

Circular Letter VS 08/03

26 June 2003

Re: Roadworthiness Testing of Commercial Vehicle: Appointment of Authorised Testers

A Chara,

The arrangements put in place at the commencement of vehicle testing in 1982 continue substantially to form the basis for the operation of roadworthiness testing of commercial vehicles. However, with heavy goods vehicle testing in existence for over 20 years and testing of light goods vehicles in operation for 10 years, it is appropriate that the operation of the schemes should be reviewed. The Department is currently engaged in such a review with a view to strengthening and developing the overall framework under which vehicle testing operates and to deliver testing through a strong and vibrant network of test centres operating to the highest international testing and customer service standards.

In this context it is considered that the present arrangement whereby an appointment as an authorised vehicle tester may be to test vehicles of one class, more than one class or all classes is no longer appropriate and is not conducive in helping to secure the aims and objectives for commercial vehicle testing. It is the Department's position that all appointments as authorised testers should be on the basis that an authorised tester shall be in a position to test all classes of vehicles in the same premises. Accordingly, local authorities are advised that, **with immediate effect**, all new appointments as authorised testers should be on the basis that the applicant has satisfied the local authority in relation to premises, equipment and trained personnel for carrying out roadworthiness testing on all classes of vehicles.

The Department is currently in the process of revising the specification for premises and equipment for vehicle roadworthiness testing, which will be available shortly and issued to local authorities. The revised document will be a single publication incorporating details for LGV and HGV testing so as to reflect the single nature of all new appointments.

Any queries regarding this circular letter should be made to the Vehicle Standards Section of the Department at (01) 888 2197, 888 2199, 888 2196 or 888 2333.

Mise le meas,

J. Ellis
Assistant Principal
Vehicle Standards Section

To each County and City Manager and each Authorised Officer for Vehicle Testing