

Vehicles of Historic Interest MOT Exemption

Paul Burgess (1200)

As of 20th May 2018 new regulations come into force with regard to Vehicles of Historic Interest. Below is a summary of how these regulations may affect Mayflower owners. The full guidance can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/670431/vehicles-of-historical-interest-substantial-change-guidance.pdf

Most vehicles manufactured or first registered over 40 years ago will, as of 20 May 2018, be exempt from periodic testing unless they have been substantially changed. A vehicle that has been substantially changed within the previous 30 years will have to be submitted for annual MOT testing.

Keepers of VHIs exempt from periodic testing continue to be responsible for their vehicle's roadworthiness. Keepers of vehicles over 40 years old can voluntarily submit vehicles for testing.

Keepers of VHIs claiming an exemption from the MOT test should make a declaration when renewing their vehicle tax. The responsibility to ensure the declared vehicle is a VHI and meets the criteria, rests with the vehicle keeper.

A vehicle will be considered substantially changed if the technical characteristics of the main components have changed in the previous 30 years, unless the changes fall into specific categories. These main components for vehicles are:

- Chassis: (replacements of the same pattern as the original are not considered a substantial change) or Monocoque body shell including any sub-frames (replacements of the same pattern as the original are not considered a substantial change);
- Axles and running gear: alteration of the type and or method of suspension or steering constitute a substantial change;
- Engine: alternative cubic capacities of the same basic engine and alternative original equipment engines are not considered a substantial change. If the number of cylinders in an engine is different from the original, it is likely to be, but not necessarily, the case that the current engine is not alternative original equipment.

The following are considered acceptable (not substantial) changes if they fall into these specific categories:

- Changes that are made to preserve a vehicle, which in all cases must be when original type parts are no longer reasonably available;
- Changes of a type, that can be demonstrated to have been made when vehicles of the type were in production or in general use (within ten years of the end of production);
- In respect of axles and running gear changes made to improve efficiency, safety or environmental performance;

How to tax your vehicle in the historic vehicle tax class

Where vehicle keepers first apply for the historic vehicle tax class, it must be done at a Post Office. If you are declaring that your vehicle is exempt from MOT, you will need to complete a V112 declaration form, taking into consideration the substantially changed guidelines, (as defined above). Further re-licensing applications, including making subsequent declarations that the vehicle does not require an MOT, can be completed online.

What do I need to do if I am responsible for a vehicle first registered before 1960?

These vehicles are currently exempt from the requirement for a valid MOT certificate to be used on public roads. Most, but not all, will continue to be exempt. You still need to keep the vehicle in a roadworthy condition and can voluntarily have a test. We recommend continued regular maintenance and checks of the vehicle.

You need to check whether the vehicle has been substantially altered within the last 30 years checking against the criteria. If it has been substantially changed, an MOT certificate will be required for its use on public roads from 20th May 2018, even if the vehicle has previously not required an MOT.

If your vehicle does not have a current MOT test certificate and is exempt from needing an MOT test you will need to declare this each time when you apply for Vehicle Excise Duty.