

SPECIFICATION ROLLER BRAKE TESTERS FOR TESTING CLASS VII VEHICLES

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These Annexes apply to Roller Brake Testers to be approved for use in Class IV Automated Test Lanes (ATL's) only, and will be identified as such on the DVSA list of approved Roller Brake Testing equipment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Specification details the MINIMUM performance and constructional requirements for Roller Brake Testers (RBTs) intended to be used for the statutory annual MOT brake performance testing of Class III & IV 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.

2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The RBT shall consist of a pair of roller sets mounted in the ground, or within a raised floor, with a separate display console. The RBT shall be safe to use, robustly constructed to acceptable engineering standards and suitable for brake testing Class VII vehicles.

2.1 Roller Set

The roller sets shall have:

- a. a means of preventing either roller set operating unless a wheel is correctly located in it

Note 1 Except following calibration (see Section 3.1 below)

- b. the ability to be driven independently or simultaneously by the use of suitable controls (for manual operation only)
- c. a means of manually stopping either or both roller sets
- d. an automatic means of stopping either roller set individually when the tyre to roller slip reaches a pre-set limit in the range 20 to 30%. (to ensure that the slip value remains constant throughout the full range of brake force, and if variations occur in the power supply, the means of stopping the roller set shall include actual measurement of the speed of the sensing roller and the speed of the motor/drive roller train)

Note 1: A tyre to roller slip of 20% is when the surface speed of the vehicle wheel equals 80% of the surface speed of the RBT rollers.

Note 2: When both roller sets are in use and one wheel locks, only the relevant roller set should stop.

- e. the capability of accepting an axle load of 3000 kg.
- f. a clear, durable marking showing the normal forward 'drive-on' direction of the RBT.
- g. no part protruding more than 75 mm above the floor surface. (If a cross-pit RBT is offered for approval, a suitable protection device shall be installed to prevent the rollers from being started when a person is in the pit within reaching distance of the RBT.)

Note 3: Manufacturers should be aware that the latest version of the Conditions of Appointment states when a cross-pit RBT is installed for MOT use, the length of pit taken up by the RBT shall be in addition to the length of pit specified for the under-vehicle inspection. To meet this requirement, a

distance of 1.5 metres will be added to the minimum pit length required. The extra 1.5 metres will be measured to the edge of the first aperture in the top of the RBT.

2.1.1 Rollers

The rollers shall have:

- a. a surface that is durable and not likely to cause undue tyre damage
- b. a roller to tyre co-efficient of friction of not less than 0.6 in wet conditions
- c. the following dimensions
 - i) minimum diameter 180 mm
 - ii) not greater than 500 mm between roller centres
 - iii) not greater than 880 mm between inner ends of the high friction surfaces of the left and right rollers
 - iv) Not less than 2600 mm between the outer ends of the high friction surface of the left and right rollers.
- d. (when running) a constant surface speed in the range 2 to 5.5 km/h

Note 1: The speed of the rollers shall remain within the specified range throughout the full range of brake force.

2.2 Brake Force Display

The brake force display shall:

- a. indicate in units of kilogram force (kgf)
- b. indicate the brake force individually for each wheel on an axle.
- c. be analogue and sufficiently sensitive to show the variations in brake force caused by excessive drum ovality or disc runout.
- d. if a VDU is used, include an additional digital display of brake force which shall be of a size that is readable from the vehicle driving position.

Note 1 If the brake force is displayed on analogue dials, an additional digital display of brake force is acceptable.

- e. have maximum brake force display values not less than 1250kgf.
- f. be marked with graduations of not greater than;
 - i) 10 kgf from zero up to and including 240 kgf.
 - ii) 20 kgf from 240 kgf upto and including 800 Kgf
 - iii) 50Kgf from 800 kgf and above

Note 3: If a VDU is used, a more relaxed requirement can be applied to the analogue scale provided that the digital scale exceeds the above requirement.

- g. indicate individually for each roller set when a wheel lock occurs
- h. retain the maximum brake force values until either the indication is manually reset or the rollers are re-started.

2.3 User Controls

Note 1: AUTOMATIC operation of a RBT is NOT permitted for MOT testing, except in the case of an ATL

The user controls shall be;

- a. manually operated
- b. suitably identified in English or with acceptable symbols
- c. capable of starting the roller sets independently or simultaneously
- d. ~~capable of performing a satisfactory test on a non permanent 4WD vehicle. See note below~~
- e. capable of stopping the roller sets
- f. capable of being operated from the vehicle driving seat by remote control. If the remote-control unit is not hard-wired:
 - g. suitable secondary operating controls shall be available on the console, or equivalent
 - h. the unit shall be resistant to spurious signals from other sources
 - i. a system shall be in place to ensure that each unit is dedicated to operating only one RBT when two or more are used in close proximity
 - j. provision of safe storage shall be provided for the remote-control unit when not in use
- In addition, there shall be;
 - k. a visual indication for the user on the display console showing;
 - I. when each roller set is in operation, and
 - II. if the RBT has a bi-directional facility, whether the roller sets are operating in 'forward' or 'reverse' direction.
 - l. a durable notice in a prominent position stating "RBT shall NOT be used in automatic mode for MOT Testing" if the RBT is equipped with an automatic test routine option, except in the case of an ATL.
 - m. ~~a durable notice in a prominent position stating "RBT not suitable for testing permanent 4WD vehicles"~~

