



Issue Number

5 - 2013

Issue Date

August 2013

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes

All Classes

The last Special Notice issued was

4 - 2013 All Classes

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| Is it mandatory to print this Special Notice? | Printing of this Special Notice is Not Required |
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Item 1: MOT Text Reminder Service

For vehicles you test today, 20% of the owners will probably forget to have them retested by the expiry date. This has potential implications for road safety and for revenue at your VTS. There are many means by which owners can be reminded to have their vehicle retested.

Starting from 25th August 2013 for an initial period of up to six months, Atos will provide an optional service via the VTS device that allows you to subscribe each MOT test customer to an MOT text reminder via their mobile phone one week before test expiry. You will need their permission to subscribe them to this service.

The basic service for the reminder message is free to both you and the motorist. If you choose to sponsor a reminder message to include your VTS contact information, there is a charge of 40p plus VAT per reminder slot. These sponsorships are managed in a similar way to Test Slots. You may pre-purchase Reminder Slots in blocks of 100, and the count is decreased for each reminder registered.

Further information, including the Terms and Conditions applicable for this ATOS provided service are available from www.motgarages.co.uk/reminders and will also be available via the VTS device home page from 25th August, listed below Inspection Manuals, Special Notices, etc.

Item 2: Smoke Test Temperature Measurement

VOSA is aware some DSM manufacturers/service agents are of the opinion that there has been a change to the diesel smoke test following the issue of the update to Inspection Manual. The following is an extract from the Light Vehicle Inspection Manual.

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| Section 7.4 | <p>For vehicles first used before 1 August 1979, engine temperature may be established by, for example, temperature gauge, cooling fan cut-in or hot coolant hoses.</p> <p>For vehicles first used on or after 1 August 1979, ensure the engine is at least 80 °C or normal operating temperature if lower, before carrying out an instrumented smoke test. This should be achieved by use of an engine oil temperature probe or other approved device.</p> <p>Alternatively, if owing to vehicle configuration, or where this measurement is impractical, the establishment of the engine's normal operating temperature may be made by other means, for example by the operation of the engine cooling fan.</p> |
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The above amendment clarifies the use of the temperature probe and places the information on the correct pages. It does not change the test, as the requirement for the temperature to be '**at least 80 °C or normal operating temperature if less**' has been in the manual since November 2000.

As indicated by the above statement the normal operating temperature of some vehicles is less than 80 °C which is why the latest DSM specification (Jan 2007) enables the test to commence at a minimum of 60 °C.

Also the smoke test on a pre 01 August 1979 vehicle is a non-metered visual check so a tester can establish the temperature of the engine by several means.

Therefore, VOSA can confirm there has been no change to the test or the diesel smoke meter specification brought about by SN 1-2013 and the amended manual wording, so no mandatory updates are required.



Ian Bartlett

MOT Scheme Manager

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

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