

## **Information note on the duration of an NCT Certificate**

In accordance with EU legislation (Directive 2009/40//EC) passenger cars are required to undergo a roadworthiness test when they are four years old and every two years thereafter. The test due date is calculated by reference to the date of first registration of the vehicle. The first test is due four years after first registration of the vehicle and then is set as every two years thereafter. This is the minimum EU requirement. Legislation governing the mandatory testing of cars has been consolidated into The Road Traffic (National Car Test) Regulations 2014, S.I. 322 of 2014.

An annual NCT for cars 10 years and older commenced with effect from 1 June 2011. The effect of this is that all cars presented for their 10th anniversary or subsequent NCT on or after 1st June 2011 will receive a certificate valid for up to one year only.

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. No provision exists under the Regulations to permit an extension of the period covered by a NCT certificate beyond the next test due date in order to ensure that Ireland meets the minimum EU requirement.

From 28 July 2014, car owners who submit their vehicle for a successful NCT any time prior to 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. Under these circumstances, future test due dates will be re-set to the one or two year anniversary of the successful voluntary test.

For more information on voluntary early testing [click here](#)

Any customer can check their vehicle's test due date on the NCTS website ([www.ncts.ie](http://www.ncts.ie)), by entering their vehicle registration number.