



TYPE APPROVAL
Is your business ready?



MAJOR CHANGES AHEAD SVA BECOMES IVA

The current Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) scheme will undergo some significant changes from 3 August 2009. This is as a result of the introduction of a new EC Directive which provides a standard entry into service approval system for vehicles.

SVA will be replaced by Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA), a revised approval scheme which will be the route of choice for vehicles that are 'one-offs' or produced in very small numbers.

The approval process for affected passenger cars will come into effect on 3 August 2009. **(Light goods vehicles (vans) will not be affected until 29 October 2011.)**

WHO WILL IT AFFECT?

The legislative changes will affect anyone who currently puts vehicles through the SVA inspection. This includes:

- Everybody who builds or deals in kit cars
- Importers of cars from outside the EU (particularly the Far East and North America)
- People re-building older cars with significant modifications
- Specialists converting new vehicles into Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAVs)
- Manufacturers making low volume vehicles such as specialist type sports cars.

HOW WILL THE APPROVAL PROCESS DIFFER?

- **The time taken** – may increase since more areas of the vehicle will be inspected
- **The cost** - will also increase, particularly for kit cars

However, well-engineered vehicles should continue to pass the inspection without difficulty.

For the first time, components such as the horn, front seat headrests and reverse gear will be required under IVA. It will also become mandatory for every car to have two exterior mirrors and one internal mirror, whereas current regulations only require one external mirror.

HOW MANY LEVELS OF IVA INSPECTIONS WILL THERE BE?

There will be two different levels of inspections for IVA, with the same categories as under SVA. Kit cars and left-hand drive imported cars will go through the Basic IVA examination, while right-hand drive models produced on a larger scale (such as imports from the Far East) will be subject to the Normal IVA test.

The Basic IVA examination is purely a physical inspection, whilst the Normal IVA examination (formerly Enhanced SVA) requires documentary evidence that the vehicle complies with up to 13 EC Directives in addition to a physical inspection. As is the case today, comparable international standards may be accepted as alternatives.

WHEN DOES ALL THIS HAPPEN?

For some vehicle categories ie. passenger cars (except special purpose vehicles), the SVA scheme will cease on 31 July 2009, and the IVA scheme will start on 3 August 2009. The cut off date for accepting an SVA application is 3 July 2009 with the final SVA test being conducted on 31 July 2009. The last date for SVA retests is 18 December 2009 and SVA certificates will remain valid until 31 December 2009 for registering the vehicle with DVA Licensing.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

You can help both yourself and the wider industry by doing the following:

Talk to your suppliers – make sure that, if you deal with importers and manufacturers of, for example, specialist sports cars or sellers of kit cars, they know about the changes.

Talk to the experts – the DVA website contains information on IVA and has a link to the latest versions of the IVA Inspection Manuals and associated contact details.

BE PREPARED, DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!

You're strongly advised to learn as much as you can about the differences between SVA and IVA, so that you are ready to gain approval from 3 August 2009.

If you have no approval you will not be able to register your vehicle.

For more information and to view the IVA Inspection Manual go to:

www.dvani.gov.uk

www.transportoffice.gov.uk

or contact DVA:

 **028 90541841**

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