

# Annual Testing of cars at NCT from 1 June 2011

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In accordance with EU Directive 2009/40/EC, all EU Member States are required to have arrangements in place for the compulsory periodic roadworthiness testing of motor vehicles and trailers registered by them. Implementation of a system of roadworthiness testing of passenger cars in Ireland commenced on 4 January 2000 through the National Car Testing Service (NCTS).

The current frequency of testing private cars in Ireland is in line with the minimum requirements of the Directive i.e. the first test is carried out after four years, with a test every other year thereafter. Currently cars registered prior to 1 January 1980 are exempt from the test.

Annual testing of cars 10 years and older was introduced on 1 June 2011. Cars presented for their 10th anniversary or subsequent NCTs will receive a certificate valid for up to one year only.

There is a need to ensure that older vehicles are frequently maintained and are fit for purpose on our roads. The effects of wear and tear on a vehicle become more evident as it gets older and a corresponding increase of failure rates is seen at NCT. In 2012 the pass rate at NCT for four year old cars was 76% and for 10 year old cars was 42%. The average pass rate for cars 10 years and older was 33.75%.

Older vehicles are also more likely to be involved in a collision. The Road Traffic Collisions 2012 statistics show that 52.4% of fatal collisions that occurred in 2012 involved vehicles that were 10 years old or more. 46.7% of serious injury collisions that occurred in 2012 involved vehicles that were 10 years old or more.

A comparison of failures between cars under ten years old and those over ten years old yields some interesting facts of concern including;

- a two fold increase in failures of brake lines/hoses and brake components
- a five fold increase in steering linkage failures
- an almost three fold increase in front suspension, tyre and wheel bearing failures
- over a two and a half fold increase in chassis/underbody and body work failures through corrosion etc.

NCT is more important than ever now when the average age of the car fleet has risen to 8.4 years. Analysis shows that over 2012 and 2013 the average pass rate for cars 11 years old and older increased by 9.2% This strongly suggests that, as these vehicles are presenting after only one year rather than after two years, their condition, as measured by pass rates, has improved on average since the implementation of annual testing in June 2011.

## Frequently asked questions regarding annual testing:

**Q. When is annual testing being introduced at NCTS?**

A. 1 June 2011

**Q What vehicles does it apply to?**

A It applies to all cars which are being presented for their 10th anniversary' test or any subsequent test.

**Q What will be the validity period of an NCT certificate issued to a car 10 years and older?**

A The certificate will be valid for 1 year. For example: Car 10 years old on 5 June 2014. Tested on 5 June 2014. Certificate will be valid to 4 June 2015.

**Q My 10 year old car was due for testing in March 2014, but was off the road. If I get it tested in August 2014, how long will my NCT certificate be valid for?**

A. The NCT certificate will be valid till March 2015. The test certificate is valid from the date of the actual test until the next date on which the test is due. This can result in a certificate of less than 2 years (or 1 year in the case of a 10 year old vehicle) duration, depending on when the car was presented for a test. Factors such as non-use of a vehicle or failure to have a vehicle tested at the appropriate time, by either a current or previous owner, are irrelevant in relation to determining NCT test due dates. NCT certificates cannot be post-dated.

**Q My 14 year old car is due for test on 20 September 2015. If it is tested and passes on 20 May 2015 (i.e. prior to 90 days in advance of its due date), how long will my NCT certificate be valid for?**

A This would be a voluntary early test and the NCT certificate issued would be valid for 1 year i.e. up to 20 May 2016. The test due date would be reset to the anniversary of the successful test.

**Q. When was annual testing raised with the public?**

A A public consultation document was issued on 23rd February 2009. This was published on the RSA website and issued to stakeholders. A Press Release was issued to all national news desks and motoring correspondents and the consultation received press coverage in the main stream national press

**Q. When was the introduction confirmed to the public?**

A The Minister for Transport issued a press release in December 2009 advising of the introduction of annual testing from 1 June 2011. The press release was given coverage in the national press.

**Q**     **How do I book an NCT?**

**A**     You may book at any of the following:

Online: [www.ncts.ie](http://www.ncts.ie)

Telephone: 01 413 5992

Email: [bookings@ncts.ie](mailto:bookings@ncts.ie)

Post: The Booking Department, National Car Testing Service Ltd., Citywest Business Campus, Lakedrive 3026, Naas Road, Dublin 24

Fax: 01 4135982