

CATEGORISATION OF DEFECTS MANUAL – TABLE OF CHANGES

IM No/Page	Change Location	Description	Comments
Public Service, Heavy Goods & Agricultural Vehicles			
IM1	Page title	IM 1 Registration Plates and Vehicle Identification Number	New item required by 2010/48
IM1 New page required Number Plates and VIN	Description of Defect	Registration Plates and VIN Details A registration plate missing (See note1)	Added
	Description of Defect	A registration plate broken /incomplete/ dirty/ deteriorated/faded/obscured or with any feature that has the effect of changing the appearance or legibility of any of the characters, so that the true identity of the vehicle is less easily established	Added
	Description of Defect	Registration plate incorrect (See Note 2)	Added
	Description of Defect	Registration plate insecure	Added
	Severity of defect	Missing where legally required	Added
	Severity of defect	Likely to be misread	Added
	Severity of defect	Registration mark does not relate to the vehicle	Added
	Severity of defect	Likely to become detached	Added
	Action required	D	Added
	Action required	D	Added
	Action required	D	Added
	Action required	I	Added
	Notes	1. Unregistered vehicles need not be fitted with registration plates	Added
	Notes	2. Where the registration plates do not agree either with each other or the DVLA record the VIN should be used to identify the vehicle on the Prohibition Notice	Added
IM 5 page 4	Description of defect	Exhaust emitting excessive smoke (See Notes 1,2,3,4,5 and 6)	Additional requirements added for Euro 4 engines
	Notes.	3. The annual test standard applies only to vehicles subject to statutory annual	Addition

		test, and for the purpose of prohibition issue a margin equivalent to 10% of the limits will be allowed to exclude marginal Infringements. The values below include this.	
	Notes	<p>5. Vehicles fitted with Euro 4 engines first registered from 1 July 2008 have a standard of >1.8m⁻¹ for all engines.</p> <p>6. Passenger Service Vehicles first used prior to 1 August 1979 or manufactured prior to 1 March 1979 fitted with a compression ignition engine only require a visual test.</p> <p>7. Hybrid Electrical vehicles (HEV's) do not require a metered smoke check. Vehicles using a supplementary engine may need to be checked for excessive smoke only.</p>	Additional notes added to cover Euro 4 engines, memo giving dispensation for older PSVs, and future proofing by including HEV guidance
	Description of defect	Selective Catalytic Reduction Systems Selective Catalytic Reduction System Malfunction Indicator warning lamp	Addition of requirements for Adblue systems
	Description of defect	Selective Catalytic Reduction System component missing or leaking	Note. There is no 'Severity of Defect' required for this item.
	Severity of defect	A warning system indicating there is no reagent available	
	Action required	IN	Added
	Action required	IN	Added
IM8 page 8	Notes	2b.'Exposed for this purpose means the cords are clearly visible as seen by the naked eye or in the case of a cut more than 25mm or 10% of the section width, can be made visible with the use of a probe.	Clarification of the word exposed
IM9 page 12	Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles fitted with an extendable device or leg to provide stability during loading, and equipped with loading devices and controls, which makes it impracticable to fully comply with sideguard legislation, will be deemed compliant provided sideguards are in place to the fullest extent practicable. Vehicles with access and a working platform adjacent to, and necessary for the operation of, a loading device, shall be regarded as the load carrying platform for sideguard compliance forward of the 	Additional notes added to clarify exemption requirements

