

# MOT SPECIAL NOTICE

**Issue Number**

**9 - 2011**

**Issue Date**

**November 2011**

**All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes**

**All Classes**

**The last Special Notice issued was**

**8 - 2011 All Classes**

Is it mandatory to print this Special Notice?			Printed Copy Not Required
Item	Page	Subject	Relevant to
1	1	Introduction of Testing Directive Inspection Manual Changes	AEs & NTs Classes 3, 4, 5 & 7
2	1	Amendments to the MOT Testing Guide	AEs & NTs All Classes
Annex A		Changes and Additional RfRs from 01 January 2012	AEs & NTs Classes 3, 4, 5 & 7
Annex B		List of New Testable Components	AEs & NTs Classes 3, 4, 5 & 7
Annex C		MOT Testing Guide Change Table	AEs & NTs All Classes

## Item 1: Introduction of Testing Directive Inspection Manual Changes

As previously notified, a new MOT Inspection Manual will 'go live' on 01 January 2012. This is already available to familiarise yourself with the major changes at [www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/vehicle-testing-manuals-and-guides](http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/vehicle-testing-manuals-and-guides).

On 01 January, **all** changes should be incorporated into the inspection routine as appropriate to the vehicle under test. Details of the changes and additional Reasons for Rejection for existing items are detailed in **Annex A** of this Special Notice.

In respect of the new testable components; these are detailed in **Annex B** and will be subject to a 'bedding in' period during which any defects found on these components will be advisory only. For this reason, the RfRs relating to these components will not be available for selection on MOT Computerisation until after the 'bedding in' period.

As usual, significant changes can be identified by the change bar alongside the relevant item; however it is important to recognise that minor wording changes are not identified in this way unless they directly affect the standard to be applied. As this is a new edition of the Manual, all previous change bars have been removed.

Additional information on testing the new components and the changes affecting existing items will be contained in a DVD to be sent with the December issue of Matters of Testing.

## Item 2: Amendments to the MOT Testing Guide

The MOT Testing Guide has been amended to incorporate policy and procedural changes. The new pages will be available to view via the VTS Device from 01 January 2012. **Annex C** highlights the main changes.

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If you have any queries regarding this Special Notice or other testing matters please call the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.



Alan Wilson  
Head of Testing Schemes Management

**All Nominated Testers must acknowledge via the VTS Device that they have read and understood the contents of this Special Notice.**

# Annex A: Changes and Additional RfRs from 01 January 2012

## Abbreviations and Definitions

1. Amended definitions for DGW and ULW.
2. New definitions for a Coach and MAM (Maximum Authorised Mass).

## Introduction

1. Item 1 - New note regarding calculating seating capacity.
2. Item 3 - Reminder about taking care when jacking and amended information regarding recording brake efforts.
3. Item 4 - Guidance added regarding the testing of narrow track vehicles.

## Introduction – How to use this Manual

1. Item 5 - Guidance on assessing inappropriate repairs or modifications.
2. Item 9 - Updated information on Special Notices and Manual amendments.

## Section 1 – Lamps, Reflectors and Electrical Equipment

1. New RfR for registration plate lamp(s) and the front and rear position lamps not illuminating with a single operation of the switch. Also includes end outline marker lamps on Class 5 vehicles where applicable.
2. Amended RfRs for all lamps, other than headlamps, where less than 50% of the light sources are illuminating.
3. Amended RfRs to include lamps with products on the light lens or source which adversely reduce the visibility of the lamp, or in the case of headlamps, their ability to illuminate the road ahead.
4. New note about front position lamps with a blue tint.
5. Amended RfR to include a stop lamp not working when any service brake is applied.
6. Amended RfR to clarify that a direction indicator must have over 50% obscurity before it should fail.
7. New RfRs for hazard warning lamps not fitted or inoperative.
8. Amended RfR for headlamp aim where the beam image is not one of those in the diagrams and a new RfR for cases where the image is clearly incorrect due to, for example, a corroded reflector or incorrectly fitted bulb.
9. Section 1.8 on headlamp aim now includes Methods of Inspection.

## Section 2 – Steering and Suspension

1. New RfRs for any steering and suspension ball joint dust cover failing to prevent the ingress of dirt etc.
2. New RfRs for any inappropriate repair or modification to steering linkage, power steering or suspension components.
3. Additional RfR for a steering lock stop missing where it is fitted as standard.
4. New RfR for a significant oil leak from a steering box.
5. Additional power steering RfRs for: low fluid level (where visible); pipes and hoses in poor condition or fouling, as well as misaligned or fouling components on external power steering systems.
6. A change to the criteria for assessing coil springs in that if a spring is broken at an extreme end, where it locates on the spring mount, it will not necessarily fail (See Section 2.4.C). There is also clarification that the check is a visual inspection.
7. The checks previously at Section 2.4.G.1 and 2 have been merged.
8. Checks of drive shafts now also include the condition of all coupling gaiters and any drive shaft support bearings.

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9. Amended RfR relating to suspension wishbone bearings (2.5.B.1a).

### **Section 3 – Brakes**

1. New RfR for a parking brake control missing or insecure, (excluding electronic parking brake controls that are not testable until April – see Annex B).
2. New RfRs for inappropriate repair or modification to a parking or service brake control as well as all mechanical brake components.
3. New RfRs for ABS systems:
  - Any ABS component obviously missing or excessively damaged.
  - Wiring excessively damaged.
  - Any ABS component inappropriately repaired or modified.
4. New RfRs for a brake cable, rod or clevis joint insecure and a slack adjuster incorrectly installed or defective under mechanical braking components.
5. There has been some rearrangement of Section 3.6 so that sub-section 'A' applies to all braking systems and includes leaks, inappropriate repairs or modifications, as well as the security, condition and operation of all braking system components.
6. Checks of load sensing valves have been extended to include operation of the valve itself rather than just the linkage.
7. Dust covers on air brake actuators become testable and must be checked for presence, security and condition.
8. New RfRs for decelerometer parking brake checks if the vehicle deviates excessively from a straight line.
9. Class 5 brake performance now needs to be calculated against the Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) rather than the DGW.

