

Circular RSA VI 02/09

6th March 2009.

**To all Vehicle Testing Authorised Officers and Authorised HGV Test Centres**

**Driving Mirrors – Additional Requirements for Heavy Goods Vehicles**

This circular is to give notice to all vehicle testing authorised officers and authorised HGV Test Centres that vehicles of categories N<sub>2</sub> & N<sub>3</sub> exceeding 3,500kg first registered since 1st January 2000 must be fitted with both a wide angle (Class IV) and a close proximity (Class V) mirror on the passenger's side (near side) **only** to improve the driver's visibility of the area within a blind spot. These are in addition to the main (Class II) mirror already mandatory on both the driver's and passenger's side. This directive has been transposed into Irish law in S.I. 312 of 2008 as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

Category N vehicles are motor vehicles with at least four wheels designed and constructed for the carriage of goods.

- **Category N<sub>2</sub> vehicles are goods vehicles having a maximum mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12 tonnes.**
- **Category N<sub>3</sub> vehicles are goods vehicles having a maximum mass exceeding 12 tonnes.**

***To bring our test procedure into line with this Regulation, checking both the wide angle and close proximity mirrors will be part of the annual roadworthiness test for these vehicles in the near future.*** The purpose of this circular is to outline to all stakeholders the test procedure for checking these devices and to allow them to take the necessary actions to ensure that the centres are equipped to conduct the test from the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. A mirror checking tool as outlined in the attached test specifications will be available from the RSA. We will forward the exact implementation date and an updated page for Item 8 of the HGV Testers Manual in due course.

If you have any queries in relation to this circular, please do not hesitate to contact Justin Martin at [JustinMartin@rsa.ie](mailto:JustinMartin@rsa.ie) or on 096-25109.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Seán Breathnach', is written over a horizontal line.

Seán Breathnach

Senior Vehicle Inspector