



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 or does not meet the minimum standards, you will not be assessed, and your PDA will be cancelled. Note, other factors may contribute to a vehicle being deemed unsuitable.

Vehicle suitability factors

Warning Lights

There are to be no warning lights displayed including the fuel light. The only exception is the reminder for Vehicle Service warning light.

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 (including electronic park brake)

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 focused 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 focused.

Head restraint

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 occupant's 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 1.5 mm tread depth in all principal grooves of the tyre. Principal grooves are the wide grooves that are usually positioned in the centre of the tyre.

Windscreen

Cracks and/or chips can impair visibility and may reduce the structural strength of the vehicle.

If the windscreen is **badly** cracked (over 15 cm), chipped or stone crazed in an area swept by the windscreen wipers and impairs the drivers vision, the assessment will not be conducted.

Driving Instructor Vehicles

If you are using a driving instructor's vehicle for your PDA you will need to be aware of their requirements. Driving instructor vehicles are fitted with dual controls for the front passenger seat. These controls enable the instructor/assessor to disengage the transmission, switch off the engine and effectively apply the brakes. An additional rear vision mirror is also required (a vanity mirror on a sun visor is not sufficient for this purpose).

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.

Air conditioner/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.

PDA suitability checklist

	Demister, door handles, horn, speedometer, and windows operate effectively.
	Exhaust is secured, produces reasonable noise levels and does not leak.
	Handbrake is centrally mounted (C class PDAs only) and holds the vehicle stationary on a slope.
	Head restraints are fitted.
	Lights effectively operate, have minimal corrosion on reflectors, lenses are not cracked or faded, and headlights are focused correctly.
	Learner "L" plates are removed for your PDA.
	Mirrors are fitted and adjusted for maximum view.
	Pedals are slip resistant.
	Seatbelts are operational and are not frayed, twisted or damaged.
	Tyres have the appropriate speed and load rating, at least 1.5 mm tread depth in all principal grooves of the tyre, and are not mismatched, worn or damaged.
	Windscreen has no cracks exceeding 15 cm in length, or chips or cracks in the driver's line of sight.
	Windscreen wipers and washers operate and prevent dirt and moisture from obscuring visibility.