



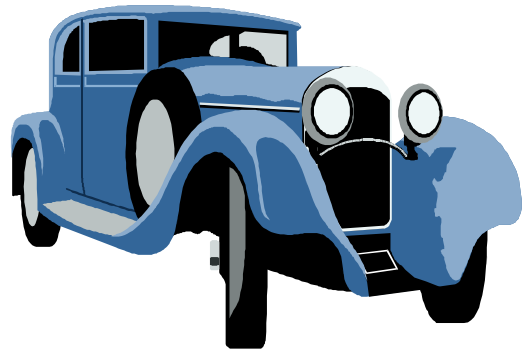
## **UNIT 32 : SUPPORT MATERIAL**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNING A VEHICLE**

#### **Legal requirements of owning a vehicle**

The following items must be considered when you own any motorised vehicle that you wish to take onto any public road.

- ♦ Registering a vehicle
- ♦ Licensing a vehicle
- ♦ Ministry of Transport Certificate
- ♦ Insurance
- ♦ Driving License
- ♦ Keeping your vehicle roadworthy



#### **Vehicle Registration**

The person who is currently keeping the vehicle on the road (who may not be the persona who legally owns the car) must register the car with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Swansea, SA99 1BA.



**DRIVER AND VEHICLE  
LICENSING AGENCY**



**An executive agency of the  
Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions**

If you buy a new car the vendor will usually register the car for you (at a cost of £25) but if you are buying a used car you will have to use the form V5 and v5/2 to register the car.

## Licensing a vehicle

The vehicle licence (or Tax Disc) shows that the keeper of the vehicle has satisfied all the legal requirements of having a vehicle on the road and having paid the the Vehicle Excise Duty. When you go to the Post Office to renew your Tax disc you will need to give or show

- ♦ any change of address
- ♦ the MOT certificate for the vehicle
- ♦ the insurance that covers you while driving the vehicle
- ♦ the amount of the Vehicle Excise Duty

It is illegal to keep any vehicle anywhere on a public road, parked or mobile, without displaying a valid Tax Disc.



Cars and vans (1999)		
	12 months	6 months
engine capacity under 1100 CCs	£100	£55
engine capacity over 1100 CCs	£155	£82.25

Motorcycles (1999)		
	12 months	6 months
up to 150 cc	£15	n/a
above 150 cc + less than 250 CCs	£40	n/a
above 250 CCs	£60	£33.0

Articulated HGV(1999)	
weight (KGs)	12 months
12000-16000	£460
16000-20000	£520
20000-23000	£810
23000-28000	£1190
28000-31000	£1740
31000-33000	£2530
33000-35000	£5170
35000-36000	£6750
36000-40000	£9250
40000-44000	£9250

## Ministry of Transport (MOT) Certificate

Any vehicle that is over three years old must undergo an extensive series of checks at an approved MOT garage (which display the three triangles logo shown ) to ensure that it is entirely roadworthy. If the car fails for any reason the garage will usually make the necessary repairs necessary for the car to pass. If the car is very old it might be thought uneconomic to repair the car in which case it has reached the end of its life.

A current certificate is required whenever you wish to get a new Tax Disc if the vehicle is more than three years old. If the driver is stopped by the police for any reason they can require you to show them a current MOT certificate or you will be charged with an offence.



The Ministry of Transport test is designed to ensure that the car is roadworthy and not a danger to others or the driver. They concentrate on areas such as:

- ♦ brakes
- ♦ emissions
- ♦ tyres
- ♦ structural integrity (if there is major rusting of the bodywork replacement parts may need to be welded on)
- ♦ windscreen wipers
- ♦ lights

The car might be in a very unsightly condition otherwise but if it does not affect the safety of the vehicle it does not affect the certificate.

## The Driving Licence

Before you drive any vehicle on the public road you must possess a Licence.

