

FAQ's NCT Changes – Effective 28 July 2014

Q. What is Voluntary Early Testing?

A. The RSA is now introducing voluntary early testing of cars because it will have benefits for road safety, NCTS customer service and NCTS test demand. A voluntary early test is the same as the normal NCT except the owner has voluntarily opted to have the test undertaken earlier than required.

From 28 July 2014, car owners who submit their vehicle for an NCT more than 90 days before the test due date will receive a certificate valid for 1 or 2 years (depending on the age of the car) from the date of the successful test. This is good news for road safety in general as car owners and the motor trade can test their vehicles more often. Furthermore voluntary early testing will also have the added benefit of changing the pattern of testing throughout the year, decreasing demand at busier times and also ensuring even better customer service.

The test due date for vehicles tested on-time (i.e. within 90 days in advance of the test due date) or late will be unchanged.

Examples as follows:

- **Vehicles aged less than 10 years passing their NCT prior to 90 days before the current test due date**
Customer will receive a 2 year certificate to the two year anniversary of the successful voluntary test - the test due date will be reset to the date of the successful voluntary test – test due date changes.
- **Vehicles aged less than 10 years passing their NCT within 90 days of the current test due date**
Customer will receive a 2 year certificate to the two year anniversary of the current test due date – no change to test due date.
- **A vehicle presented for a successful test within 90 days of the 10th anniversary of first registration**
Customer will receive a certificate valid to the 11th anniversary of first registration. If the test due date had been reset due to a previous voluntary early test, the test due date will revert to the anniversary of first registration in this case – test due date changes.
- **Vehicles aged older than 10 years passing their NCT earlier than 90 days before the current test due date**
Customer will receive a 1 year certificate from the date they pass the NCT and the test due date will be reset to the anniversary of the date of the successful voluntary test – test due date changes.
- **Vehicles aged older than 10 years passing the NCT within 90 days of the current test due date**
Customer will receive a 1 year certificate to the anniversary of the current test due date – no change to test due date
- **Vehicles aged less than 2 years**
Customer will receive a Vehicle Inspection Report – no certificate or disc will issue and there will be no change to test due date – no change to test due date.
- **Vehicles aged between 2 years and up to 90 days before the first test due date**

- Customer will receive a cert valid for 2 years from the date they pass the test and the test due date will be reset to the two year anniversary of the date of the successful voluntary test – test due date changes.
- **Where a vehicle undertakes a voluntary test more than 90 days in advance of the test due date but any retest falls within 90 days of the test due date**
The cert will issue for 1 or 2 years (depending on age of vehicle) to the next test due date – no change to the test due date.

Q. Before, I could test up to 180 days in advance of a first NCT – is this still the case?

A. The entitlement to test cars up to 180 days in advance of the first test and get a certificate valid to the 6th anniversary of first registration has been removed as very few owners avail of this facility. Owners may still test 180 days early (or more) if they wish, but it will be a voluntary early test and the test due date will be reset to the anniversary of the successful test.

Q. Can a car due its first test be tested earlier?

A. Owners due for first test will still be able to test up to 90 days in advance of the test due date. However, if they test prior to 90 days in advance it will be a voluntary test and the test due date will be reset to the anniversary of the successful test.

Q. Why has it been decided to show prior odometer readings on the NCT Certificate?

A. From 28 July 2014, the current odometer reading and up to three prior readings will be printed on the NCT certificate. Currently, the odometer reading recorded at the last test is available on the NCT certificate and on the Vehicle Inspection Report. Now the last reading will also be printed on the NCT disc. As this is a new system, it will only show mileage recorded during tests conducted from July 2014 onwards.

This will assist consumers in ensuring the validity of the reading on the speedometer. The vehicle owner must verify the recorded reading at the time of the test as there will be no opportunity to amend the reading after the vehicle has left the test centre.

Q. Why is NCTS applying a fee for each cancellation?

A. Owners who repeatedly book and then fail to show up to tests, without giving prior notice, prevent others from booking tests at times that are convenient to them.

A cancellation fee of €22 (€11.50 in the case of a retest) will apply on each occasion a vehicle is not presented for a test at the appointed time and location. Customers can avoid these cancellation fees by giving notice at least 5 working days before the day of the appointment.

Q. What is the Trade Management System?

Since May 2013 the NCTS has made it faster and easier for Motor Traders to book NCT tests at their local test centre, by introducing a voluntary Trade Management System. Motor traders who are signed up to the scheme will be provided with a barcode key fob that can be scanned at test centres each time they present a vehicle for testing – no need to provide additional identification or sign any declarations.

From 28 July 2014, motor trade customers who book a test at the test centre must present a driving licence or a Trade Management System fob as identification. **Passports will no longer be accepted.**

For more information on the Trade Management System please click [here](#)