



REGISTERS

V8

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Why an MOT inspection is wise

Classic cars have come under the press spotlight again recently, with news of a public consultation by the DfT, stating that 40% of respondents agreed with officials that tests should be introduced for cars over 40 years old.

Victor Smith has written in and takes up the discussion on the topic as follows: "At present cars older than 40 years are eligible for exemption from Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and MoT testing, provided they have not been 'substantially modified' (in accordance with government guidelines). Where an eligible vehicle is not declared MoT exempt the vehicle will need to have an annual MoT test. Where an owner or keeper declares the car as a Vehicle of Historic Interest (VHI) and hence MoT exempt, a voluntary MoT test or an inspection (a 'non-MOT') can be obtained by the owner. Opinions remain divided on this topic, with some classic car enthusiasts feeling that the annual inspection by an

experienced MoT inspector is a worthwhile safety check at a modest cost, whereas others feel owners are capable of maintaining their vehicles in a roadworthy condition themselves and therefore do not need an MoT test. As a result of this consultation, there remains the possibility that further clarification regarding DVLA's position on MoT requirements for classic cars could be seen in the next few weeks." The V8 Register will keep abreast of any further developments, as and when they occur. Victor's chosen MoT inspector at his local testing station recently told him, "If you saw some of the issues we see, you wouldn't stop having an MoT test!"

Roadworthiness responsibility

All vehicle keepers are of course responsible for the roadworthiness of

their vehicle. Details are clearly set out by the government on their website. Owners/Drivers commit an offence if the car is driven on the road when it is not roadworthy. In addition, motor insurance policies will have conditions requiring the insured to maintain the vehicle in a roadworthy condition. Following an accident an insurer's claims assessor may see evidence during an inspection that the car has not been maintained adequately; this may be seen as a breach of the policy conditions and consequently have an impact on the claim and payout.

Listing of recommended MOT testers

The V8 Register has launched a list of specialists who carry out MOT tests for classic cars. See the 'More' page at <https://www.v8register.net/more.htm>



Photo courtesy of Keith Belcher. The V8 during an MoT at R N Upton, Tamworth