

Road friendly suspension for heavy goods vehicles



Some Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) tax rates have fallen below the minimum prescribed in European Union law. This has happened mainly due to changes in exchange rates. Vehicle tax rates must increase for the relevant vehicles in order to ensure compliance with European Union law. HM Treasury has planned to achieve this by affecting as few vehicles as possible. This guide will explain more about road friendly suspension (RFS), and how this will be done through a new tax factor based on whether or not a HGV is fitted with RFS. If your HGV is fitted with RFS it will not be affected.

Which heavy goods vehicles will be affected?

Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) of a certain weight and axle configuration that don't have RFS may attract a different rate of vehicle tax. These new rates will take effect from 1 April 2011.

Road friendly suspension - what is this?

Road friendly suspension (RFS) refers to the suspension of the vehicle - specifically 'drive axle(s) fitted with air suspension or equivalent'

Which taxation classes will be affected?

Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) of a certain weight and axle configuration that don't have RFS may attract a different rate of vehicle tax. These new rates will take effect from 1 April 2011.

This will affect some vehicles taxed in the following taxation classes:

- Tax class 01 - Standard HGV
- Tax class 02 - HGV Trailer Tax
- Tax class 45 - Reduced Pollution HGV
- Tax class 46 - Reduced Pollution HGV Trailer Tax
- Tax class 53 - Reduced Pollution Combined Transport

What documents will RFS be recorded on?

If a HGV has RFS, it will be recorded on the following documents:

- Goods Vehicle Type Approval Certificate (GVTA) - if the last letter in the function box is "R" then this confirms that RFS is fitted to the vehicle.

- HGV Certificate of Conformity (COC) - under field 33 - if “Drive axle(s) fitted with air suspension or equivalent” is marked as "yes", this confirms that RFS is fitted to the vehicle.
- VOSA Plating Certificate - if the last letter in the function box is “R” then this confirms that RFS is fitted to the vehicle

Operative date - This change will take effect from 1 April 2011.

What's next?

More detailed information on the changes will be shown on this site from April 2011.
Please Note: In Northern Ireland, RFS status will only be taken into account when calculating the rate of duty for HGVs first registered on or after 1 April 2011.