

Dear Consultee

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: ANNUAL UPDATE OF EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR MOT TESTING

Your comments are invited on a proposed update of the booklet, "In-Service Exhaust Emission Standards for Road Vehicles" from the previous (Sixteenth) edition. The changes are contained in the new draft Annex to the booklet, which sets emissions limits for petrol cars and light commercial vehicles equipped with advanced emissions control systems, during MoT and roadside testing.

Background

Implementing the limit values in the updated booklet in law will require slight amendment of Schedule 7B of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 to refer to the Seventeenth Edition. We expect that the limits in the updated booklet would become effective around the end of February 2012. In accordance with European Directive 2009/40/EC, emissions requirements in the booklet are based on information provided by manufacturers, where available, and are model specific.

Purpose of the updates

The aims of these changes are to:

- i) Include requirements for models which have come onto the market since publication of the previous edition in September 2010.
- ii) Correct information on a small number of existing models to reduce the risk of erroneous test failures.

The new requirements are contained in the new draft Annex to the booklet which is available from the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk under "Open Consultations". Details will appear on the website week beginning 6 December 2011.

Section I of the Annex contains details for petrol-engined passenger cars, whilst Section II covers other petrol-engined vehicles. If you would like a paper version of the draft Annex, or if you would like an alternate version of the consultation document (eg. braille, audio cd etc), please contact me at the above address.

The draft retains information for most existing vehicles, but for a small number of models, identification data and specifications have been revised. A small number of items are subject to confirmation. There would be no increased costs to motorists and industry as a consequence of these amending changes. Copies of the data contained in the previous (Sixteenth) edition are also available on the DfT website under "Closed Consultations".

Electronic Only Publication of Future Editions

To reduce costs, wastage and speed up publication, VOSA plan to host the data electronically via the MoT computer system with a full booklet version being available on VOSA's website, for the 18th edition in late 2012.

There is also a possibility that the Road Traffic Act 1988 could be amended to give power to make an ambulatory reference to the emissions publication, although this may not be in place by 2012. This would mean that Regulations need not be amended each year to give legal effect to each new edition of the emissions publication. Instead the Regulations would be amended once to refer, and automatically give legal effect to, the emissions limits in the most recently published edition of the publication.

Responses

If you have any comments on the revised Annex, these should be sent to me at the e-mail or postal address above by **17 January 2012**.

A list of organisations/stakeholders that we have sent this consultation to is included in Appendix A. If you have any suggestions of others who may wish to be involved in the consultation process please let us know.

This consultation has been produced in accordance with the principles of the Government's "Code of Practice on Consultation" which is included at Appendix B. Ministerial approval has been given for a shorter consultation period of 6 weeks as substantive informal consultation with motor manufacturers has already occurred. However, we hope that manufacturers will use this opportunity to recheck data on their models for accuracy.

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on our website: www.dft.gov.uk after the consultation period has closed.

Freedom of Information

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Yours faithfully,

Dwight Lobban