

MOT SPECIAL NOTICE



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

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All Authorised Examiners and Designated Councils in Classes :

Class IV, V & VII

The last Special Notice issued was

8- 2006 All Classes

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Item 1 One Person Test Lanes (OPTL)

Following on from the successful introduction of Automated Test Lanes (ATLs), one person testing is to be extended to existing test stations without the need to install an automated Roller Brake Tester (RBT). From Monday 29 January 2007, VTS' can voluntarily upgrade existing equipment to enable OPTL if they wish to do so.

As with ATLs, the installation of OPTL equipment is not mandatory. Following VOSA approval of an OPTL your VTS can carry out testing without the use of an assistant.

Note: Some sites may have more than one type of test bay (i.e. conventional, OPTL and/or ATL equipped). One person testing applies only to tests conducted in the approved ATL and/or OPTL test bays.

Use of assistant

When authorised with OPTL or ATL facilities you may still use an assistant if you need or wish to.

Sites with lanes not authorised with OPTL or ATL **must** use an assistant as required throughout all tests.

How to Apply for OPTL Approval

All applications must be submitted on a VT01 to your local VOSA office completed as per the requirements for 'Notification of changes to an approved VTS'.

For OPTL approval the site must have:

- o VOSA approved wheel play detectors
- o VOSA approved brake pedal application device
- o suitable mirrors positioned so that all relevant lighting operations can be easily and clearly assessed from the driving position
- o all other equipment as specified in the current MOT Testing Guide for the Class(es) of vehicle to be tested.

All Nominated Testers must acknowledge via the VTS Device (from 15 January) that they have read and understood the contents of this Special Notice relevant to the classes they test. Please print off a copy of this SN and retain on your files for reference.

Installation

OPTL equipment must conform to the layout and dimensional requirements set out in the latest edition of the MOT Testing Guide applicable at time of installation.

Note: Where the installation includes a hoist, before OPTL approval is granted by VOSA the applicant must produce a written declaration from the hoist manufacturer (**not the installer**) that the hoist is suitable to be fitted with wheel play detectors.

Test Methods for use with OPTL

All references to ATL in the Car & Light Commercial, Vehicle Inspection Manual and the MOT Testing Guide will apply to OPTL, with the exception of brake testing requirements and procedures. The Car & Light Commercial Vehicle Inspection Manual and MOT Testing Guide will be updated to reflect these changes in due course.

Class VL OPTL Authorisations must follow the procedures for testing vehicles without the use of an assistant as detailed in the Car and Light Commercial Vehicle Inspection Manual.



Alan Wilson

Head of Private Vehicles Scheme Management