

## **WHEN DOES a FOREIGN VEHICLE HAVE to HAVE an MOT?**

The MOT is the annual test which vehicles have to have to prove that a vehicle more than 3 years old is safe to drive on the UK's roads. (Non-standard vehicles such as kit-cars have to have the MOT when they first go onto the road.) There are similar tests in other European countries, but standards differ.

This MOT test has to be repeated every year. You will need the MOT test certificate to get insurance and to pay for your Road Fund Licence (the tax disk you show in your windscreen).

The name MOT refers to the Ministry of Transport. But in fact today the Ministry of Transport has been replaced by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the MOT is administered by the Vehicle and Operator Service Agency (VOSA). Their website is at [www.vosa.gov.uk](http://www.vosa.gov.uk)

You must import your vehicle if you are here in the UK for more than 6 months. That means you have to register it and tax it. And, if it is older than 3 years, then you will have to take it for an MOT. Until then the vehicle should not be kept on public roads. You can still drive it to the MOT (Ministry of Transport) test-site for a pre-arranged appointment.

You can expect some items like your light systems to need new components (because the British drive on the left and their headlight lenses are therefore different to those manufactured for cars driven on the right).

Most garages operate as MOT test stations and you simply need to take your vehicle there for a pre-booked test. Test centres use this logo.



### **MOT FAILURE:**

Obviously once a vehicle has failed the MOT test then you are not advised to take the vehicle onto the road without any problems remedied. In any event, the police can stop any vehicle and fine the driver if it is not 'roadworthy'.

### **PRE MOT TESTS:**

If your MOT is not yet due, it is possible to take your vehicle for what is called a 'pre-MOT'. The garage (test centre) will charge a small fee to put your vehicle through a test which identifies any problems before the official test. The advantage of using a pre-MOT is that it can save you having to take your vehicle off the road for several days as you wait for repairs or new parts to be delivered.