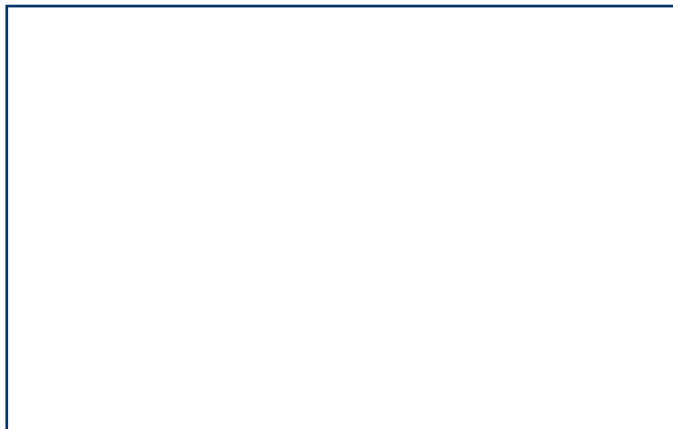
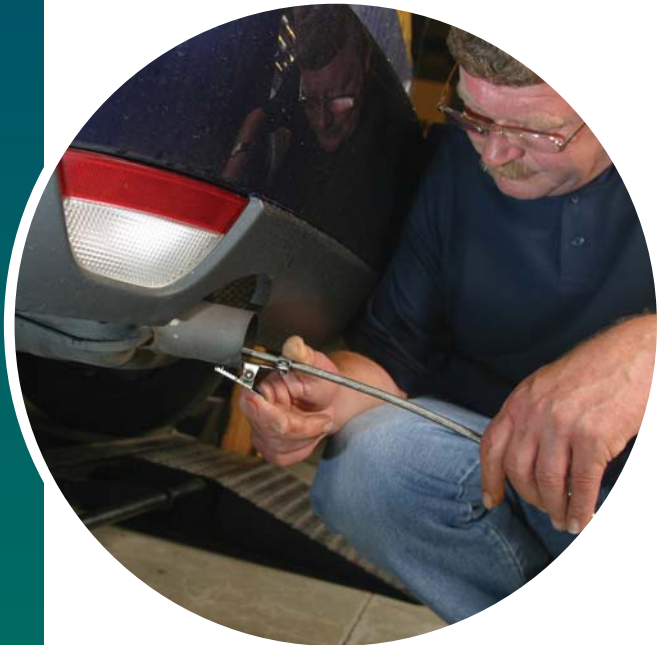




Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

Roadside checking of vehicle emissions



For more information:

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Why roadside checks are necessary?

All motor vehicles emit pollutants, which affect local air quality and contribute to acid rain and the threat of global warming.

Much is being done to control vehicle emissions. One measure is to require vehicles to pass a strict emission test as part of the MOT.

Roadside checks are used

- to take the worst polluting vehicles off the road
- to make the motoring public aware of the importance of maintaining vehicles and keeping to the legal emission limits all year, not just at the MOT.

What do the roadside checks involve?

Examiners, where necessary with support from the police, can stop any vehicle and conduct random emission checks. Many checks are, however, targeted at those vehicles which appear to be exceeding the legal emission limits. These limits are detailed in the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations.

Emissions checks at the roadside can be carried out by:

VOSA Examiners

- If your vehicle is found to be exceeding the limits, you will be issued with a prohibition notice stopping you from using it.

- If your vehicle is found to be seriously in breach of the legal emissions limits the prohibition will generally be delayed to give you time to have the vehicle repaired and brought back within the legal limits.
- If other defects are also found which make your vehicle dangerous for further use then you will not be allowed to continue with your journey until the vehicle is made safe.
- In either case, you will have to have the prohibition cleared within 14 days or you will be liable to prosecution. The prohibition notice will explain what you must do to have it cleared.
- Where vehicles are found to be very seriously in breach of the emission limits, or you have neglected maintenance, you are likely to be prosecuted as well as being required to put the faults right.

Local Authority Authorised Persons

- A number of Local Authorities have been designated Air Quality Management Areas, which means they can be given authority to test vehicles at the roadside and issue Fixed Penalties to drivers whose vehicles fail. Local Authorities with these powers have responsibility for publicising their checks and what the penalties are for failing.

What should motorists and vehicle operators do?

- Remember the MOT test shows the state of the vehicle only on the day it's tested.
- Make sure vehicles are properly maintained.
- Don't risk prosecution. If you receive a prohibition notice, have the repairs done promptly.