



Issue Number

4 - 2013

Issue Date

July 2013

All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes

All Classes

The last Special Notice issued was

3 - 2013 Classes 3, 4, 5 & 7

Is it mandatory to print this Special Notice?	Printing of this Special Notice is Not Required
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Item	Page	Subject	Relevant to
1	1	Consolidation of Special Notices	AEs & NTs All Classes
2	1	Mercedes Sprinter Lower Ball Joints	AEs & NTs Classes 4, 5 & 7
3	2	Trailer Socket Test Tool	AEs & NTs Classes 4, 5 & 7
4	2	Class 5 Emergency Exit Hammer	AEs & NTs Class 5
5	2	VOSA Warrant Cards	AEs & NTs All Classes
Annex A		Consolidation of Special Notices	AEs & NTs All Classes

Item 1: Consolidation of Special Notices

The Testing Guide and Inspection Manuals have been updated to include a number of Special Notices. The result of this is that only Special Notices **2 - 2010, 3 - 2013 and onwards** is to be regarded as current.

A consolidation is provided at Annex A.

The current list of Special Notices will be updated in due course.

Item 2: Mercedes Sprinter Lower Ball Joints

Following further investigation and consultation with Mercedes, it has been agreed to change the method of inspection for all Sprinter lower ball joints. A new test standard has also been agreed.

The Vehicle Specific Information on the VTS device has already been updated and the following criteria now apply:

- Jack the vehicle under the lower suspension arm.
- The front suspension ball joints may have up to 3.0 mm of axial play (lift) and 3.0 mm of radial play. Note: rejection is only justified when play exceeds these limits.

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

Item 3: Trailer Socket Test Tool

VOSA have been made aware that some 13 pin socket testers have been supplied with 7 pin adapters. These adapters must not be used for MOT testing as the operation of the lights applies to those vehicles with 13 pin sockets only.

RfR 838 on the VTS device (not operating the trailer lamps as intended) will be amended to include a reference to 13 pin at the next available opportunity.

You are also reminded that if you are still experiencing difficulties with your 13 pin test tool you should, in the first instance, contact your equipment supplier/manufacturer giving as much detail as possible (e.g. vehicle make/model/year etc).

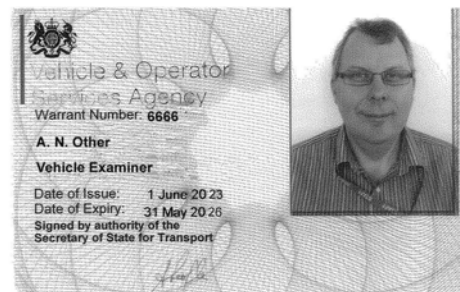
Item 4: Class 5 Emergency Exit Hammer

NT's are reminded that Class 5 vehicles only require an emergency exit hammer where they are fitted with 'break glass' emergency exits. If they do not have 'break glass' emergency exits then no hammer is required.

Item 5: VOSA Warrant Cards

VOSA have issued new Warrant Cards to its staff. This card now displays the new Government Crest and is green in colour.

If when requesting to see an Examiners warrant you are presented with a card displaying the old VOSA logo or you want to confirm the identity of the holder, contact your local VOSA office for advice



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.

Annex A: Consolidation of Special Notices

Item	Description	Class	1 & 2	3	4	5	7
1	Vehicle Jacking (SN 4 - 2008)		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Motorcycle Tyres - Motocross or Similar (SN 4 - 2008)		Y	Y			
3	Dual Purpose Vehicles (SN 5 - 2009)				Y		Y
4	Class 1 and 2 Tapping of Lights (SN 4 - 2010)		Y				
5	Towbar Electrical Socket Testers (SN 3 - 2012)			Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Use of Inspection Mirrors (SN 2 - 2013)		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Class 5 Exhaust Systems (SN 2 - 2013)					Y	

Item 1: Vehicle Jacking (SN 4 - 2008)

Testers are reminded to take care when jacking up vehicles in order to avoid causing damage, and may wish to refer to manufacturers' information if available.

Particular care is also needed when jacking vehicles fitted with self levelling suspension.

Item 2: Motorcycle Tyres - Motocross or Similar (SN 4 - 2008)

There is a number of Motocross or similar type tyres on the market with the spacing between the block treads greater than the block width and that have been approved for road use. According to the MOT Inspection Manual guidance these tyres should be failed unless they have an approval marking and MST (Multi Service Tyre) moulded into the sidewall of the tyre.

If a machine is presented for MOT test fitted with any of these types of tyres, you should not fail them just because they do not display MST. If the tyre is marked with an 'E' in a circle, or an 'e' in a rectangle, moulded in to the tyre wall, this shows that the tyre has been type approved for road use. Similarly if a tyre is permanently marked with the letters JIS (Japanese Industry Standard) or DOE (American Standard) then the tyre is also approved for road use. These tyres may not necessarily be marked MST as set out in the information column in Section 4.1 page 1 ('Examples of unsuitable tyres' paragraph b.) of the MOT Inspection Manual.

Therefore principal reason for failure 1, 'an unsuitable tyre' in the Motor Bicycle and Side Car Testing Manual section 4.1 page 1 does not apply to these tyres providing they permanently display on a sidewall any of the approval markings mentioned in the above paragraph.

Item 3: Dual Purpose Vehicles (SN 5 - 2009)

We recently sent out a system message, allowing certain 4 x 4 pickup vehicles with a DGW over 3000kg up to and including 3500kg to be considered dual purpose vehicles for test purposes where no unladen weight data is available.

Following further consultation with the Department for Transport, an amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Tests) Regulations early next year will see the removal of the dual purpose vehicle definition.

You should advise your customers that once the necessary changes have been made to the regulations, scheduled for early next year, all goods vehicles over 3000kg up to and including 3500kg DGW previously accepted as dual purpose vehicles will then fall in to Class 7.

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

Item 4: Class 1 and 2 Tapping of Lights (SN 4 - 2010)

From receipt of this SN there will no longer be a requirement to assess whether a light flickers when tapped so those reasons for rejection no longer apply. This brings the bike test in line with all other MOT test Classes.

Please amend the following methods of inspection (MOI) and reasons for rejection (RFR):

- 1.1 3c. delete MOI and RFR
- 1.2 2c. MOI delete 'and does not flicker when tapped' RFR 'or which flickers when tapped lightly by hand'
- 1.3 1d. Delete RFR

The electronic version of the IM and RFRs will be amended at the next available opportunity.

Item 5: Towbar Electrical Socket Testers (SN 3 - 2012)

VOSA is aware that there are issues surrounding the operation of some 13 Pin socket testers and is working with the Garage Equipment Association to resolve them. If you are experiencing difficulties you should, in the first instance, contact your equipment supplier/manufacturer giving as much detail as possible (e.g. vehicle make/model/year etc). You should continue to pass and advise.

Item 6: Use of Inspection Mirrors (SN 2 - 2013)

From receipt of this special notice, the voluntary use of a hand held inspection mirror for MOT Testing will be acceptable. Inspection Manuals will be amended at the next available opportunity to reflect this change.

Item 7: Class 5 Exhaust Systems (SN 2 - 2013)

VOSA have been made aware that some Class 5 vehicles are fitted with type approved exhaust systems which terminate under the vehicle. These are being failed for 'an exhaust tailpipe positioned so that fumes can enter the driver's or passenger area' (Section 7.1 RfR 5).

From receipt of this Special Notice exhaust systems are only to be failed where fumes are entering the driver's or passenger's compartment. Section 7.1 RfR 5 will be updated at the next available opportunity.