



Vehicle Inspectorate

**MOT
SPECIAL
NOTICE
9/2002**

August 2002

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes IV & V

The last Special Notice was: 8/2002 Classes III, IV & VII
7/2002 All Classes

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Item 1 **Changes to Seat Belt Requirements for Vehicles with more than 8 passenger seats first used on or after 1 October 2001**

There are two major changes to the seat belt requirements.

1. All vehicles with more than 8 passenger seats first used on or after 1 October 2001 no longer require a seat belt installation check (Class IVA or VA test).
2. All forward and rearward facing seats are now mandatory seats for the purpose of seat belts and **must** have seat belts fitted. The only exception to this is a bus, which has been certified to carry standing passengers.

Restraints required; Vehicles not exceeding 3500kg DGW - 3 point inertia reel belts in all forward facing seats and 3 point inertia reel or retractable lap belts in rearward facing seats.

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.

Vehicles exceeding 3500kg DGW - 3 point inertia reel belts in all forward and rearward facing seats. Retractable lap belts are acceptable in any rearward facing seat or forward facing non-exposed seats with an appropriate energy absorbing seat or surface present in front i.e. where the forward surface is protected and there is no danger of a passenger hitting their head on a harsh object. If you have any doubt regarding the suitability of any protective surface, you may wish to seek guidance from the manufacturer.

Note: Alternatively, disabled persons seat belts or child restraints may be fitted in place of any of the above.

Item 2 Error on Fees and Appeals Poster

There is an error on the August 2002 fees and appeals poster in the Class V and VA sections. These should read 13 – 16 Passenger Seats and More than 16 Passenger Seats **not** 13 Passenger seats and More than 13 passenger seats. Please manually amend your poster accordingly.



Alan Wilson
Head of MOT Scheme Management