

Roll-out of testing for newly in-scope specialised heavy vehicles

Certain heavy vehicles, **based on an HGV chassis**, will lose their plating and testing exemption on the 20 May 2018.

These categories of vehicles are:

- mobile cranes
- breakdown vehicles
- engineering plant and plant, not being engineering plant, which is movable plant or equipment being a motor vehicle or trailer (not constructed primarily to carry a load) especially designed and constructed for the special purposes of engineering operations
- trailers being drying or mixing plant designed for the production of asphalt or of bituminous or tarmacadam
- tower wagons
- road construction vehicles (but not road rollers and other specialised equipment not based on an HGV chassis)
- electrically propelled motor vehicles first registered since 1 March 2015
- tractor units pulling exempt trailers
- motor tractors and heavy and light locomotives exempted under sections 185 and 186 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, where these are based on a HGV chassis
- heavy goods vehicles and trailers on the Isle of Bute
- heavy goods vehicles and trailers on Arran, Great Cumbrae, Islay, Mull, Tiree or North Uist, which are used on mainland Great Britain

The Department for Transport (DfT) has decided to adopt a phased approach for vehicles coming into the scope of testing.

This approach will allow the phasing in of the new requirements beyond 20 May 2018 and up to 20 May 2019, for most of the vehicle types affected. However, **all** vehicles will require a Goods Vehicle Testing Certificate before their Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) renewal date in the course of that year **at the latest**.

This approach will smooth out the annual profile of tests and give industry more flexibility to balance out the testing of their fleet over a longer period.

Detail of approach to phasing in testing

Eligibility

The phased approach is only for motor vehicles that:

- 1) are not in the list of excluded vehicle types below
- 2) were first registered before 20 May 2017
- 3) are currently (until 20 May 2018) exempt from statutory roadworthiness testing **but** from 20 May 2018 are subject to statutory roadworthiness testing (the change being effected by SI 2017 No.849)

All other vehicles must have a valid Goods Vehicle Testing Certificate in line with the statutory requirements. For newly-in-scope vehicles, this applies from 20 May 2018.

The following vehicles types are excluded from the phased approach (all these vehicles must have a valid Goods Vehicle Testing Certificate from 20 May 2018):

- motor vehicles to be used in international traffic
- mobile concrete batching plant (also known as volumetric concrete mixers) (owing to other potential regulatory changes applicable to them)
- newly-in-scope tractors (i.e. those with a design speed over 40km/h used for non-agricultural haulage beyond a radius of 15 miles from their operating base)
- trailers, of all types

Phased approach

For this to apply to eligible vehicles, the following conditions must be met:

1. a valid Goods Vehicle Testing Certificate must be held at the time of the vehicle's first VED renewal date after 19 May 2018.
2. for vehicles without a Goods Vehicle Testing Certificate after 19 May 2018, records of the date and outcomes of at least the most recent "safety inspection" (as opposed to general maintenance) must be available for inspection by enforcement authorities if required - the person undertaking the safety inspection must be technically competent and operationally aware of the safety standards that apply to the vehicles they examine
3. the safety inspection is required to be conducted in line with DVSA's published guidance within the [Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness Manual](#)
4. vehicles must be in a roadworthy condition at all times

Providing the above conditions are met, enforcement authorities will not take enforcement action for not having a valid Goods Vehicle Testing Certificate in place after 20 May 2018 and prior to the VED renewal date.

Enforcement action may be taken if the vehicle is not in a roadworthy condition.