		extendable device or leg.	
IM11 page 18	Description of Defect	Secondary locking device missing/not operating	Wording changed to reflect current terminology/move from 'chain and clip' to 'secondary locking device'
	Notes	4. When the vehicle and trailer are coupled the coupling must be secured by a device that provides a further positive mechanical engagement, e.g. a secondary' locking device. In some cases it may not be immediately evident what this device consists of. Action must only be taken where there is clear evidence that a device is not present.	Notes added for clarity
IM 21 page 40	Description of Defect	Remove 'floor traps weakened' from first item	Duplicate item removed
IM 22 page 50	Description of Defect	External mandatory mirror and/or glass missing / insecure/ damaged/ view obscured (see Notes 3 & 5)	Wording changed to add clarity
	Severity of defect	If no adequate view to the rear, side or front (as required) (see note 1)	added
	Notes	HGVs first used from 26 January 2008 exceeding 7.5 tonnes DGVW must have an exterior mirror on each side, plus a wide angle mirror on the offside and nearside, plus a close proximity mirror on the passenger side, plus a front mirror. If either the front or close proximity mirrors cannot be fitted (with the lower edge of the mirror) over 2 metres from the ground (due to low cab height) the vehicle is exempt the requirement for both front and close proximity mirrors. HGVs registered after January 2000 exceeding 3.5 tonnes DGVW used from 31 March 2009 will require an exterior mirror on each side, plus a close proximity mirror and a wide angle mirror on the passenger side. Vehicles within this group not exceeding 7.5 tonnes DGVW where the close proximity mirror cannot be fitted (with the lower edge of the mirror) over 2 metres from the ground are exempt the requirement for both close proximity and wide angle mirrors.	Added to note 1 to reflect regulation changes
		4. An indirect vision device may be accepted in the	New notes added to reflect regulation

		place of any mirror and the words 'indirect vision device' may replace the word 'mirror' in this section where applicable.	changes
		5. 'Obscured' means that the view from the mirror is restricted to such an extent that it does not assist the driver to become aware of traffic.	added
IM 23 page 51	Description of defect	Drivers view to the front impaired having regard to the original design of the vehicle (See Notes 1 & 2)	added
	Notes	<p>1. Reversing monitors and navigation screens may be acceptable, provided they do not impair the drivers view to the road and are of manufacturers original equipment</p> <p>2. As a general rule nothing should be placed in the swept area of the wipers. Some official stickers and road safety items are permitted provided they do not seriously impair the drivers view of the road. Official stickers are those that have a mandatory requirement to be in the windscreen for enforcement, security or crime prevention E.g. Tax disc, 'O' licence,, Police authority vehicle anti theft scheme stickers, security passes, disabled driver permits/badges etc.</p> <p>3. Swept area means the area swept by the wipers in their normal operation not including any area covered to reach the parked position or which the manufacturer deems as 'opaque'</p> <p>4. Acceptable items for PSVs : DDA hand rails, anti-vandal screens and their poles. Ticket machine/fare collection equipment is allowed as long as a person 1.07m (3ft 6 ins) tall, 300mm wide is not totally concealed at 2m in front of the vehicle.</p> <p>5. Some vehicles have very large screens whose wipers cover an area that serves no particular use. The area above the horizontal line taken from the eye position assessed with the</p>	Notes added to give guidance

		<p>driver seated looking forward in the usual driving position, with the seat in it's highest position can be ignored, other than the area required to view the rear view mirror where applicable)</p> <p>6. Features which may intrude into the swept area provided they do not seriously impair the drivers view are: Vehicle distance or lane indicator lenses, automatic windscreen wiper detectors, wiper blade cleaning grooves, fresnel lens, split windcreens, central parking wipers.</p> <p>7. Features which are not permitted are: no smoking signs, maximum height signs, sat nav if not vehicle original equipment maintenance information stickers, monitors which show activities at the rear if NOT vehicle original equipment</p> <p>Examples used are not a definitive list.</p>	
IM 24 page 60	Description of defect	<p>The driver, whilst seated in the drivers seat, does not have a direct or indirect view of the inside and/or outside of the doors where power operated lifts or ramps are located. (This is not applicable where the operating controls are adjacent to the lift or ramp).</p>	Re-worded for clarity
IM 38 page 75	Notes	<p>2. Regulations only require that an anti-lock warning light is fitted, it may be fitted on the drawing vehicle in the case of a semi-trailer. All EBS equipped vehicles only need to cycle the system modulators at least once on energisation (ignition on) to signal correct ABS operation and there is no need for the vehicle ABS warning lamp to illuminate at all in the case of system failure</p>	Note added for clarity to align with VOSA memo 02/05
IM 42 page 80	Description of Defect	<p>Switchgear and Wiring (See notes 3 and 4) Wiring insecure/inadequately insulated/ insulation is or will become defective due to chafing or heat Lighting switch insecure/malfunctioning</p>	Reference to new notes
	Description of Defect	<p>Powertrain Equipment (HEV of EV only)</p>	Added – future proof

