

news

Ensure you monitor tyre pressure kit

A FAULTY tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) is now an automatic MOT fail and is already catching motorists out. Does your car have it, and how do you know if it's working?

Millions of cars across the UK are fitted with these systems, which monitor the vehicle's tyre pressure and will alert the driver to over-inflation or under-inflation.

Since January a car displaying a TPMS fault when submitted for its MOT will result in a test failure.

To save you from a stressful situation when you MOT your car, UK tyre safety association TyreSafe has produced a simple video to help motorists understand the safety features of this technology.

"Although TPMS technology has been around for decades, its inclusion in new model vehicles has only been mandated in Europe since 2012 and on all new cars since 2014," TyreSafe chairman Stuart Jackson said.

"This led to a gradual introduction into the market over a period of years, and with little or no fanfare to help educate motorists.

"Our members have been telling us that they're encountering a lot of customers who either aren't aware of how these systems work - and need to be maintained - or just see them as an expensive luxury rather than the crucial safety feature they are.

"This is why we have produced a video to

communicate the importance of TPMS and how to use it effectively.

"It makes sure drivers know their tyre pressure when it's most important - while they are driving."

The video - which can be found on www.tyresafe.org - is part of a wider TPMS campaign from TyreSafe. It has produced a range of information

products including leaflets and posters.

While the benefits of TPMS are widely recognised, it is important that it is not seen as a replacement for regular manual tyre safety checks.

Pressures should be tested at least once a month or before any long journey, when the tyres are cold, using an

accurate and reliable pressure gauge.

When checking pressures, it is also advisable to give the rest of the tyre a thorough visual inspection as well as ensuring the tread is not excessively or unevenly worn.

To ensure your TPMS system continues to operate properly and reduce the likelihood of an MOT failure, it may be

necessary to have the system serviced occasionally.

TPMS sensors are designed to last for many years and miles. However, after a certain period, the sensor's internal battery will run out - meaning a replacement is needed.

In addition, sensors can become faulty or fail completely as a result of weather damage, corrosion or accidental damage caused when changing tyres.

To ensure the sensor remains in good condition, many manufacturers recommend replacement of the valve cap and core components every time a tyre is changed.

When replacement TPMS sensors are fitted to your vehicle, your tyre fitter may need to programme the new component to the car using specialist diagnostic equipment.

If your sensor develops a fault, under no circumstances should this be removed and replaced with a "standard" non-TPMS type valve.

Removing the sensor will not only reduce your safety on the road but also will result in your car failing its MOT.



A rare piece of German motoring history is set to be restored to its former glory - and *motorsnorth* has played a small part in its revival. For the story of the record-breaking Hanomag's return, see next week's edition.

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