

MOT SPECIAL NOTICE



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

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August 2005

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes :

All Classes

The last Special Notice issued was

6- 2005 Classes I & II

5- 2005 All classes

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Item 1 Introduction of Automated Test Lanes (ATL)

The use of ATLs in Classes IV, VL & VII is to be introduced on 01 September 2005. Installation of ATL equipment is not mandatory; it is purely voluntary for existing VTS and optional for new applicants to the scheme.

ATL approval will only be given to those sites with complete installations. Once approval has been granted for automated use the VTS can if they prefer, carry out testing without the use of an assistant.

Note: Where a site has more than one test bay (conventional and ATL equipped) the non use of the assistant applies solely to the ATL equipped bay only.

Steve Tonks

Head of MOT Compliance and Computerisation

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 How to Apply for ATL Approval

All applications must be submitted on a VT01 application form to the local VOSA Area Office, including those for VTS currently approved seeking voluntary ATL approval.

To be ATL approved the site must have:

- a fully automated brake tester
- a weighing facility electronically linked to the brake tester
- wheel play detectors
- a brake pedal application device
- suitable mirrors so positioned that all the relevant lighting operations can be assessed from the driving position
- a headlamp aim tester meeting the May 2005 specification
- all other equipment as specified in the current MOT Testing Guide for the Class(es) of vehicle to be tested.

Please note that currently no plate brake testing equipment has been approved for testing Class V or VL vehicles.

As with all applications, equipment must be selected from the VOSA "List of Acceptable Equipment" published on the VOSA website www.vosa.gov.uk or obtainable from local VOSA Area Offices.

For those VTS seeking authorisation for Class VL the procedures for testing using the ATL without an assistant should be adopted from the Car and Light Goods Vehicle Inspection Manual.

For non computerised VTS seeking to apply for ATL approval temporary replacement pages for the MOT Testing Guide and the Car and Light Goods Vehicle Inspection Manual (to glue or staple over the existing pages) will be available from your local VOSA Area Office.

If you are a Computerised VTS, replacement pages will follow this Special Notice and will require insertion into the Guide and Manual as soon as practicable. The Guide and Manual available via the VTS Device will be updated to reflect these changes. The changed pages are also available by visiting the VOSA website or alternatively contacting 01454 453382.

Any new changes within the Guide and Manuals are marked with a vertical black line to the side of the amendment.

Item 3 New 2005 Specification Headlamp Tester

New specification headlamp aim equipment will be available from 01 September 2005. This will be a mandatory piece of equipment for all applications for new sites received from 01 September 2005 (excluding Class I & II opting for an aiming screen). Currently there is no requirement for existing VTS or those seeking re-approval for a conventional test lane to upgrade. However if you are proposing a change to existing equipment you may wish to consider this as an option.

Item 4 New Procedures for Parking Brake Checks

There are new brake testing procedures for classes III, IV and VII from receipt of this Special Notice. Please amend the wording in the Information Column of Section 3.5 of the Car and Light Commercial Vehicle Testing Inspection Manual as follows:

Delete "Some inspections in this section will require the assistant to pull the handbrake on and off whilst components are checked on the underside/under bonnet of the vehicle"

Insert "A visual and physical check must be carried out on all mechanical components that are visible and accessible".

Item 5 New Procedures for Lighting Checks

From receipt of this Special Notice it will be acceptable for **all** Classes of VTS to use suitable mirrors so positioned that all the relevant lighting operations can be assessed from the driving position.

In addition there will no longer be a requirement to have an assistant in the driver's seat for headlamp aim testing in Classes III, IV, V, VL and VII.

Please amend both the Car and Light Commercial Vehicle and the Private Bus Inspection Manuals wording in Section 1.6 Method of Inspection as follows:

1. From the paragraph " With an assistant sitting in the driving seat, switch on the headlamps to the beam on which the headlamp is to be checked" **Delete** "With an assistant sitting in the driving seat,"
2. From the paragraph "Repairs or adjustments must not be carried out during an MOT test." **Delete** "or adjustments" **Insert after this sentence** ",however, minor adjustments to the headlamp aim are acceptable"