

SPECIFICATION

PLAY DETECTORS FOR TESTING STEERING & SUSPENSION CLASS, IV,VL & VII VEHICLES

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Testing Standards Policy & Strategy

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1. INTRODUCTION:

This Specification details the recommended MINIMUM performance and constructional requirements for Steering and Suspension Play Detectors intended to be used during the statutory annual testing of Class, IV, VL & VII vehicles in accordance with the Motor Vehicle (Tests) Regulations 1981, as amended.

The Specification does not rule out additional features supplied with the equipment provided that the features are acceptable on Health and Safety grounds and do not prevent or make it more difficult to carry out the MOT Test as prescribed.

Note 1: This specification is based on traditional steering and suspension testing equipment. Any alternative approach that does not meet the requirements specified below will be considered and assessed on its merits. Details of any alternative approach must be submitted with initial application

2. REQUIREMENTS:

2.1 General

Approval must be conducted with the play detectors installed on an underside inspection facility so that a detailed assessment using an actual vehicle can be made. The vehicle must be a laden Class VII category

The Play Detectors shall be:

- a. robustly constructed to acceptable engineering standards and fit for purpose
- b. designed to operate efficiently throughout their working life with minimum maintenance intervals of 12 months for hydraulically operated equipment and 6 months if pneumatically operated
- c. designed to be secured to the designated underside inspection facility
- d. meets all Health and Safety requirements

2.2 Technical

The Play Detectors shall:

- a. be capable of operating with a minimum imposed weight of
750 kg per wheel (for Class IV)
1300 kg per wheel (for Class VL & VII)
- b. be easy and safe to drive on and off
- c. only be installed on a vehicle lift with a written declaration from the vehicle lift manufacturer that the hoist construction is suitable for such an installation, and will not compromise Health & Safety. If, after initial declaration, replacement play detectors are subsequently fitted, then a further written declaration must be made by the lift manufacturer

Note 1: Only the lift manufacturer is authorised to make the declaration no substitute to this will be acceptable.

- d. be capable of applying forces to the steering and suspension components of the vehicle being tested in accordance with the procedure set out in the relevant MOT Inspection Manual enabling the Examiner/Tester to assess the specified components for excessive wear with the vehicle in the normal running position
- e. be easily operated by the Examiner/Tester conducting the test by means of a portable hand held control (e.g. a wander lead or remote control device)
- f. to be constructed;
 - i) To test vehicles with track widths of :
 - Between: 1.14 metres & 1.67 metres for Class IV testing
 - Between: 1.2 metres & 1.8 metres for Class VL & VII testing
 - ii) To apply a minimum force of:
 - 6-Kilo Newton (KN) per wheel (for Class IV)
 - 8-Kilo Newton (KN) per wheel (for Class VL & VII)

with wheel play detectors having a lateral movement of at least 40mm in each direction from the central position, and steering play detectors having a pivotal movement through a minimum arc of 8 degrees in each direction from the straight ahead position
 - iii) to operate effectively and efficiently in all conditions
 - iv) If installed in a headlamp aim standing area they do not interfere with the +/- 6mm level of the standing area
 - v) when installed there is a minimum distance from the centre of the play detectors to the drive on end of the lift platforms or pit aperture of 3.3m for class IV & 4.2 for Class VL & VII.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Operating instructions shall be supplied with each set of Play Detectors.

The operating instructions shall:

- a. be written in English
- b. explain how to use the Play Detectors in accordance with MOT test procedures.
- c. include a technical specification for the equipment
- d. detail the maintenance schedule & requirements for the Play Detectors

- e. specify applicable Health and Safety requirements

4. IDENTIFICATION

The Play Detectors shall be marked with a durable identification as shown on the approval certificate, on the exterior, clearly identifying the make, model and serial number and, which must be readily visible after the equipment has been installed. A copy of the approval certificate will also be issued to the Vehicle Testing Station after installation, showing the make/ model / serial number, and the address of the place of installation.