

Annual Testing of cars at NCT from 1 June 2011

In accordance with EU Directive 2009/40/EC, all EU Member States are required to have arrangements in place for the compulsory periodic roadworthiness testing of motor vehicles and trailers registered by them. Implementation of a system of roadworthiness testing of passenger cars in Ireland commenced on 4 January 2000 through the National Car Testing Service (NCTS).

The current frequency of testing private cars in Ireland is in line with the minimum requirements of the Directive i.e. the first test is carried out after four years, with a test every other year thereafter. Currently cars registered prior to 1 January 1980 are exempt from the test.

From 1 June 2011 annual testing is being introduced for cars 10 years and older i.e. cars having their 10th anniversary or subsequent test. There is a need to ensure that older vehicles are frequently maintained and are fit for purpose on our roads. The pass rate at NCT for cars four years old is almost 70% while it deteriorates to an average of just 33% for cars over 10 years old. More than one car in a hundred over 10 years old is found to be in a dangerous state.

Older vehicles are also more likely to be involved in a collision. The Road Traffic Collisions 2009 statistics show that 41.5% of fatal collisions that occurred in 2009 involved vehicles that were 10 years old or more. Almost half (46%) of serious injuries from collisions that occurred in 2009 involved vehicles that were 10 years old or more.

The effects of wear and tear on a vehicle become more evident as it gets older and a corresponding increase of failure rates is seen at NCT. A comparison of failures between cars under ten years old and those over ten years old yields some interesting facts of concern including;

- a two fold increase in failures of brake lines/hoses and brake components
- a five fold increase in steering linkage failures
- an almost three fold increase in front suspension, tyre and wheel bearing failures
- over a two and a half fold increase in chassis/underbody and body work failures through corrosion etc.

All cars presented for their 10th anniversary or subsequent NCT on or after 1 June 2011 will receive a certificate valid for up to one year only.

Frequently asked questions regarding annual testing:

Q. When is annual testing being introduced at NCTS?

A. 1 June 2011

Q What vehicles will it apply to?

A It applies to all cars which are being presented for their 10th anniversary' test or any subsequent test on or after 1 June 2011.

Q What will be the validity period of an NCT certificate issued to a car 10 years and older from June 2011?

A The certificate will be valid to the anniversary of registration the following year. For example: Car 10 years old on 5 June 2011. Tested on 20 July 2011. Certificate will be valid to 5 June 2012.

Q My 10 year old car was due for testing in March this year, if it is not tested until on or after 1 June, how long will my NCT certificate be valid for?

A. The NCT certificate will be valid to March 2012

Q My 14 year old car is due for test in July 2011. If it is tested before 1 June, how long will my NCT certificate be valid for?

A The NCT certificate will be valid to July 2013.

Q If my 12 year old car is tested in May and has to return for a retest after 1 June, how long will my certificate be valid for?

A The NCT certificate will be valid to the anniversary of registration in 2013 if the retest is booked within 21 days of the full test and tested within 28 days of the full test.

Q. When was annual testing raised with the public?

A A public consultation document was issued on 23rd February 2009. This was published on the RSA website and issued to stakeholders including the Automobile Association, the Irish Driver Association, Macra na Feirme, National Standards Authority of Ireland, National Roads Authority, Irish Tyre Industry Association, An Garda Síochána, Revenue, the Commission for Taxi Regulation and the Society of the Irish Motor Industry. A Press Release was issued to all national news desks and motoring correspondents and the consultation received press coverage in the main stream national press

Q. When was the introduction confirmed to the public?

A The Minister for Transport issued a press release in December 2009 setting out details of the new test items introduced in April 2010 and annual testing from 1 June 2011. The press release was given coverage in the national press.

Q Could you provide examples of the position for cars 10 years and older due for test before and after 1 June?

A

If your vehicle is due to be tested on	And your vehicle is tested on	The certificate expiry date
1st July 2011	1st July 2011	1st July 2012 (one year cert)
1st July 2011	1st May 2011	1st July 2013 (two year cert)

1st April 2011	1st July 2011	1st April 2012 (one year cert)
1st September 2011	1st August 2011	1st September 2012 (one year cert)
29th May 2011	15th May and re-tested 2nd June 2011	29th May 2013 (two year cert)

Q How do I book an NCT?

A You may book at any of the following:

Online: www.ncts.ie

Telephone: 1890 412 413

Email: bookings@ncts.ie

Post: The Booking Department, National Car Testing Service Ltd., Citywest Business Campus, Lakedrive 3026, Naas Road, Dublin 24

Fax: 01 4135982