

8 Nuisance

8.1 Noise

8.1.1 Noise suppression system

This inspection applies to all exhaust silencers and under-bonnet noise deadening material fitted as original equipment. The inspection of noise deadening material does not apply to Class 3 vehicles.

Exhaust noise should be subjectively assessed whilst carrying out the emissions test relevant for the vehicle. For vehicles not subject to an emissions test, the engine should be revved to around 2500rpm or approximately half maximum engine speed if this is lower.

The exhaust system and silencer should be in such condition, or of such a type, that the noise emitted from the vehicle is not clearly unreasonably above the level expected from a similar vehicle with a standard silencer in average condition.

| Defect | Category |
|--|-----------|
| (a) Exhaust noise levels in excess of those permitted. | Major |
| (b) Any part of the noise suppression system: | |
| (i) insecure | Major |
| (ii) likely to become detached. | Dangerous |

8.2 Exhaust emissions

8.2.1 Spark ignition engine emissions

8.2.1.1 Exhaust emission control equipment

This inspection only applies to vehicles requiring a full catalyst emissions test (disregarding the Basic Emissions Test) and is restricted to components that are readily visible and identifiable, such as catalytic converters, oxygen sensors, exhaust gas recirculation valves etc.

| Defect | Category |
|--|----------|
| (a) Emission control equipment fitted by the manufacturer: missing, obviously modified or obviously defective. | Major |
| (b) An induction or exhaust leak that could affect emissions levels. | Major |

8.2.1.2 Gaseous emissions

This inspection applies to spark ignition engine vehicles first used on or after 1 August 1975, with the exception of Class 3 vehicles, 'L' category vehicles, electric/combustion engine (hybrid) vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Two stroke engines do not require an emissions test unless they are subject to a catalyst test.

Vehicles first used before 1 September 2002 fitted with a different engine must be tested to the requirements of whichever is older, the engine or the vehicle. For example; a 1995 car fitted with a 1991 engine (of whatever make), must be tested to 1991 standards for emission purposes. The onus is on the vehicle presenter to prove engine age.

Vehicles first used on or after 1 September 2002 fitted with a different engine must be tested to the requirements relating to the age of the vehicle.

If an engine has been modified in any way, it still has to meet the exhaust emission requirements according to the age of the vehicle.