Note: this requirement has been removed due to the number of different vehicle drive systems now in the marketplace, equipment manufactures can offer optional systems such as counter rotating rollers but this is not required by the DVSA for MOT testing in this class of testing. (07/26)

2.4 Brake Efficiency and Imbalance

- a. There shall be a satisfactory means available for either the user to calculate or for the RBT to display the value of;
 - I. brake efficiency, calculated from the total brake force and expressed as a percentage of the vehicle weight, and
 - II. imbalance of brake force between the left and right wheels on an axle, expressed as a percentage of the higher brake force.
- b. If the RBT is equipped with a means of automatically calculating brake efficiency, the algorithm used shall be in accordance with that defined in the latest version of the relevant MOT Inspection Manual.
- c. If the RBT is equipped with a device for indicating maximum brake imbalance it shall;
 - I. be inhibited when both left and right brake forces are 40 kgf.
 - II. display the numerical difference between left and right brake forces as a percentage of the higher brake force, ie

$$\text{Imbalance (\%)} = \frac{\text{highest force} - \text{lower force}}{\text{highest force}} \times 100$$

2.5 Connection to MTS

The RBT must meet the DVSA Test equipment interface to MTS specification.

3. CALIBRATION

A means of calibrating the brake force shall be available and the RBT display shall be capable of showing negative numbers close to zero.

A means of calibrating an ATL weighing facility shall also be available.

The applicant shall provide an assurance that a system is in place to ensure all its calibration devices used for the subject RBT calibration are checked and certified by an accredited organisation on a regular basis.

3.1 Brake Force Measurement

The calibration equipment shall;

- a. be capable of checking brake force accuracy at the following values;
0, 200, 400 and 600/800 and 1200/1250kgf.

Note 1: If the brake force measurement is displayed on analogue dials, the accuracy of the calibration shall be assessed via the dials and not from any secondary means.

Note 2: If the brake force measurement is displayed on a VDU, the accuracy of the brake force measurement shall be judged against the digital values

- b. have a method and operational accuracy that is traceable to a national physical standard
- c. be certified by a UKAS accredited laboratory or an equivalent European laboratory, that the whole calibration device is traceable to a national physical standard

Note 3: All component parts of the calibration device, including any weights, shall be individually marked with an identity number to enable all parts to be kept together as a set. The certificate shall relate to the set and each calibration device produced shall require its own certificate.

Note 4: If the certificate or any other relevant document produced for the calibration device is not in English, the applicant shall make available a translation into English.

When the static calibration has been completed, to assess the level of torque required to rotate the RBT drive train mechanism, including any unexpected cause of increased friction such as a failing roller bearing, the following test shall be carried out:

With the RBT in 'calibration mode' and with NO vehicle in the rollers, the rollers shall be rotated, and the brake force displayed shall not exceed 3% of the maximum measuring range.

ie:

$$3\% \times 1250 \text{ kgf (equipment max brake force)} = 37 \text{ kgf}$$

3.1.1 Accuracy

RBT

The RBT brake force readings shall be accurate to within:

+/- 3 kgf of the true value from zero up to and including 100 kgf.

+/- 3 per cent of the true value for all readings above 100 kgf.

The RBT brake force calibration device shall be accurate to within:

+/- 0.3 kgf of the true value from zero up to and including 100 kgf.

+/- 0.3 per cent of the true value for all readings above 100 kgf.

ATL Weighing Facility

A method must be available of certifying that the facility is accurate to within +/- 3% between 200kg and 3000kg imposed weight.

4. INSTRUCTION MANUAL

A comprehensive Instruction Manual shall be supplied with each RBT.

The Instruction Manual shall:

- a. be written in English
- b. explain how to operate the RBT, including the function of each control, and how to interpret the results
- c. detail how to use the RBT to carry out a brake performance test and make reference to the need to follow the brake test procedure detailed in the latest version of the relevant MOT Inspection Manual when carrying out a statutory MOT test
- d. detail the procedure for calibrating the RBT.

Note 1 Inclusion of the calibration procedure in the Instruction Manual is applicable only if calibration equipment is to be offered to the purchaser of the RBT. If not, a separate Calibration Manual for use by the service engineer shall be available for assessment at the approval stage.

5. IDENTIFICATION

The equipment 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 EIN, 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/ EIN, and the address of the place of installation.

