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Edition 1

SABS STANDARDS DIVISION

Recommended practice

Guide for examiners of motor vehicles

**WARNING — Can only be used in
conjunction with SANS 10047.**

This document does not have the status of a South African National Standard.

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Change No.	Date	Scope

Foreword

This recommended practice is a sector technical agreement developed in accordance with SANS 1-1, and approved by National Committee SABS TC 1033, *Roadworthiness of motor vehicles*.

This document was published in March 2011.

This document supersedes the *Vehicle Examiner's Handbook:1992* (Issue 2).

Reference is made in clause 1, 4.2.6.1, 4.2.7.3, 4.2.8.3, table 3, 4.2.9.7, 4.2.44.1.1, 4.2.44.1.2, 4.2.45.1.2, 4.2.48.1, 4.2.52.1.1 and 4.2.54 to the "relevant national legislation". In South Africa this means the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996).

Reference is made in 4.2.6.1, 4.2.6.3 and 4.2.6.4 to the "relevant national legislation". In South Africa this means the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act No. 45 of 1965) and the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004).

Reference is made in 4.2.19.4 to the "relevant national legislation". In South Africa this means the National Land Transport Act, 2009 (Act No. 5 of 2009).

Reference is made in 4.2.21.4 and 4.2.21.5 to the "relevant national transport authority". In South Africa this means the Department of Transport.

Reference is made in 4.2.18.1 to the "relevant national testing body". In South Africa this means any laboratory that has been accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

Annex A forms an integral part of this document.

Introduction

This recommended practice is intended to provide the vehicle examiner with a guide to determine the roadworthiness of a motor vehicle in accordance with the requirements of SANS 10047. It is intended to assist with interpretations of the requirements in SANS 10047 whilst still leaving the discretion for decisions to the examiner. For example, the word "excessive" is used in various clauses of SANS 10047; this guide is intended to assist the examiner in determining what is excessive and what is not.

Roadworthiness testing is designed to evaluate only the safe condition of the vehicle; it is not designed to protect the customer against a possible bad buy.

The roadworthiness test is only valid at the time of the examination. The vehicle is subject to progressive deterioration and parts and assemblies can be changed for worn parts after the examination.

When a vehicle that has been adapted for the disabled is tested, it is not necessary to remove the adapted controls to do the roadworthiness test. The disabled driver can be asked to assist with the road test.

Vehicle examiners should be aware that the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) has published compulsory specifications in Government Gazettes (all new vehicles should comply with the relevant compulsory specifications). These specifications are applicable to categories of new vehicles manufactured after the dates specified in the relevant gazettes. Vehicles in operation on the roads need only comply with the South African National Standards that are referred to in the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996) and its Regulations.

All equipment used during examinations should be calibrated yearly or at intervals stated by the manufacturer, whichever is the shortest period. In some instances these equipment only serve as guidelines for the equipment to be used (for example the "credit card" type gauge mentioned in 4.2.21.5).

Suspect items that do not play an important role in the safety of the vehicle should be noted on the test sheet as an observation.

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Guide for examiners of motor vehicles

1 Scope

This recommended practice is a guide for examiners of motor vehicles to determine roadworthiness in accordance with the relevant national legislation (see foreword) and the requirements of SANS 10047.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. Information on currently valid national and international standards can be obtained from the SABS Standards Division.

SANS 513, *Retro-reflectors (reflex reflectors)*.

SANS 1051 (parts 1 to 6), *Motor vehicle safety specification for braking*.

SANS 1116 (parts 1 to 4), *Retro-reflective number plates for motor vehicles*.

SANS 1207 (SABS 1207), *Braking*.

SANS 1329-3, *Retro-reflective and fluorescent warning signs for road vehicles – Part 3: Signs other than triangles, chevrons signs and abnormal load vehicle signs*.

SANS 1329-4, *Retro-reflective and fluorescent warning signs for road vehicles – Part 4: Retro-reflective chevron sign*.

SANS 1329-5, *Retro-reflective and fluorescent warning signs for road vehicles – Part 5: Retro-reflective chevron decals*.

SANS 1550-1:2005, *Motor vehicle tyres and rims – Dimensions and loads – Part 1: General*.

SANS 1550-2:2006, *Motor vehicle tyres and rims – Dimensions and loads – Part 2: Passenger car tyres*.

SANS 1550-3, *Motor vehicle tyres and rims – Dimensions and loads – Part 3: Commercial vehicle tyres*.

SANS 10013-1, *The determination of performance (at net power) of internal combustion engines – Part 1: Road vehicle internal combustion engines at sea level*.

SANS 10013-2, *The determination of performance (at net power) of internal combustion engines – Part 2: Compression ignition engines at altitude*.