



indespension

Perform your own trailer MOT.



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Please be aware that this test does not qualify as an official trailer MOT. There is no MOT test for trailers in the UK currently. This document is for guidance only.

Unless otherwise indicated, if your answer to one of the following questions is YES, this is a pass. If the answer is NO, then the trailer has failed on that point.

If you do discover any problems with any of the checks listed below, please contact your nearest branch to book your trailer in for a service with one of our professionals.

Part 1 - Lighting Checks

Connect the trailer to the towing vehicle and plug in the 12N electrical socket.

- Do both indicators work?
- Do all number plate bulbs work?
- Is seven-core cable sound?
- Apply brake while indicators are on. Do brake lights pulse? (Yes = Fail)
- Are all rear lenses clean and intact?
- Are all light fittings positioned correctly?
- Can you hear the audible warning indicator or see warning light?
- Are all front/side lenses clear and intact? (White light = Fail)
- Are all light fittings properly secured?
- Do brake lights work?
- Do lights flicker when tapped? (Yes = Fail)
- Does the tailboard obscure the rear lights when lowered? (Yes = Fail)
- Do fog lights work (if fitted)?
- Are all connections sound?
- Are both red reflectors correct and intact?

Part 2 - Hitch & Suspension Checks

- Does hitch shaft show wear when hitch lifted up and down?
- Is there sufficient clearance between wheels and body?
- Is there any excessive wear in the suspension?
- Does hitch mechanism lock positively when fitted to towball?
- Do the mudguards cover the full width of the tyres?
- Are suspension leaf springs, shackles and pins in serviceable condition?
- Is any part of hitch mechanism loose or worn?
- Are the mudguards complete and securely fitted?
- Are suspension rubber blocks sound?
- Does the over-run hydraulic damper (if fitted) operate satisfactorily?
- Are all suspension mountings points secure?
- Are wheel bearings showing signs or noise or excessive wear?

Part 3 - Brakes Checks

Professional MOT testers use specialist equipment to assess the performance of braking systems. You will only be able to make basic checks.

- Does drawbar compress and re-extend?
- Does the handbrake operate satisfactorily?
- Does the handbrake hold trailer firm?
- Is linkage in good mechanical order and not corroded?
- Is linkage properly adjusted?
- Are both/all wheel brakes in balance?
- Do over-run brakes operate satisfactorily?

Part 4 - Wheels & Tyre Checks

- Are tyres all marked with sizes and load ratings and are they all the same?
- Are tyre walls perished or cracked? [Yes = Fail]
- Are the tyres seated correctly on the rims?
- Are tyres all of a sufficient rating for GVW [Gross Vehicle Weight] of trailer?
- Are there any cuts more than 25mm long? [Yes = Fail]
- Are the valves in good order and properly aligned?
- Are all tyres of same type [i.e. radials and cross-ply not mixed]?
- Are there any lumps, bulges, tears, exposed ply or cord? [Yes = Fail]
- Are the tyres well clear of all parts of the vehicle?
- Are tyre thread depths all over 1.6mm for 75% of width?
- Have the treads been recut? [Yes = Fail]
- On twin axle models, is there the possibility of tyre tread contact? [Yes = Fail]

Part 5 - General Condition Checks

A vehicle MOT tester has discretion in his assessment of the general condition of a vehicle and can fail it on any point if thought to be serious enough to warrant. Go over the whole trailer making an impartial judgement about any other items you may find; any insecure catches, untoward corrosion on chassis members, and so on - any of these things could bring a fail.

- Is the number plate properly secured?
- Are all rope hooks etc. securely fixed?
- Is the tipper unit in safe order?
- Is number plate of the approved type?
- Are all hinges in good order?
- Are the brake cables showing any wear and tear?
- Is chassis corroded? [Yes = Fail]
- Do all catches latch securely?
- Is chassis distorted?
- Is the winch securely mounted?

*Some rust is tolerated, but in the car MOT, small rust holes must not be within 30cm of key structural points.



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Contact your local branch by calling:

08453 720 720

