



Consultations on Exemptions from Periodic Testing & Vehicle Inspections and Operator Licensing: Timescale and Work in Progress

The Department for Transport (DfT) consulted about removing some of the current exemptions from roadworthiness testing and operator licensing between 11th December 2014 and 5th March 2015. It published summaries of the responses to both consultations in July 2015.

Update on exemptions to roadworthiness testing

To meet EU requirements under the Periodic Roadworthiness Tests for Motor Vehicles and their Trailers Directive (Directive 2014/45/EC) the UK needs to make domestic legislative changes by May 2017 (to come into force by May 2018), to remove or amend the exemptions related to 10 currently exempted categories of vehicles, listed in consultation document as:

- mobile cranes;
- breakdown vehicles;
- some engineering plant and other vehicles;
- some drying and mixing trailers for some road materials;
- some road construction vehicles;
- tower wagons;
- electrically powered vehicles;
- medical and some other health related vehicles;
- some vehicles based on eight Scottish islands; and
- tractor units towing exempt trailers.

DfT aims to proceed with further work on proposals to remove or modify the exemptions for vehicle categories listed above. A decision on final proposals is likely to be made during the next six months.

Some consultees have identified issues in relation to the practicalities and costs of testing particular specialised vehicles and the Department will work with DVSA and stakeholders from the relevant sectors to develop appropriate and cost effective roadworthiness tests. Directive 2014/45/EC does allow some flexibility to adopt alternative test methods for specialist vehicles. Some of the vehicle types might particularly benefit from modifications to the standard authorised testing facility model. For example, remote areas might benefit from the temporary presence of DVSA inspectors or the use of MOT style arrangements.

Update on exemptions to Operator Licensing

In respect of operator licensing, the Department is considering the removal of the exemption for volumetric concrete mixers (which number about 800 in Great Britain) and electrically powered vehicles (of which there are very few over 3.5 tonnes). In respect of volumetric concrete mixers a number of changes are being considered together, including the removal of the exemptions of the operator licensing and periodic (annual) vehicle inspections and testing, along with a non-standard maximum laden weight regime.

The Department is not considering changes to the extent of operator licensing exemptions for other vehicles, including for some groups on which views were sought in the consultation, such as showman's vehicles, recovery/breakdown vehicles and mobile cranes.

The removal of the exemption for concrete pumping equipment (as opposed to volumetric concrete mixers) is not being considered, either in respect of the exemptions from operator licensing or the exemptions from annual testing.