

# Your car and the MOT

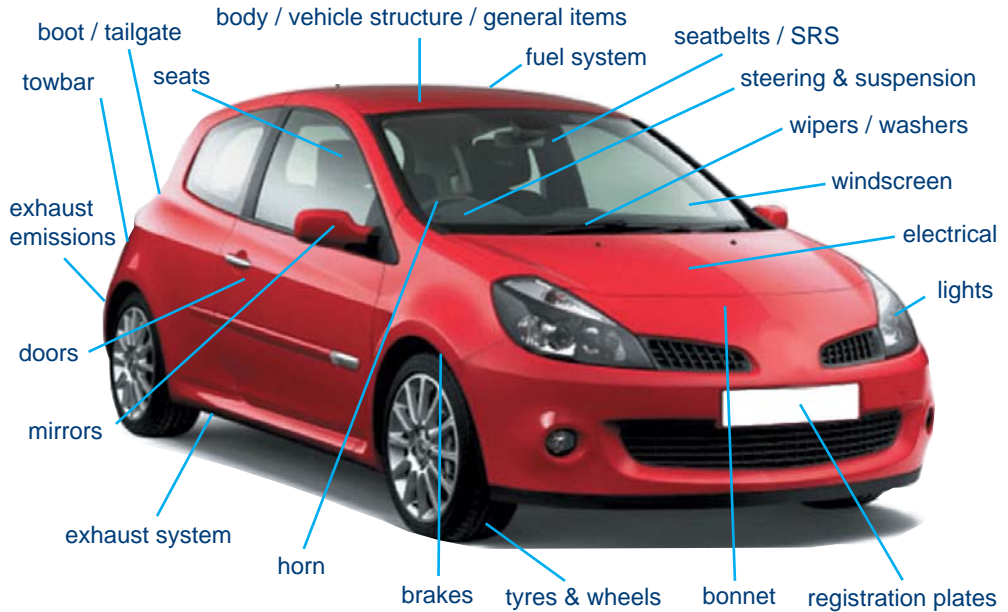


Everyone who uses a vehicle on the road is required to keep it in a roadworthy condition at all times. The roadworthiness is checked in the interests of road safety and the environment by the test we call the MOT. The first test is required once a car is three years old. (There are different rules if you use it as a taxi or if it has more than 8 passenger seats).

The MOT looks at some important items on your car to see that they meet the key legal minimum requirements at the time of test. You should be aware that the MOT certificate is not a guarantee of the general mechanical condition of a vehicle.

*An executive agency of the  
Department for  
**Transport***

# What is included in the MOT test?



## Components to be inspected

**Body / vehicle structure / general items:** Free from excessive corrosion or damage in specific areas. No sharp edges likely to cause injury. Towbars for security / condition / inappropriate repairs or modification. Correct operation of 13 pin electrical socket. Speedometer condition and operation. Engine mountings.

**Fuel System:** No leaks. Security and condition of pipes / hoses. Fuel cap fastens and seals securely. Note the fuel cap will need to be opened. Make sure the key is available.

**Exhaust emissions:** Vehicle meets the requirements for exhaust emissions, dependent on the age and fuel type of the vehicle.

**Exhaust system:** Secure. Complete. Catalyst missing where one was fitted as standard. Without serious leaks and is not too noisy.

**Seat belts:** All the seat belts fitted are checked for type, condition, operation and security. All mandatory seat belts must be in place. Check of the malfunction indicator lamp (MIL) for air bags and seat belt pre tensioners.

**Seats:** Drivers seat for adjustment. All seats for security and seat backs can be secured in the upright position.

An MOT certificate confirms that at the time of the test, without dismantling, the vehicle met the minimum acceptable environmental and road safety standards required by law. It does not mean that the vehicle is roadworthy for the life of the certificate. The test does not cover the condition of the engine, clutch or gearbox.

**Doors:** Latch securely in closed position. Front doors should open from inside and outside the vehicle. Rear doors should open from outside the vehicle. Hinges and catches for security and condition.

**Mirrors:** Minimum number required, condition and security.

**Load security:** Boot or tailgate can be secured in the closed position.

**Brakes:** Condition including inappropriate repairs or modifications, operation and performance (efficiency test). Note the removal of the road wheels and trims are not part of the test. ABS or electronic stability control (ESC) where fitted. Check of the MIL for ABS, electronic stability control, electronic park brake and brake fluid warning.

**Tyres and wheels:** Condition, security, tyre size/type and tread depth. Spare tyres are not inspected. Note: vehicles first used on or after 1 January 2012 - check of the MIL for tyre pressure monitoring.

**Registration plates:** Condition, security, colour, characters correctly formed and spaced.

**Lights:** Condition, operation including HID and LED headlamps for cleaning, self leveling and security. Headlamp aim. Main beam warning light.

