

Circular RSA VI 10/09

2nd September 2009

To all Vehicle Testing Authorised Officers and Authorised HGV Test Centres

Clarification of Speed Limitation Device Exemptions

S.I. 831 of 2005 sets out the requirements for speed limitation devices in passenger and goods vehicles and an updated Tachograph / Speedometer / Speed Limiter HGV Tester Manual page was issued with Circular RSA VI 01/09 on 28th February 2009 to cover the testing of additional vehicles requiring these Speed Limitation Devices.

The purpose of this circular is to clarify the exemptions for vehicles covered by SI 831 of 2005 and the relevant updated HGV Tester Manual Page. The SI states that these regulations do not apply to;

- a. Goods vehicles which by reason of their construction are incapable of being driven at a speed exceeding 90 kilometres per hour,*
- b. Passenger vehicles which by reason of their construction are incapable of being driven at a speed exceeding 100 kilometres per hour,*
- c. Vehicles which are used for official purposes by the Defence Forces, Garda Síochána, Civil Defence, Fire Services or other emergency services,*

For the purposes of exempting a vehicle from the testing requirement for a speed limitation device because it is incapable of exceeding a specific speed (as above), a letter must be supplied from the vehicle manufacturer stating the engine type, gearbox type, drive axle ratio, drive axle tyre size and stating the maximum design speed of the vehicle with this configuration.

For vehicle testing purposes, to be classed as a “vehicle used for official purposes by other emergency services”, the vehicle **must be permanently fitted with a blue flashing light** as allowed by SI 342 of 2006 **and** be used for one of the following purposes;

- as a fire brigade vehicle
- by persons providing an ambulance service (*see note below*)
- by the Irish Prison Service
- as an Irish Marine Emergency Service vehicle
- for the delivery or collection of human transplant organs, human blood or human blood products (*copy of contract or letter from consignor must be produced to confirm this use*)

Please note; if a vehicle is taxed as an ambulance, this does not exempt it from the regulations unless it is used as an emergency vehicle. For the purposes of exempting an ambulance from the testing requirement for a speed limitation device, ***an ambulance can be defined as; “a motor vehicle which is specially designed, constructed or adapted for the conveyance of injured or seriously ill person(s) to a hospital on stretcher(s), which is permanently fitted to accommodate and hold in position standard stretcher(s) and is equipped with a blue flashing light”.***

If there are any queries in relation to subject, please contact Bill Barry, Engineer at billbarry@rsa.ie or +353-91-872646.

Yours Sincerely,



Seán Breathnach

Senior Vehicle Inspector