

Working To Save Lives



Circular RSA VI 03/10

28th July 2010

To all Vehicle Testing Authorised Officers and Authorised HGV Test Centres

Verification of safety belt installation on Buses

Following the recent public consultation on Safety Belts on Buses, please find attached an information note to be distributed to bus owners in the coming week. The information note sets out changes to the roadworthiness test from the 29 October 2010 for buses fitted with safety belts.

The attached note is just for your information and no action is required at the moment. To ensure Vehicle Testing Authorised Officers and Authorised HGV Testers are fully aware of the changes to the testing of these vehicles, the RSA will include detailed information on how the verification exercise will operate in the upcoming tester CPD training to take place in September/October 2010. It is planned that all HGV testers will have completed their 2010 HGV CPD before 29 October 2010.

From the 29 October 2010 a safety belt verification exercise will take place at the roadworthiness test on every bus fitted with safety belts. The verification exercise will require a bus owner to present documentation for the safety belt installation on their vehicle.

The documentation consists of certification for the vehicles safety belt installation to show that it is of a minimum standard of construction and a declaration made by the bus owner stating they have supplied valid certification for the vehicle presented for testing. A bus fitted with safety belts and without such documentation should not pass its roadworthiness test from the end of October 2010.

Included in the information note is advice for bus owners on how they will get the appropriate certification for their vehicle and examples of what this certification may look like.

If you have any queries on this subject before the CPD training, please contact the dedicated Vehicle Standards safety belt verification helpline at 096 25043 for more information.

Yours Sincerely,

Seán Breathnach

Senior Vehicle Inspector