**Bonnet:** Securely latches in the closed position.

**Wipers/washers:** Operate to give the driver a clear view ahead.

**Windscreen:** Condition and driver's view of the road.

**Horn:** Correct operation and of suitable type.

**Steering and suspension:** Condition, steering oil level, operation, a check for inappropriate repairs or modification including corrosion to power steering pipes or hoses. Operation of steering lock mechanism. Check of the MIL for electronic power steering and steering lock.

**Vehicle identification number:** Present on vehicles first used on or after 1 August 1980. Not more than one different VIN is displayed except on multistage build vehicles.

**Electrical:** Visible electrical wiring and battery.

## Where do I get an MOT?

There are around 19,500 garages authorised as MOT test stations across the country, which can carry out your MOT test. The blue three triangles logo which they have to display identifies authorised test stations. The maximum chargeable fee for the test must be displayed on a poster inside every test station. A test station may charge less than this if they wish.

## How are vehicles tested?

MOT test stations have designated test bays where they conduct the test, using a range of equipment which meets the required specification for MOT testing.

The standard test procedures are laid out in an inspection manual which the test station should make available on request. If your vehicle has failed the test, you will be given a failure document with reference to this manual. You can watch the test from a designated viewing area but you are not allowed to interrupt the tester while he is working.

All MOT testers have been on a training course with the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and their test standards are checked regularly.

## Who supervises the scheme?

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is the government agency responsible for supervising the MOT scheme. It does this by:

- ▶ Authorising MOT Test Stations & approving MOT testers
- ▶ Setting standards for testing and requirements for authorisation for the MOT test station and testers
- ▶ Training Authorised Examiners and MOT testers
- ▶ Visiting MOT test stations and carrying out checks to ensure testing standards & facilities are maintained.
- ▶ Giving advice/taking disciplinary action where tests are not being carried out to the required standards
- ▶ Dealing with appeals and complaints from MOT customers

## What if you disagree with a test result?

If possible discuss the result with the MOT test station representative. It is important that the condition of the vehicle remains unchanged so do not let anyone carry out repairs to the vehicle.

### If you think your car;

#### Has been incorrectly failed:

Complete appeal form VT17 available from any MOT test station or ring our enquiry line, **0300 123 9000\***. Your appeal must be received within 14 working days of the test and we will require a full test fee from you. We will then offer an appointment within 5 days to re-examine your vehicle. If your appeal is successful some or all of the test fee will be refunded to you.

#### Has been incorrectly passed:

Let us know as soon as possible. Subject to acceptance of the complaint we will offer an appointment within 5 working days to check your vehicle (without charge) provided:

- ▶ Not more than 3 months has elapsed since the time of the test for a corrosion defect, or;
- ▶ Up to 28 days for other defects

**The address of your local Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) office is displayed in the MOT test station or can be obtained from our general enquiries unit on 0300 123 9000\*.**

- ▶ We provide this service as a means of monitoring the MOT scheme and road safety standards generally.
- ▶ We cannot seek redress or compensation on your behalf - although it is open to you to take action in conjunction with your local Trading Standards department; take out proceedings personally or refer the matter to the Police.
- ▶ We will supply you with the inspection report listing any vehicle defects and advisory items following our check of the vehicle.
- ▶ Any subsequent action which we may decide to take against the testing station which tested your vehicle will be at our discretion and confidential, and should have no bearing on any action you may decide to take.

## What if you think your MOT certificate is not genuine?

Please visit our website [www.direct.gov.uk/yourmotcheck](http://www.direct.gov.uk/yourmotcheck). You will be able to check the MOT status or history of your car (subject to certain conditions).

## If you have lost or damaged your test certificate

You may purchase a duplicate test certificate from any MOT test station. However you must demonstrate your right to acquire the duplicate document. You must provide the test number from the original certificate or the unique number from the registration document (V5c), plus the Vehicle Registration Mark. Alternatively you may present the vehicle to the original MOT test station to satisfy this proof.

The maximum fee for a duplicate certificate is £10 or half the test fee if this is less.

## If you are unhappy with our service

If you are not satisfied with the way your test was conducted, please let us know, as it helps us to make sure MOT test stations are providing a good service. Contact the Area Manager at your local VOSA office. The address is shown on the Fees and Appeals poster at your MOT test station or you can ring our MOT enquiry line on **0300 123 9000\***.

### Headquarters and Training Centre

VOSA, Berkeley House, Croydon Street, Bristol BS5 0DA.

VOSA website address: [www.dft.gov.uk/vosa](http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa)

E-mail: [enquiries@vosa.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@vosa.gov.uk)

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for corporate information  
[www.dft.gov.uk/vosa](http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa)

**Contact us:**

E-mail  
[enquiries@vosa.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@vosa.gov.uk)

National Number  
**0300 123 9000\***

Monday to Friday - 7.30am until 6.00pm  
(normal working hours)

