Practical Driving Assessment
Vehicle Suitability Guide - C Class Vehicles

When you sit a practical driving assessment (PDA) you need to provide a roadworthy vehicle.

If vehicles are not maintained for roadworthiness there is a greater risk of structural weaknesses developing which can reduce the effectiveness of the vehicle’s safety features. Unsafe vehicles can impact on the safety of the driver, passenger/s and other road users.

For this reason, you need to provide a licensed roadworthy vehicle for your PDA for your personal safety and the safety of the assessor and other road users.

The purpose of this guide is to help you identify common reasons vehicles presented may be deemed unsuitable for PDAs. Where applicable this guide may be used for all vehicle classes.

Vehicle suitability inspection

At the commencement of your PDA, your authorised driving assessor will conduct a brief vehicle suitability inspection to check that your vehicle meets minimum safety standards attributing to roadworthiness. If the vehicle is deemed unsuitable, your PDA will be cancelled, and you will need to pay for and book another PDA. Note, other factors may contribute to a vehicle being deemed unsuitable.

Vehicle suitability factors

**Speedometer**
Must be operational to ensure that the speed limit is being adhered to.

**Horn**
Must operate to provide audible alerts to others.

**Door Handles**
All door handles (internal and external) must operate so users can safely enter and exit the vehicle.

**Mirrors**
Awareness of surrounding road users is severely limited without functional and properly adjusted mirrors. Interior and exterior mirrors must be fitted and adjusted to provide maximum view of the rear of the vehicle on both sides.

**Handbrake**
The handbrake is a safety feature of the vehicle and must hold the vehicle stationary on a slope. For car (C class) PDAs the handbrake must be centrally mounted and easily accessible to the assessor (excluding driving school cars fitted with ‘dual controls’).

**Lights**
Poorly focussed headlights can cause undue glare and blind oncoming drivers. Faulty indicators or brake and tail lights may cause traffic confusion and accidents.

All globes, lenses and controls must work effectively. Reflectors must have minimal corrosion, lenses must not be cracked or faded and headlights must be correctly focussed.

**Headrests**
Must be fitted to vehicles that are manufactured with them.
**Exhaust**
The exhaust system controls noise and prevents fumes from entering the vehicle. It must be secure, not produce excessive noise or leak.

**Pedals**
The accelerator, brake and clutch pedals must have anti-slip or non-slip coverings, unless manufactured without them.

**Seat belts**
The use of seat belts is a vehicle occupants’ main protection against serious or even fatal injury in the event of a crash. Seat belts must operate correctly and not be frayed, twisted or damaged.

**Tyres**
The condition of tyres can severely impact the safety of a vehicle, impacting its braking and steering capabilities. Tyres must have the appropriate speed and load rating for the vehicle and should not be mismatched, worn or damaged. All tyres must have at least 1.5mm tread depth across the entire width of the tyre.

**Windscreen**
Cracks and/or chips can impair visibility and may reduce the structural strength of the vehicle. A crack over 15cm long or any crack in the driver’s line of sight is not acceptable.

**Windscreen wipers and washers**
Damaged wiper blades and washers can result in poor visibility. They must be operational and should prevent dirt and moisture from obscuring visibility.

**Windows**
All windows must be operational, users must be able to open windows.

**Airconditioner/demister**
Must be operational (when required) to ensure visibility through the windscreen in low temperatures and for the safety of occupants from heat.

**Cleanliness**
The interior and exterior of the vehicle should be reasonably clean and any loose objects secured for the safety of occupants.

**Learner “L” Plates**
Must be removed for your scheduled assessment.

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### PDA suitability checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demister, door handles, horn, speedometer, and windows</td>
<td>operate effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhaust</td>
<td>is secured, produces reasonable noise levels and does not leak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbrake</td>
<td>centrally mounted (C class PDAs only) and holds the vehicle stationary on a slope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headrests</td>
<td>are fitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lights</td>
<td>effectively operate, have minimal corrosion on reflectors, lenses are not cracked or faded, and headlight are focussed correctly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner “L” plates</td>
<td>are removed for your PDA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mirrors</td>
<td>are fitted and adjusted for maximum view.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedals</td>
<td>are slip resistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seatbelts</td>
<td>are operational and are not frayed, twisted or damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyres</td>
<td>have the appropriate speed and load rating, at least 1.5mm tread depth across the entire width of the tyres, and are not mismatched, worn or damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windscreen</td>
<td>has no cracks exceeding 15cm in length, or chips or cracks in the driver’s line of sight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windscreen wipers and washers</td>
<td>operate and prevent dirt and moisture from obscuring visibility.</td>
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