ANNEX 1

Equipment Test Procedure Requirements for Automated Test Lane Roller Brake Testers

The brake roller tester must incorporate a computer controlled system (C.C.S). The C.C.S must provide the tester with an automated system that:-

- Before commencing the test, provides the person carrying out the test the option of selecting the correct test type for vehicle under test and allows them to enter the DGW for Class VL & VII brake performance test.
- Has automatic start up of the rollers after a minimum period of 2 seconds
- By means of written on screen prompts, guides the person carrying out the test through the correct procedure for that particular vehicle (as defined in the relevant inspection manual or other DVSA guidance).
- Carries out all the required brake performance calculations specified for the type of vehicle under test (as specified in the relevant inspection manual or other DVSA guidance).
- Provides an analogue visual display of each aspect of the brake test.
- Produces a detailed printed report of brake test results on service and parking brake efficiency at the end of each brake test. Must also provide figures for parts of the test that is a manual assessment of pass or fail.
- Incorporates a manual mode facility and records on print out whether manual or automatic mode was used to conduct the brake performance test.
- Provides the facility to store data from each test result for a minimum period of 52 weeks. This data must include the make, model and registration number for the vehicle tested.
- Provides the ability to weigh axles and record these weights (either incorporated in the equipment or a remote facility that automatically transfers axle weight data to the equipment). This weighing facility must remain accurate to +/- 3% between 200kg and 3000kg imposed weight.

Annex 2

Test procedure by Class of Vehicle (also see flowchart)

Testing the Front Axle

1. With the RBT switched on drive into the rollers.
2. Rollers start and allow vehicle to centralise for 2 seconds. With the rollers still running, note whether a significant brake effort is recorded from any wheel without a brake being applied.
3. Gradually apply the service brake and watch how the braking effort for each wheel increases. Stopping short of lock up or maximum effort, hold a steady pedal pressure and check there is no excessive brake effort fluctuation with each revolution of the road wheel.

Note: if wheel slip detected then step 2&3 must be repeated

4. Gradually release the service brake and observe how the braking effort at each wheel reduces.
5. Gradually depress the service brake again, this time until maximum effort is achieved, or until the wheel locks and slips on the rollers or Stop the rollers, release brake & store maximum results and whether the brake locked up.
6. If the parking brake is on the front wheel's, rollers to restart repeating step 5 but applying the parking brake instead of the service brake.

Note: if vehicle lifts out of the rollers repeat step 6. Or test manually

Testing the second axle

7. If the parking brake is on the second axle move the vehicle forward so as the second axle is in the rollers, allow 2 seconds for the vehicle to centralise then repeat step 5 but using parking brake instead of service brake.
8. Rollers restart and conduct steps 2, 3, 4 & 5 on the second axle.
9. Prompt operator to complete manual assess of
 - a. Bind / drag.
 - b. Rate of increase
 - c. Rate of decrease
 - d. Ovality
10. Display / print test results.

Annex 3

Brake Test Calculations

8.1 Brake Efficiency

Total up the braking effort recorded from all the wheels of the vehicle when the service brake is applied. Total up the braking effort recorded from the appropriate wheels when the parking brake is applied.

Calculate the service brake and parking brake percentage efficiencies by following the procedures detailed below according to the Class of vehicle tested.

Class IV Vehicles

From the presented weight calculate the percentage efficiency by dividing the total brake effort achieved when the service brake is applied by the vehicle weight and then multiplying the result by 100.

i.e

$$\frac{\text{Total brake effort}}{\text{Vehicle Presented (weighed) Weight}} \times 100 = \% \text{ Efficiency}$$

Calculate the parking brake percentage efficiency by dividing the total brake effort achieved when the parking brake is applied by the vehicle weight and then multiplying the result by 100, as above.

Class VI & VII Vehicles

Obtain the vehicle Design Gross Weight (DGW) from the Department of Transport plate (commonly called 'Ministry' plate) fitted to the vehicle. If a Ministry plate is not fitted to the vehicle then obtain the DGW from the manufacturer's plate fitted to the vehicle. Calculate the service brake percentage efficiency by dividing the total brake effort achieved when the service brake is applied by the vehicle DGW and then multiplying the result by 100.

i.e

$$\frac{\text{Total brake effort}}{\text{DGW}} \times 100 = \% \text{ Efficiency}$$

Calculate the parking brake percentage efficiency by dividing the total brake effort achieved when the parking brake is applied by the vehicle DGW and then multiplying the result by 100, as above.

8.2 Brake Out-of-Balance

The out of balance of the braking effort on the front steered wheels when the service brake is applied is obtained by comparing the brake efforts at each front wheel when they are tested simultaneously. Carry out the following calculation to determine the percentage imbalance:

$$\frac{(\text{Higher brake effort} - \text{Lower brake effort})}{\text{Higher brake effort}} \times 100 = \% \text{ imbalance}$$

Note: The service brake percentage efficiency is considered satisfactory providing wheel lock occurs on more than half of the wheels braked by the service brake. The results printout must show that the vehicle has passed on the locked wheel criteria.

Note: Class VII vehicles only

When testing service brake performance on unladen vehicles premature wheel lock can occur, and less than the required brake effort is achieved.

The required brake effort might not be achieved due to the action of load sensing/pressure reducing equipment in the service brake system.

In either or these cases, the service brake percentage efficiency is considered satisfactory if

- i) more than half the wheels lock, or
- ii) both front wheels lock and at least 100kg (220lb) is achieved by each rear wheel, or
- iii) for three axle vehicles; both front wheels lock and at least 50kg (110lb) is achieved by each rear wheel.