



**Important information for diesel engine taxis and private hire vehicles first used (registered with the DVLA) on or after 1 July 2008**

In May 2010 the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) who are responsible for all policy relating to MOT testing announced that a change will be made to smoke levels for diesel engine vehicles, with four or more road wheels, that were first used (registered with DVLA) on or after 1 July 2008.

Following this announcement TfL liaised with VOSA to understand further information relating to this announcement and it's possible impact on taxis and private hire.

As a result of these discussions TfL can advise drivers and operators of diesel engine powered taxis and private hire vehicles that a new smoke test level will be introduced by VOSA and will become a standard part of the MoT test with effect from **1 July 2011**.

Taxis and private hire vehicles first used on or after 1 July 2008 will now be required to comply with revised requirements for exhaust smoke outputs.

Current maximum smoke levels for these vehicles are  $3.00\text{m}^{-1}$  (turbocharged) and  $2.50\text{m}^{-1}$  (non - turbocharged).

These have been changed to a maximum level of 1.5 metre opacity ( $1.5\text{m}^{-1}$ ).

Drivers and operators of such vehicles should be advised that the new measurements will be applied to private hire vehicles as part of the existing two MoT tests per year. The new measurements will also be applied to taxis at the annual licensing inspection carried out by Transport for London via our vehicle licensing service provider, SGS.

More information can be found via VOSA at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/repository/Special%20Notice%2003-10.pdf> or please contact us directly if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mason".

**John Mason**  
Director Taxi and Private Hire

**2 February 2011**  
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