



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

HGV Seatbelt Check

**VOSA is updating
the check of
seatbelts in the
HGV test**



The current HGV test includes a check of seatbelts fitted to **mini-articulated vehicles**.

This check will soon be extended to the driver and front passenger seat on all HGVs.

Vehicles first used before **1st October 2001** are not required to have seatbelts fitted, but if they are they will be checked.

Where seatbelts are fitted they should be worn.

When will this be happening?

VOSA plans to introduce the check of seat belts on **January 1st 2006** on an advisory basis only. This means operators and presenters will be advised of any defect, rather than the vehicle being failed. This advisory period will last until **1st April 2006** after which vehicles with seat belt defects will fail the test.

What will be checked?

VOSA will check:

- **Presence and type** - is the right type of belt fitted
- **Anchorage points**
checking for excessive corrosion, serious deterioration or fractures around seat belt anchorage points
- **Locking mechanisms** (including buckles, stalks, retracting mechanism and fittings) - checking that the locking mechanism works correctly, inertia type belts retract and flexible stalks are not damaged or corroded
- **Condition of the webbing**
cuts, fraying or poor stitching
- **Seat belt fittings**
structural weakness in guides/pivots etc
- **Seat condition**
(if the seatbelt is anchored to the seat) check seat security and for fractures in the frame.

The amended inspection manual pages can be found on the VOSA website: www.vosa.gov.uk (Type inspection manual in the search box)

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