

IM FOREWORD - VEHICLE TEST CATEGORY - Re-Issued 03/07/06

This instruction relates to vehicles that have either

- a) a van type body capable of carrying goods (possibly with side windows fitted) and seats in the area to the rear of the driving position, or
- b) been “converted” for use as a goods vehicle.

In respect of “a”,

When making an assessment in relation to the test category applicable (passenger or goods) consideration must be given to the following:

- all seats should be taken into account (in there in use position), **including “occasional seats”** and seats that fold away to provide a greater luggage/goods area, and
- if the vehicle is constructed for the carriage of both passengers and goods or burden and meets the “Dual Purpose” definition, (see IM Foreword) i.e. not over 2040kg, fitted with a rigid roof, additional transverse row of seats (which may or may not fold down), required minimum glazing and meets the dimension requirement, it should be tested as a passenger vehicle.

Where a vehicle does not meet the “Dual Purpose” definition, and has a van body without side windows in the rear, but with an additional row of seats, it should be tested as a goods vehicle.

In respect of “b)” passenger vehicles converted for use as a goods vehicle:

Please amend Foreword, item 2 b “Goods Vehicles” “**NOTE**” to read “**NOTE 1**” and add the following “**NOTE 2**”.

NOTE 2: A vehicle will only be considered a “van” (and as such subject to the goods vehicle criteria) if it was designed and constructed principally for the carriage of goods. The removal of seats will only change the vehicle to a “van” if the vehicle was originally a “van” ie originally constructed principally as a goods vehicle or it can be demonstrated that the vehicle has been fully converted to a goods vehicle specification equivalent to that produced by the manufacturer. If this criteria can be met, the vehicle will be eligible to test as a goods vehicle.