



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

From: **Information Access**
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Our Ref: **F0002649**

Date: 17th May 2010

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your e-mail of 12th May 2010 requesting information, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We no longer have a minimum age when becoming a tester as it contravened the Age Discrimination Act so had to be removed. The criteria we do have are given below:

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. 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 current full UK driving licence for the vehicle class(es) they wish to test, subject to paragraph E2.7 and E2.8;
 - 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 MOT Testing Scheme or the motor trade, or involving acts of violence or intimidation;
 - e. be otherwise of good repute.

2. In addition, anyone wishing to become an NT for vehicles of Classes III, IV, V or VII must either possess an acceptable vocational educational qualification (see Appendix 5) or, in the absence of such qualification, they must pass VOSA's Nominated Tester Assessment examination (NTTA). This requirement does not

apply to NTs who have previously tested vehicles of these classes at any time unless they are returning to testing following suspension for disciplinary reasons.

3. The NTTA training course is designed to allow those applicants who do not possess vocational educational qualifications acceptable, under E2, to show VOSA that they have a broad enough knowledge of the basics of motor vehicle engineering to be able to test vehicles to MOT test standards and explain to owners and or presenters the nature of any faults found. To allow time for improvement, any applicant who fails to achieve the required standard at his first attempt will not normally be allowed to retake the assessment for at least four months. This period may, however, be shortened if formal training is undertaken to address the weak areas identified. A prospective NT who fails twice will not normally be allowed to retake the assessment within two years of the first failure date. A candidate who fails on a third or subsequent attempt will not be permitted a further retake within two years from the most recent failure date.

Qualifications:

The vocational educational qualifications acceptable to VOSA are listed below. Proof of qualifications will be required in the form of copies of the final certificate (or copies of duplicates issued by the examining authority) and VOSA Training Services may request to see the original certificate. 'Records of Achievement', unit credits towards the final certificate, or other similar documentation are not acceptable. Periodically, extra qualifications are added to this list. Additions can only be made by VOSA after consulting the awarding body and satisfying ourselves that the qualification represents an appropriate level of achievement. This verification process is not quick and can sometimes be impossible if the awarding body no longer exists. If a person has qualifications not on the list but which they believe to be equivalent, they should send evidence of the qualification with their application to VOSA Training Services. Where qualifications are from an unfamiliar source we may require the applicant to provide further supporting information.

1. **National Craft Certificate**

- a. In the specialism of Vehicle Maintenance and Electronic Systems.

2. **City and Guilds**

- a. Repair and Servicing of Road Vehicles, 383 - full level 2 or 3;
- b. Motor Vehicle Craft Studies, Modular - part 3 (requires 3 modules);
- c. Motor Vehicle Craft Studies, 381 - full part 2 or 3;
- d. Motor Vehicle Craft Studies (pre 381 syllabus) - full part 2;
- e. Light Vehicle Mechanics Craft Studies - full part 2 or 3;
- f. Heavy Vehicle Mechanics Craft Studies - full part 2 or 3;
- g. Motor Vehicle Technician's Certificate - full Part 1;
- h. Automotive Qualification NVQ Level 3.

3. **Business and Technician Educational Council**

- a. Motor Vehicle Engineering Studies, National Certificate or ONC.

4. **Scottish Vocational Education Council**

- a. National Certificate in Vehicle Mechanics and Systems, Part 3.

5. National Vocational Qualifications or Scottish Vocational Qualifications

- a. Vehicle Mechanical and Electronic Systems - Maintenance and Repair (LV or HV) Level 3;
- b. Vehicle Technician - Vehicle Maintenance and Repair (LV or HV) Level 3.

6. The Institute of Motor Industry (IMI)

- a. IMI Level National Diploma in Vehicle Maintenance and Repair (LV or HV) VRQ (Level 3).

7. Automotive Technician Accreditation

- a. ATA Light Vehicle, Diagnostic Technician

Currently the requirement states that a person has to be nominated however this is something that we are intending to review in the future.

At the present time there are 150 Local Authority testing stations, and I can confirm that Ian Bartlett is still the Head of MOT Compliance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us, quoting reference **F0002649**.

If you are unhappy with the response provided, you may ask for an internal review. To request an internal review, please write to:

VOSA Corporate Office,
Berkeley House,
Croydon Street,
Bristol,
BS5 0DA

or email vosa.corporateoffice@vosa.gsi.gov.uk

giving the reasons for your dissatisfaction. It will help us if you quote the reference number for your case.

If you do not agree with the outcome of the internal review, you may lodge an appeal with the Information Commissioner (www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk). The Information Commissioner is an independent official appointed by the Crown to oversee the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The Information Commissioner can consider complaints about any aspect of the way in which requests for information have been handled. Please note: the Information Commissioner would be unlikely to consider your complaint if you have not first requested an internal review.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely
VOSA Information Access