



# IMPORTANT CHANGES TO MOT'S AND HOW THEY AFFECT YOU

**181 Classic Motors – answering your questions  
on the new MOT rules for classic vehicles**

## **Q&A's over the new changes to the MOT rulings**

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### **Q: Are you aware of changes the Government are making to MOT checks?**

A: As of 20th May 2018 vehicles over 40 years will become MOT exempt (providing the vehicle has not been substantially altered). The cut off date is 31st December 1977 and this is rolling year on year.

### **Q: Why are the MOT requirements changing?**

A: The Government introduced the changes following the call for reform to the way MOT certificates were issued. Many of the checks within the existing MOT process specifically related to modern vehicles and increasingly highlighted a widening gap between the MOT specifications for a modern vehicle versus the specifications for an older vehicle.

### **Q: How will this affect me?**

A: If your vehicle is aged 40 years or more as of 20th May 2018, you will not be required to have an MOT certificate to drive on public roads.

### **Q: What do I have to do?**

A: With respect to the MOT certificate, nothing. However, you will still be responsible for keeping the vehicle in a roadworthy condition and can voluntarily have a test/check. The Government advise that the vehicle is still regularly checked for roadworthiness.

### **Q: Is there anything which replaces the official MOT which I legally have to do?**

A: Currently there is nothing to replace the official MOT test for vehicles over 40 years. However, you are still legally responsible for the vehicle and ensuring the vehicle is safe to use on the roads. The Government continue to advise that all vehicles have regular maintenance checks.

### **Q: I rely on MOT checks to give me assurance my classic vehicle is safe for road use – what can I do?**

A: 181 Classic Motors are providing Health Checks to vehicles which follow the old MOT specifications as well as additional itemised points. 181 Classic Motors will provide comprehensive check lists and advisories where necessary.

### **Q: Can any garage provide a health check?**

A: Most garages will be offering some form of replacement check list. However, as we only work on classic and vintage vehicles, using high quality parts fitted by qualified experienced mechanics who understand the true mechanical workings of older vehicles, we feel our health check and expertise in the classic vehicle industry is an outstanding service offering.

### **Q: How do I know if my vehicle has been substantially changed in the last 30 years?**

A: There is a points operated system that will indicate whether your vehicle is considered substantially altered. If in doubt, contact us at 181 Classic motors and we will have one of our qualified experienced mechanics look into it for you.

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**Q: What do I do if my vehicle has been substantially changed over the years?**

A: You will need to check if the vehicle has been substantially changed in the last 30 years, using the link below and guidance notes provided by the Government.

**Q: Who is going to check whether my vehicle qualifies for MOT exemptions?**

A: You. It is the sole responsibility of the vehicles owner to carry out their own due diligence on whether the vehicle qualifies to be a vehicle of historic interest (VH1), to claim free tax and MOT exemption. If a vehicle owner is not sure of the status of the vehicle, they can consult a historic vehicles expert, a list of which is available on the website of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs. If a vehicle owner cannot determine that the vehicle has not been substantially changed they should not claim an exemption from the MOT test.

**Q: Will MOT exemption impact my insurance policy?**

A: In theory an insurance company cannot refuse insurance if a vehicle qualifies for MOT exemption. However, in the event of a claim, if the vehicle is proven to be unroadworthy we have heard of some insurance claims being denied.

**Q: Do you have to apply for MOT exemption if your vehicle is over 40 years old?**

A: No. You can still continue to have an annual MOT test or classic vehicle health check for peace of mind. Evidence of continued maintenance and proof of roadworthiness is also of benefit if you were to sell your vehicle in the future.

**Q: How do I apply for MOT exemption?**

A: Declaring a classic vehicle MOT exempt can be done at a Post Office or completed on line at the point of taxing the vehicle.

**Q: Where can I find more information?**

A: Please follow the links below to the Government's website and latest official advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/roadworthiness-testing-for-vehicles-of-historic-interest>

<https://www.gov.uk/getting-an-mot/vehicles-exempt-from-mot>



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