

## **DSA Check tests compact cars 30 Jan 10 (2)**

I wrote to you on 17 December about the use of compact and city cars for check tests. I am now writing to you with clarification on this issue.

When presented for check test, compact or city cars can occasionally pose difficulties for some of our examiners. In these cases their physical stature may prevent them from sitting safely and securely in the rear seat of the car, facing fully forward, with full use of a seat belt.

Currently, the only compact/city car that has been identified as presenting difficulties for some adult rear seat passengers is the Fiat 500.

Following discussion between DSA and industry representatives agreement has been reached to support the following approach which is designed to enable a mutually convenient solution to be found.

Having received the check test appointment letter, if the ADI intends using a compact or city car for the check test, they are asked to contact the relevant check test team by phone on the contact telephone number printed at the top right hand side of the letter. This will enable them to have a discussion with the booking clerk to enable them to establish if there are likely to be any issues with the space in the rear which may make that vehicle unsuitable or unsafe for the examiner that has been allocated to conduct the check test.

If the examiner allocated would have difficulties in conducting a check test in their vehicle then a number of options can be explored:

- Is another, more suitable, examiner available at that test centre to conduct the check test?
- Can the ADI provide another car to enable the check test to go ahead?
- Can another suitably qualified examiner be readily transferred in to conduct the check test?
- Would it be possible for the ADI to take the check test at another test centre in the same area where another more suitable examiner was available?
- Are they prepared to accept a role play check test?

Following discussion, agreement will be sought with the ADI as to which option is appropriate in their circumstances. Normally the choice as to whether the check test will be conducted by observing a lesson with a pupil or as a role play check test will rest with the ADI. Wherever possible these arrangements will be highlighted and settled in advance of the day of test.

As happens now, I will continue to take appropriate action against any ADI attempting to avoid or delay their check test.

DSA will monitor these arrangements and review them quarterly.

Yours sincerely,

**Charles D Morton**  
Registrar of Approved Driving Instructors