

IM FOREWORD – Assessment of number of seating positions.

This information reference is intended as further guidance to Examiners in assessing the number of seating positions in vehicles, particularly those which may have been the subject of a conversion such as a minibus or a limousine. This information should be considered for the purpose of determining whether a vehicle is in or out of scope in respect of SVA.

Please insert the following pages as appropriate into the SVA Inspection Manual:

- Reference page listing amendments to manual
- New pages in Foreword section following on from page 11.

SVA Information - Current Issues – Issued 2nd July 2008.

This information is provided to supplement Inspection Manuals containing amendment issued 3rd July 2006. The new bulletin / s will be the one / s marked next to the issue date with an asterisk “*”

Information Reference No.	Subject	Issue Date
• Foreword / 3	Kit Goods Vehicles	07/07/99
• Foreword / 9	Vehicle Test Category	Re-issued 03/07/06
• Foreword / 14	Evidence of Japanese Approval	Re-issued 16/03/04
• Foreword / 16	Japanese Approval from Singapore	Issued 10/01/05
• Foreword / 17	Assessment of number of seating positions	Issued 02/07/08 *
• E General	Non Standard Vehicles with De. Reg. Doc.	Re-Issued 19/03/05
• E1/2	Immobiliser/Alarm Certificates	Re-issued 10/01/06
• E17 / 1	Testing vehicles having alternative silencer	Re-Issued 03/07/06
• E17 / 2	Revised test procedure	Re-issued 18/04/06
• E 16 / 1	Testing on RBT / DPV Exemption	16/03/04
• E16 / 2	Vehicles Modified to meet Brake Distrib.	08/04/04
• ESVA Annex 1 / 3	Revised Comparable Standards	10/11/05
• Standard SVA Annex / 1	Amend. to Australian/Japanese/US Stds.	08/04/04
• 6 / 8	Interior/Exterior Assessment	16/03/04
• 6 / 9	Hand brake/Gear lever Controls	24/05/04
• 6 / 10	Exemption Area/Air Bags	24/05/04
• 6 / 11	DPV Switches/Controls	29/06/04
• 8 / 5	Glazing Dispensations	Re-Issued 30/09/01
• 9.1 / 9	Lamp/Reflector Obstruction	24/05/04
• 9.1 / 10	Classes AB and C Side Repeaters	26/08/05
• 9.1 / 11	Lights on “cycle wings”	Re Issued 03/07/06
• 12 / 4	Sliding Doors	18/04/06

• 13 / 7	Interior/Exterior Assessment	16/03/04
• 13 / 8	External Surface	29/06/04
• 13 / 9	Window Projection	19/03/05
• 14 / 1	SVA Caterham Cars	23/09/98
• 14 / 2	DPV Exemption	16/03/04
• 16.4 / 2	Antilock Function Check	29/06/04
• 16.5 / 3	Shogun/Pajero Brakes	Re-Issued 16/03/04
• 16.5 / 8	Brake Efficiency Test	24/05/04
• 16.5 / 9	DPV – Brake Efficiency Test	24/05/04
• 16.5 / 10	Vehicles requiring a distribution test.	18/04/06
• 22 / 1	Evidence of weights / Eligibility of downrated vehicles	10/01/06
• Glossary of Terms / 1	Kerbside weight definition	10/01/06
• Glossary of Terms / 2	Extreme Outer Edge revised definition	03/07/06

Issued 2nd July 2008.