- ◆ **Provisional Licence:** If you have not passed your driving test this is the only licence for which you are eligible. These are intended for you to use only while learning to pass your test.
- ◆ **Full Licence:** Depending on the type of test you have taken you will be eligible to drive various categories of vehicle.

e.g.

- ⇒ B car less than 3500 kg
- ⇒ C1 van less than 7500 kg
- ⇒ BE car with trailer
- ⇒ D1 minibus with up to 16 passengers

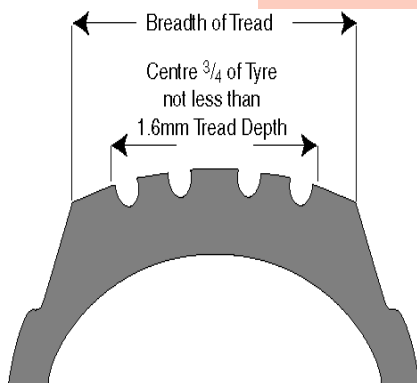
Also on your Licence are displayed any endorsements for convictions for road traffic offences.

These accumulate and if you get too many of them you will be banned completely from driving for a period. Car hire companies are usually very interested if you have any driving convictions.

## Requirements for the driver

A driver is required to see that the car is fit for the road. Areas that should be especially watched are.

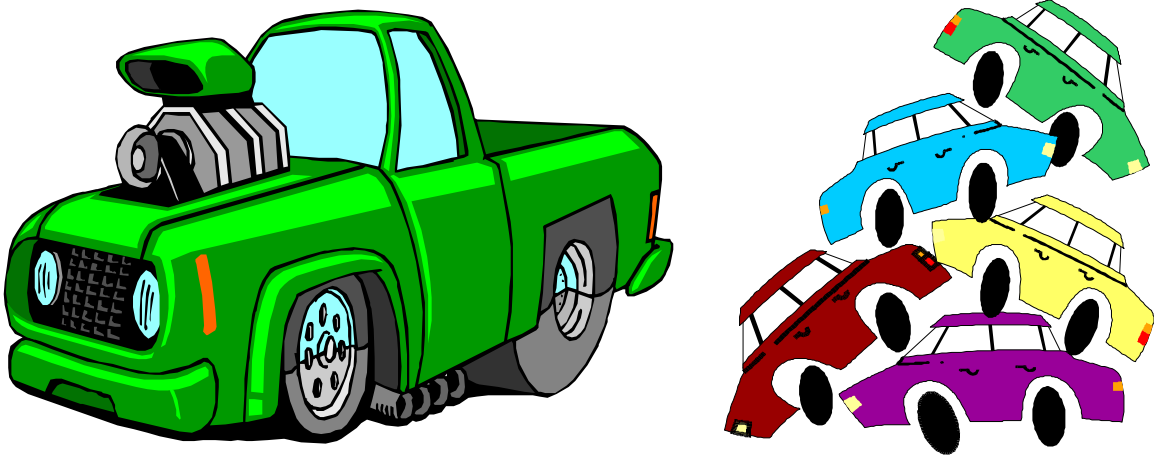
- ◆ **Lights:** All lights on the car should be checked to see if they are functioning.
- ◆ **Exhaust:** A driver must not drive a car which is making excessive noise because the exhaust is broken. Neither must the exhaust be putting out excessive emissions.
- ◆ **Tyres:** These must be checked periodically to see that they have sufficient tread to be legal.



## Insurance

Everybody who drives a vehicle must by law have insurance cover for the damage that they might cause to others. They might also have cover for damage that might happen to them. There are two basic forms of insurance

- ♦ **Third party fire and theft:** This is the minimum legal requirement and basically covers you for damage you might do to others.
- ♦ **Comprehensive insurance** also covers you and your car for damage others might do to you.



The amount you will pay will depend on how big a risk the insurance company thinks you are. It will depend on your age, the size of the car, the value of the car, where you live, etc. If you are under 25 you are usually considered a very bad risk so you have to pay very high premiums. A high performance car is considered a greater risk