

MOT SPECIAL NOTICE



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

Issue Number

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November 2006

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes :

All Classes

The last Special Notice issued was

7- 2006 All Classes

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Item 1 MORI Survey 2006

Ipsos Mori will be carrying out another survey of MOT Garages on behalf of VOSA. The purpose of the survey is to provide us with an understanding of how the MOT scheme is viewed by garages and give insights into VOSA's strengths and areas that need improving. In order to do this Mori will be contacting a number of AEs and NTs to arrange interviews with them. These will be carried out between 12 - 19th November and should take no more than 20 - 25 minutes.

Alan Wilson

Head of Private Vehicles Scheme Management

All Nominated Testers must acknowledge via the VTS Device (from 23 November) confirming that they have read and understood the contents of this Special Notice relevant to NTs for the classes they test. Please print off a copy of this SN and retain on your files for reference.

Item 2 Quadricycles with hydraulic parking brakes

Some quadricycles are being presented for MOT test which have been granted European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) with a hydraulic parking brake. This issue is under investigation by the Department for Transport, as parking brakes which are not capable of being maintained in operation by direct mechanical action are unacceptable under GB legislation.

Until this investigation is concluded, it is considered that such parking brakes should **NOT** be rejected under Section 3.1, RfR 2 of the MOT Inspection Manual. Any other Reasons for Rejection with regard to presence, security, condition, operation and efficiency should still be applied if appropriate. In such cases NTs should also issue a 'free text' advisory notice which states 'this vehicle may need a mechanical parking brake fitted for a future MOT test'.

This is a temporary exemption which **must** only be applied to motorcycle based quadricycles that have been granted ECWVTA and issued with a Certificate of Conformity, and **no** other vehicles. These can be identified by the type approval number displayed and indelibly marked on the manufacturer's data plate which also displays the VIN.

The type approval number will consist of a lower case 'e' and a number (1 - 30) surrounded by a rectangle followed by a type approval serial number.

Example:

e4

 97/24*0002

Item 3 Employment and Equality (Age) Regulations 2006

On 1 October 2006 the Employment and Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 came into force and as a result VOSA has reassessed the criteria for becoming a Nominated Tester. In accordance with these changes applications will now be considered against the following criteria. (Section E2.1 of The MOT Testing Guide 6th Edition will be updated in due course.)

E2 - Criteria for becoming a Nominated Tester (NT)

1. To qualify to become an NT for any class of vehicle an applicant must;
 - a. be nominated by the AE of a VTS - in nominating a prospective NT the AE is not only stating that to the best of the AE's belief the candidate has the necessary background, experience, integrity, etc. to carry out MOT testing but is also willing to provide the necessary facilities for the candidate to practice testing to be able to demonstrate to VOSA that they are competent before they are allowed to carry out actual tests;
 - b. have a full unrestricted UK driving licence for the vehicle class(es) they wish to test, subject to paragraph E2.7;
 - c. be a skilled mechanic that has at least four years full time employment in the service and repair of the vehicle types to be tested;
 - d. have no "unspent" convictions, as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, for criminal offences connected with the Vehicle Testing Scheme or the motor trade, or involving acts of violence or intimidation;
 - e. be otherwise of good repute.

Applications received on or after 1 October 2006 submitted on the existing Application for Nominated Tester Training Form (VT78) (REV03/06) are still acceptable but will be assessed using the revised criteria.

Item 4 Booking and attending a mandatory periodic MOT Refresher Training Course

This item is to help Nominated Testers and their Site Managers understand what they need to do when they receive a system message via the VTS Device reminding them that they are required to attend a mandatory periodic Refresher Training course. It supplements the items about NT Refresher Training published in SN 3-2006 and Booking on Refresher Training Course published in SN 6-2006.

An 'early warning' reminder message is sent to your individual message box 6 months before the date that Refresher Training must be completed. It is important that you book your course as soon as possible after you receive this message. You can book a Refresher Training Course on line using the VTS Device - please refer to section 10.L1 of the **electronic** VTS Device User Guide.

We have improved the text of the 'early warning' reminder message to include some helpful hints about booking a course. The new message is shown below. Remember that the earlier you book your course, the wider the selection of dates and venues available to you. When you have booked a course, a message confirming the booking will be sent to your individual message box.

Early Warning Message

Early warning – <Tester Name>

You are required to attend a MOT Refresher Training Course for vehicle Group < A or B > by <Date> to prevent your ability to test this group of vehicles being suspended.

You should book as early as possible. To book a course follow menu items – Other Functions > Training > Book Course (Free of Charge)

You will be offered a selection of venues with current spaces available and a range of dates before the date stated above. However, these courses do fill up quickly. Leaving your booking until nearer your cut off date will result in a much smaller choice of courses and venues. In some cases this may mean travelling to an alternative training venue.

If you would like further advice on this matter please contact VOSA Training Services.

If you have still not successfully completed a course one month before the date that Refresher Training must be completed you will be sent a final warning message. Unless you have already booked a course that you are waiting to attend, you will need to take urgent action to book and successfully complete a course before the due date to avoid your approval to test this group of vehicles being suspended. We have also changed the text of the Final Warning message. This new message reads as follows:

Final Warning Message

Final warning <Tester Name>

You must attend a MOT Refresher Training Course for vehicle Group < A or B > by <Date> otherwise your approval to test this group of vehicles will be suspended.

If you have not already booked your MOT Refresher Training Course you must do this now. To book a course follow menu items – Other Functions > Training > Book Course (Free of Charge)

If you would like further advice on this matter please contact VOSA Training Services.

If you have not attended a Refresher Training Course by the due date you will be automatically suspended from testing until you have successfully completed a Refresher Training Course. You will receive a system message informing you that a suspension of testing has been implemented.

Attending Your MOT Refresher Training Course

When you attend the Training Course please ensure you bring your smart card, safety footwear and overalls. You may be turned away if you are not properly equipped or refuse to wear the protective head gear provided.

If you would like further advice please contact VOSA Training Services.