		Check all powertrain equipment for security and risk of fire or injury	
	Severity of Defect	Likely to fall from the vehicle, or presenting a risk of fire or injury	Added
	Severity of Defect	Otherwise than above	Added
	Action	I	Added
	Action	IN	Added
	Notes	Hybrid Electrical Vehicles (HEL) Electrical Vehicles (EV) only 3. Care needs to be taken when inspecting high voltage systems. High Voltage wiring is colour coded orange 4. Where it is not possible to inspect batteries for condition and leaks every effort should be made to inspect the area where batteries are installed to confirm there are no signs of leaks	Additional notes added
IM 43 page 81	Notes	1. Powertrain units used on Hybrid Electrical Vehicles (HEV) and Electrical Vehicles (EV) should be treated as an engine or transmission.	Added – future proof
IM 45 page 83	Description of defect	Fuel Tank and Systems (Does not apply to Electric Vehicles)	Future proof added
IM 46 page 84	Description of Defect	Exhaust system contaminated by grease or oil etc. PSV Grease shields inadequate/missing/insecure	Remove PSV
	Notes	2. The term 'exhaust system' in this context includes the exhaust arrangements of combustion heaters, particulate traps and catalysts. This does not apply to Electric Vehicles	Future proof added
IM 48 page 88	Description of defect	Air or Fluid Suspension Levelling valve inoperative/excessively worn/damaged/missing/leaking/not performing its function	Added to cater for excessive inflation defect
IM 48 page 89	Description of defect	Suspension Bushes Suspension bush worn/deteriorated	Added to address omission of mention specifically of bushes
	Severity of defect	To the extent it that it likely to affect steering or detachment is likely	Added
	Severity of defect	Worn to excess	Added
	Severity of defect	Otherwise than above	Added
	Action	I	Added
	Action	D	Added

	Action	IN	Added
IM 54 page 91	Description of defect	Steering gear housing box/rack/gear	Delete 'gear housing' add box/rack/gear'
IM 58 page 96	Notes	2. Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV) and Electric Vehicles (EV) where the electric motor(s) acts as a regenerative brake to comply with the additional braking requirements the unit(s) should be inspected as if it was an additional braking device.	Added
IM 59 page 99	Description of defect	Brake Discs and Drums Brake disc missing/loose/fractured/ excessively worn/friction surface excessively corroded/pitted/ deteriorated (See Note 10)	Added
	Severity of defect	Disc friction surface excessively/deteriorated/pitted to the extent that the pad is not contacting areas of the surface	Delete wording. Lessening of requirement
	Action	D	Delete action (For above severity)
IM 62 page 104	Description of defect	Conspicuity Markings (See Notes 4 and 5) Partially or completely missing, incorrectly located, not clearly visible, incorrect width or colour	Conspicuity – new item added due to new regulations
	Action	IN	added
	Notes	4. Conspicuity Markings are required on Goods Vehicles exceeding 7500kg GVW first used on or after 10 July 2011 and Trailers Exceeding 3500kg GVW manufactured on or after 10 July 2011, and over 2.1 m wide and 6m long 5. Conspicuity markings may be fitted in place of, or as well as, rear marker boards.	added
Part 2 Passenger Cars, Private Buses and Light Goods Vehicles			
Section 3 page 9	Notes	9b.'Exposed for this purpose means the cords are clearly visible as seen by the naked eye or in the case of a cut more than 25mm or 10% of the section width, can be made visible with the use of a probe.	To coincide with Part 1
Section 6 page 32 'Steering ball pin insecure'	Severity of defect	Any insecurity	Deleted. Replace with ' Detachment imminent '
	Severity of defect	Otherwise than above'	Added

