidence that it has previously been done, so **make sure that you ask customers when booking to bring their last years MOT certificate with them, even if it has expired.**

If they have lost the old certificate they will have to obtain a duplicate as proof that the seat belt installations have previously been checked.

For further guidance on completion of forms you should read Appendix 7 Page 4 of the 5th edition of the MOT Testing Guide.

What if the vehicle has fewer seat belts fitted than are shown on the old certificate?

You still enter on the new certificate the number of seat belts shown on the previous certificate. Note on the new VT20 pad copy the number of seat belts actually fitted when tested.

What if the vehicle has more seat belts fitted than shown on the old certificate?

Another 'A' class test must be carried out at a station authorised to conduct seat belt installation checks.

However if the presenter says that no changes have been made to the number of belts fitted since a VT20 was issued, they must take the matter up with the test station that issued the VT20.

If it can be proved that an error was made on completing the VT20, a replacement certificate should be issued **by the test station that issued the original**, showing the total number of seat belts fitted at the time of the original test.

What if you notice during the annual test (non 'A' class), a seat belt installation defect?

A class 4 test station which is not authorised to test class 5 will not know the detailed seat belt installation requirements but

Obvious things such as:

- a fixing bolt not secure
- use of pop rivets or wood screws to secure a belt
- fixing bolts through seat belt webbing
(cont)

can all be failed under the existing Reasons for Rejection of either **“a seat belt not securely fixed to the structure of a vehicle”** or **“a cut which causes the fibres to separate”** .

If you are authorised to test class 5 vehicles the same advice applies.

You should not carry out an ‘A’ class test unless the vehicle requires it, or the presenter requests it.

Less significant installation check failure items that are noticed during the course of an MOT should be passed and advised on.

John MacLellan
Head of MOT Scheme Management

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.
