

## MOT exemption criteria for Historic (classic) vehicles

In May 2018 the rules were changed, so you do not need to get an MOT if the vehicle was first registered more than 40 years ago and no "substantial changes" have been made to the vehicle in the last 30 years. This includes vehicles previously exempted on the basis of being first registered before 1960. A classic car that's older than 40 years is not MOT-exempt until you have declared it as a Vehicle of Historic Interest (VHI). This can be done at your nearest Post Office by filling out a V112 form. Whether or not you are MOT exempt your vehicle must be roadworthy and you may wish to voluntarily undertake an MOT test anyway.

## Insurance policy condition

Your motor insurance policy will almost certainly have a condition requiring the policyholder to maintain their car in a roadworthy condition and failure to do so could, following a claim under the policy and the discovery of inadequate maintenance by a insurance vehicle inspector, lead to a reduced payout or the insurer deciding to vitiate the policy for a breach of an important policy condition.


## What does 'substantial changes' mean?

A vehicle alteration is a "substantial change" if the technical characteristics of the main components have changed in the previous 30 years, unless these fall into the acceptable alterations category. Full [guidance](#) relating to substantial changes was published following the announcement of changes to the MOT regime for vehicles of historic interest.

[See the GOV.UK website](#)

## Expert MOT testers can spot concerns and safety issues that even a diligent owner maintaining and checking their Historic vehicle could miss

For many classic car enthusiasts the annual MOT is a very worthwhile check made by an experienced MOT tester with a skilled eye that can spot areas of concern. As an example see a copy of an MOT report on an MGBGT V8 with some shocking issues listed under "Do not drive until repaired (dangerous defects)"!



# Check MOT history

### MOT history

Check mileage recorded at test, MOT expiry date, defects and advisories, and view test certificate

Date tested  
**27 September 2021**

**FAIL**

[View test certificate](#)

Mileage  
**98,134 miles**

Test location

[View test location](#)

MOT test number  
91 - 1234 5678

Do not drive until repaired (dangerous defects):

- **Parking brake efficiency less than 50% of the required value (1.4.2 (a) (ii))**

Repair immediately (major defects):

- **All direction indicators not working (4.4.1 (a) (ii))**
- **Sub-frame corroded and seriously weakened front subframe holed (5.3.3 (b) (i))**
- **Nearside Front Subframe mounting prescribed area excessively corroded significantly reducing structural strength underwing section holed (5.3.6 (a) (i))**
- **Offside Rear Suspension component mounting prescribed area excessively corroded significantly reducing structural strength chassis box section holed near shock absorber mounting (5.3.6 (a) (i))**
- **Nearside Rear Service brake effort inadequate at a wheel (1.2.1 (a) (i))**
- **Nearside Rear Parking brake inoperative on one side (1.4.1 (a))**
- **Offside Rear Parking brake inoperative on one side (1.4.1 (a))**
- **Rear Brakes imbalanced across an axle Axle 2 (1.2.1 (b) (i))**

Monitor and repair if necessary (advisories):

- **Nearside Front Passenger seat(s) missing at time of test ()**