



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency

Heavy vehicle testing exemptions

Campaign Toolkit

Helping you **stay safe** on **Britain's roads**

Overview

We are issuing annual test exemptions between March 2020 and March 2021 as part of our measures to help stop the spread of coronavirus and ensure that vehicles and trailers which need a test can get one.

Most vehicles and trailers will get one 3-month exemption and then must come in for test.

In August 2020, we introduced flexible exemptions. This means certain vehicles qualify for longer exemptions (12-months).

Flexible exemptions help to maintain our commitment to road safety, while freeing up space to provide testing slots for those who will legally need a test in the coming months and beyond.

We have written to all vehicle operators to confirm the issue of 3 and 12-month exemptions.

Over the last two months, we have also held four webinars across the ATF network, giving you a chance to hear about exemptions and ask questions of our Directors and senior testing staff.

Given the volume of exemptions we've added to vehicles and trailers, we know ATFs want to better understand what has happened and how to get information about new expiry dates for vehicles and trailers.

We value our partnership with you in delivering the annual test. And we also recognise you have a direct relationship with vehicle operators.

Overview

Our records show that some vehicle operators are bringing their vehicles and trailers in for test early, even though exemptions have been added to their fleet.

Although we're provided more testing hours than requested each month, we want to reduce the number test dates being brought forward. This will help us to maintain a balanced testing profile every year – which benefits you as well as us.

We want to help you manage your testing schedule and work with operators to plan their future tests successfully.

We hope this pack will provide some guidance and materials to support you over the period exemptions are in place.

We know that many ATFs have social media accounts and that you will correspond regularly by email with customers. We have provided some ready-made visual content for these communication tools.

You do not have to use any of the material in this pack.

However, by working together to help customers understand what needs to be tested now – and in the future – we can continue our recovery of heavy vehicle testing.



About the exemptions campaign

Our plans

The campaign aims to persuade vehicle operators who have exemptions to present their vehicles and trailers for test closer to the new expiry date.

It is primarily a direct messaging campaign but we are introducing some new content, including social media materials.

The direct messages we've issued:

- confirms test exemptions to **vehicle operators**
- tells **vehicle operators** about the impact of booking in early on those who legally need a test
- reminds **industry** what is happening with exemptions each month
- advises **ATFs** what is happening with exemptions and which vehicles/trailers to prioritise for test each month

We have also run a series of ATF webinars.

We know some vehicle operators and ATFs need additional help with exemptions, particularly to find out how they will be affected.

Your help in sharing information about exemptions will be vital. If you cannot use social media or emails to do this, we would encourage you to share the key messages in this toolkit with your staff when they are booking tests with vehicle operators.

In our own social media activity, we will be using the hashtag #heavytestexemptions and signposting people to visit www.gov.uk/check-mot-history and our blog.

Key messages

Our overall message to vehicle operators who have MOT exemptions is to: **Only book those vehicles and trailers for test close to the new expiry date.**

Proposition

Annual test exemptions apply to every registered heavy vehicle and trailer. Most qualify for 3-months but some are eligible for 12-months. Exemptions are being used to make sure those who need a test can get one. If you have an exemption, only book your test close to the new expiry date.

Calls to action

- **Check when your test is due**
- **Only book your test close to the new expiry date**

What can you do?

How you can support the campaign

There are several ways you can support this campaign:

Manage your test bookings using the MOT data we've made available

- Find out what exemptions your customer's vehicles and trailers have and help them to plan their test bookings based on those dates. Use the data we're publishing and read our blog to get the latest information on exemptions

Share the visual materials on your social media channels and in communications with your customers

- Use the graphics to show operators how to find out about exemptions and check the new dates
- Look out for messages on our Facebook (facebook.com/dvsagovuk) and Twitter (@DVSAgovuk) and support them

Remind customers why it is important not to bring vehicles and trailers in for test early – so we can all benefit from a balanced testing profile in the future.



Campaign materials

Exemptions Data

MOT Test History Service (public)

<https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-history>

Vehicle Expiry Date List (public)

<http://assets/dft.gov.uk/dvsa/datasets/heavy-vehicle-mot-expiry-dates.csv>

Vehicle Test History Report (for Operators)

<https://www.gov.uk/manage-commercial-vehicle-compliance-online>

Access to DVSA data by API (for anyone)

<https://dvsa.github.io/mot-history-api-documentation/>

Facebook post 1 – find out about your exemption

**Are you a heavy vehicle
operator and want to know
when your MOT is due?**

Find out at:

**[www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-buses-
and-trailers](http://www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-buses-and-trailers)**



Facebook post 2 – check your new test date

**Are you a heavy
vehicle operator with
an MOT exemption?**

Check when your test is due at:

www.gov.uk/check-mot-history



Twitter post 1 – find out about your exemption

**Are you a heavy vehicle
operator with an MOT
exemption?**

Find out when it's due at:

**[www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-
buses-and-trailers](http://www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-buses-and-trailers)**



Twitter post 2 – check your new test date

Are you a heavy vehicle operator with an MOT exemption?

Check when your test is due at:

www.gov.uk/check-mot-history



Visual guide – work out your exemption

MOT exemptions for heavy vehicle operators

+ 3 months

- No previous exemption
- Vehicles and trailers that do not qualify for a longer exemption

+ 12 months

- Earned Recognition operator
- Qualifying OCRS score
(see www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-buses-and-trailers)
- Vehicles and trailers up to 2 years old

Work out your new test date at
www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-buses-and-trailers

Please do not bring your vehicle in until the month it's due!

Visual guide – check your test date

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Check when your test is due at
www.gov.uk/check-mot-history

Please do not bring your vehicle in until the month it's due!

Email footers

Find out when your vehicle's MOT is due:
www.gov.uk/mot-for-hgv-buses-and-trailers



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