	Action	D added for 'otherwise than above'	Added
Section 9 page 41	Severity of defect	become detached or	Remove wording. Interior panel. No road safety risk
Section 9 page 42	Description of Defect	Registration Plates and VIN Details A registration plate missing (See notes 1 & 2)	Additions to bring in line with 2010/48 requirements
	Description of Defect	A registration plate broken /incomplete/dirty/deteriorated/ faded/obscured or with any feature that has the effect of changing the appearance or legibility of any of the characters, so that the true identity of the vehicle is less easily established	Replace all wording except 'A vehicle identification number not displayed/legible' and its associated Action (IN)
	Description of Defect	Registration plate incorrect (See Note 3)	Added
	Description of Defect	Registration plate insecure	Added
	Severity of Defect	Missing where legally required	Added
	Severity of Defect	Likely to be misread	Added
	Severity of Defect	Registration mark does not relate to the vehicle	Added
	Severity of Defect	Likely to become detached	Added
	Action	D	Added
	Action	D	Added
	Action	I	Added
	Notes	1. Unregistered vehicles need not be fitted with registration plates 2 A three wheeled vehicle which has a motorcycle derived front end, does not require a front registration plate 3. Where the registration plates do not agree either with each other or the DVLA record the VIN should be used to identify the vehicle on the Prohibition Notice	Added
Section 9 page 44	Severity of defect	'Door is very difficult to shut or could fly open inadvertently'	Remove
	Severity of defect	'Door stiff to operate'	Remove
	Severity of defect	'Unable to fully open or close'	Remove
	Severity of defect	'Otherwise than above'	Remove
	Actions	I and IN removed	Remove
	Severity of defect	Door cannot be latched securely in the closed position or could fly open inadvertently	Added
	Action	I	Required for new severity of defect above
Part 3 Motorcycles			
Section 1 page 1	Description of defect	Chain excessively loose/worn/ misaligned	Added for clarity
Section 2 page 6	Description of defect	Incorrect tyres fitted (See Note 2)	Remove Incorrect. Replace with Unsuitable

	Note 2. b)	b) motocross or similar tyres, ie tyres where the space between tread blocks is substantially greater than the size of the blocks themselves, which do not have MST (multi-service tyre) without an 'E' in a circle or an 'e' in a rectangle moulded into or onto the tyre wall.	Added for clarity
	Note 4.	'Exposed for this purpose means the cords are clearly visible as seen by the naked eye or in the case of a cut more than 25mm or 10% of the section width, can be made visible with the use of a probe.	As other sections
Section 3 page 8	Description of Defect	Front Suspension Part of the front suspension loose/ cracked/distorted/misaligned/corroded/ excessively worn/excessive free play/excessive stiffness in movement	'Fork assembly' replaced with 'front suspension' – 2 cases
	Description of Defect	Rear Suspension Suspension component which is loose/cracked/distorted/misaligned/ corroded/ excessively worn /excessive free play/excessive stiffness in movement	Added
	Severity of defect	Otherwise than above	Added
	Action	D	Added
Section 4 page 10	Notes	on approved MoT equipment the appropriate Inspection Manual criteria must be used	'Roller brake tester' replaced with 'approved MoT equipment'
Section 4 page 13	Notes	6. Some machines are fitted with fully floating discs which are designed to have sideways movement on the bobbins.	Remove 'with discs with a limited amount of sideways float'
Section 6 page 17	Notes	2. The criteria must be the inability of the driver to signal intention to change direction. If arm signals or remaining indicator lamps fulfil this purpose the Inspection Notice action only will be appropriate.	'or repeaters' removed and 'arm signals or' added
Section 7 Page 19	Description of defect	Registration mark letters or numbers incorrectly formed	Removed
	Severity of defect	Likely to be misread	Removed
	Action	D	Removed
Section 7 Page 20	Description of defect	A rear registration plate missing (See Notes 1 & 2)	Added to bring in line with car/HGV
	Description of defect	A Rear registration plate broken/incomplete/ faded/dirty/deteriorated/obscured or with any feature that has the effect of changing the appearance or	Added

		legibility of any of the characters, so that the true identity of the vehicle is less easily established	
	Description of defect	Registration plate incorrect	Added
	Description of defect	A registration plate insecure	Added
	Severity of defect	Missing when legally required	Added to bring in line with car/HGV
	Severity of defect	Likely to be misread	Added
	Severity of defect	Registration mark does not relate to the vehicle	Added
	Severity of defect	Likely to become detached	Added
	Action	D	Added
	Action	D	Added
	Action	D	Added
	Action	I	Added
	Notes	1. Unregistered vehicles need not be fitted with registration plates	Added to bring in line with car/HGV
	Notes	2. A three-wheeled vehicle, which has a motorcycle derived front end does not require a front number plate	Added to bring in line with car/HGV
	Notes	3. Where the registration plate does not relate to the DVLA record the VIN should be used to identify the vehicle on the Prohibition Notice	Added to bring in line with car/HGV