



Maintenance FAQs

Goods Vehicle Operator Licensing

1. What are the maintenance requirements of the Goods Vehicles Act?

All operators must ensure that their vehicles are maintained in a safe and roadworthy condition at all times when in use on a road. There are two types of essential inspections:

- i) **daily walkaround checks** which cover the external condition, ensuring in particular that the lights, tyres, wheel fixings, bodywork, trailer coupling, load and ancillary equipment are serviceable
- ii) **regular safety inspections** which cover all the items included in the statutory annual test

2. What records must be kept?

Systems must be in place to record defects and their repair. Safety inspection and repair work records must be kept for at least 15 months as part of a vehicle's maintenance record.

3. How often are safety checks required?

In addition to the daily walkaround checks, regular safety inspections are required. The frequencies are in weekly increments to take account of the type of work undertaken, the operating conditions and mileages covered and range between every 4 to 13 weeks.

4. Can an operator do his own maintenance?

An operator may decide to undertake his own safety inspections and maintenance work in-house or to contract all or part of the work to someone else. If they decide to provide their own safety inspection facilities, they must ensure they are adequate for the job.

5. What will the cost of maintenance be?

The maintenance as required by the proposed legislation should not be an additional cost to any operator.

6. Can failure at annual test count against an operator's licence?

The Department plans to introduce an operator compliance risk score which is a mechanism used to calculate which operators are most likely to be non-compliant when checked at the roadside. First and annual test data, including any defects resulting in a failure will be used in the calculation of the score.