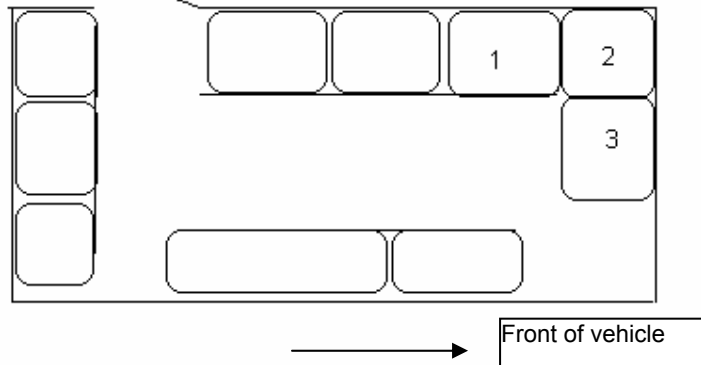
Foreword

10. Assessment - Number of Seating Positions

1. A vehicle will not be considered for inspection under the SVA provisions if the vehicle is fitted with more than eight passenger seats.
2. A vehicle must be complete and in a finished condition as would be expected of a vehicle from a professional converter / manufacturer.
3. There must be no obvious component removal i.e., gaps in trim / carpets or obvious spaces / temporary installations where a seat could be fitted at a later date.
4. Vehicles will be considered on the seating capacity of the original build, unless subsequently the subject of a coach built conversion. Modifications to a vehicle to reduce the seating capacity from that of the original manufacturer will not be considered unless the vehicle is subject to a permanent coach built conversion.
5. If a vehicle is presented having space in the rear compartment or tracking without seats fitted, then, any spaces due to a seat being removed should be included as a seating position, where a seat anchorage point exists.
 1. The number of seating positions can be determined by:
 - counting the number of seat belts fitted (where a belt is fitted to every seating position),
 - including, in the total number of positions, belts which have been removed, evident by the presence of anchorage points,
 - assessing positions where there are no seat belts fitted by taking measurement of the seat base cushion dimension. Cushion width in millimetres divisible by a measurement of 400mm will be used as the minimum size of a seat and no more than 799mm as the maximum size of a seat, 800mm then becomes two seating positions and so on. Where there is insufficient length to meet the 400mm this must be disregarded as a seating position. Seating areas where there is no legroom due to seat curvature (i.e. less than 400mm across the front edge of the cushion) shall be disregarded i.e. in a corner position. (See diagram examples 1 & 2)
 - checking whether a front compartment passenger seat is fitted. Where there is no seat but there are seat mounting points that have not been permanently disabled (i.e. by welding) the position will be considered as a seating position for the purpose of this assessment. In the case of any vehicle, the passenger seat alongside the driver may be removed (permanently) to provide a luggage space.
 - assessing a vehicle presented with variable wheelchair anchorage positions, based on the space available being divisible by an area 1200mm x 700mm to establish the number of wheelchair positions. (Forward facing in the case of a minibus).

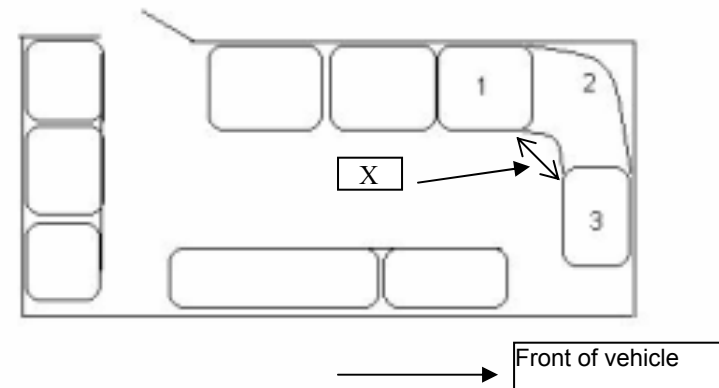
NOTE: Where a vehicle is designed to accommodate both seats and wheelchairs, the worst case set up should be applied. (i.e. maximum number of seating positions which could be accommodated by design).

Example 1 seating arrangement in a limousine



In example 1 above, the seat (2) in the corner would not be considered as a seating position due to there being no leg room (cannot measure 400mm along seat cushion) for a person sitting there.

Example 2 Seating arrangement in a limousine



In example 2 above, the seat (2) may be considered to be a seating position if there is sufficient legroom for a person sitting there, (i.e if the distance "X" across the front edges between seat (1) and (3) measures at least 400mm).