### **Section 4 – Tyres**

1. Specific mention of a failure for a tyre marked 'not for highway use' or similar.

### **Section 5 - Seat Belts and Supplementary Restraint Systems (SRS)**

1. New definition of 'Coach'.
2. Table for seat belt requirements simplified.
3. Information about lifting folded seats to check seat belts.
4. RfRs for cut and damaged seat belts has been combined.

### **Section 6 – Vehicle Structure, Body and General Items**

1. Definition of what constitutes a 'body' in relation to body condition checks.
2. The driver's seat adjustment mechanism is now testable and the seat must be able to be adjusted forward and backwards and secured in the selected position.
3. New RfR for any passenger door unable to be opened from outside the vehicle using the relevant control.
4. Door hinges, catches and pillars can now be rejected if they are missing, insecure or deteriorated to the extent that a door cannot be readily opened or closed.
5. Amended information regarding some aspects of registration plates.
6. Vehicle Identification Numbers can now be rejected if they are incomplete.
7. New requirement to remove access panels, unless this requires the use of tools or specialist equipment, to facilitate the inspection of towbar components.
8. A towbar assembly can now be rejected for any inappropriate repair or modification.
9. Amended RfRs for Class 5 glazing to include rejection for a window, screen or partition missing.

## **Section 7 – Exhaust, Fuel and Emissions**

1. Exhaust system checks amended and RfRs removed, for a part of the exhaust system missing or excessively deteriorated.
2. New RfR where a catalytic converters are not fitted to vehicles subject to a full cat test.
3. For Class 5 vehicles, there is now a check to ensure that the exhaust tailpipe is not positioned so that fumes are likely to enter the driver's or passenger area.
4. New RfR for excessive chafing or damage to fuel pipes and hoses.
5. The presence of a leak on gas powered vehicles must now be confirmed with the use of a leak detection product.
6. Diesel engine vehicles with a dual exhaust system fitted must now have the smoke assessed from both tailpipes and the readings averaged.
7. Addition of  $1.5\text{m}^{-1}$  smoke limit for vehicles first used on or after 1 July 2008.
8. Information about the action necessary when a vehicle cannot be revved to maximum RPM and also where the DSM cannot record a smoke reading.

## **Section 8 – Driver's View of the Road**

1. Testers are now permitted to remove items from the driver's view that would lead to rejection at their own discretion.

## **Section 9 – Tricycle and Quadricycle Testing**

1. New information about the operation of hazard warning lamps.
2. New RfRs for handlebars or fork yokes excessively deformed or inappropriately repaired or modified.
3. New RfRs for a service brake control missing or its mounting retaining or locking device missing or insecure.
4. New information about various types of parking brake control.

## **Annex B: List of New Testable Components**

- Headlamp levelling and cleaning devices when fitted for HID or LED headlamps
- Main beam 'tell-tale'
- Battery (including batteries for electric or hybrid vehicles)
- Electrical wiring and connectors
- Trailer electrical socket security and damage
- Operation of 13-pin trailer electrical sockets using an approved trailer socket tester
- Operation of the steering lock (where fitted) including that malfunction warning is not displayed for an electronic steering lock
- Electronic power steering malfunction warning indicating a fault
- Electronic parking brake control and malfunction indicator lamp
- Electronic Stability Control (ESC) components, including the switch (if fitted) and malfunction warning
- Brake fluid warning lamp illuminated or inoperative
- Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS)
- SRS components including airbags, seat belt pre-tensioners, seat belt load limiters and SRS malfunction warning lamp
- Engine mountings
- Speedometer
- Indirect vision devices (where they replace obligatory mirrors)

### **For Class 5 vehicles, there are also the following new components:**

- Electronic Braking System warning device
- Entrance/exit steps and doors
- Door remote and emergency controls
- Door open warning devices
- Stairs
- Emergency exit signs, windows and 'break glass' hammers

## Annex C: MOT Testing Guide Change Table

Section	Sub Section	Change	Page(s)
Foreword		Amended in accordance with MOT Guide and Manuals no longer available in hard copy format.	i
Abs & Defs	Atos/Siemens	Amended to show new service provider - Atos.	v
	VT 20/29/30/40	Amended form descriptions inline with the introduction of plain paper documentation.	Viii - ix
Section H	H1	Amended in accordance with removal of the requirement to retain the MOT Guide and Manuals in hard copy format.	1
	H4 & H5	Amended in accordance with the introduction of plain paper documentation.	2-8
Section N & Examples	2.1, 3.1, 4.4 & 4.6	Amended in accordance with the introduction of plain paper documentation.	2, 3, 7, 8 & 9
Appendix 2	7	Amended certificate retention requirements inline with the introduction of plain paper documents.	13
Appendix 7 & Examples	General	Amended in accordance with the introduction of plain paper documentation.	
Appendix 8.4	C4	Clarification on the recording of test results.	2
	D-Table	Amended in accordance with new QC requirements and the removal of the requirement to retain the MOT Guide and Manuals in hard copy format.	3-4
Appendix 9	1d	Updated VOSA contact details.	1
	1f & g	Amended in accordance with changes to the MOT Status and History check availability.	1

**Note:** Some other minor grammatical corrections and standardisation of terms have also been included where appropriate.