

PROPOSED RE-WRITE OF SECTION M FOR CONSULTATION

Committee:	Autotest Committee
Date of meeting:	9 March 2016
Closing date for consultation:	13 May 2016
Email for comments:	autotestconsultation@msauk.org

Explanation: The Autotest Committee has completed a thorough review of the regulations and this document represents the second phase being a revised presentation of Section M. A separate Consultation Document showing all the existing and proposed changes, numbered according to the 2016 Edition has been separately published. In this document detailed regulation changes are merely highlighted in red.

Section B

(B) Nomenclature and Definitions

Autotest. A competition for Cars in which marking during the event is based solely on a competitor's performance in manoeuvring tests, and defined as:-

(a) *Autotest.* These tests may include spin or handbrake turns, stop astride lines, and some reversing, and may be at one or more sites. A passenger is NOT allowed. (see Section M);

(b) *Production Car Autotest.* A competition for Production Cars capable of being taxed and MOT'd. These tests may include a limited number of spin or handbrake turns, stop astride lines, or reversing, and may be at one or more sites. A passenger MUST be carried in the front seat. (see Section M);

(c) *AutoSOLO.* For Road Going Cars, with tests held on a sealed surface. These tests shall be all forward and non-stop, without requiring any spin or handbrake turns, and may be at one or more sites. A passenger MAY be carried in the front seat. (see Section M).

(M) Autotests, Production Car Autotests, and AutoSOLOs.

Note: Throughout these sections an asterisk(*) indicates a requirement for additional information to be printed in the Supplementary Regulations (SRs). Text shown in Italics indicate a Regulation which may be amended in the SRs.

Organisers' Regulations applying to all events

1. Permits for the organisation of Autotests, Production Car Autotests and AutoSOLOs are issued at the sole discretion of the MSA.

1.1. A Club can only organise an Autotest or AutoSOLO event up to and including Clubman status unless all necessary upgrading criteria for a higher status have been complied with. Permits for Production Car Autotests will only be issued at Clubman status.

1.2. For an Autotest or AutoSOLO to be considered for upgrading to National B status it must first be observed in the same format as a Clubman event and have a minimum entry of 15 starters.

Clerk of the Course Duties

2. The duties and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Course at Autotest, Production Car Autotest, and AutoSOLO events include ensuring the following:-

- a) The maximum size for any timed test site is 200m by 200m. The 200m applies to the length and width of the area on which the test is conducted and not the actual distance covered by a car performing the test;
- b) At all timed tests, all spectators and non-essential Marshals not protected by a solid barrier capable of stopping a car must be separated by rope or fencing at least 10m from the edge of the course, and at least 20m from the Finish Line. Any space at the edge of the course allowed for braking and changes of direction must not impinge on the above distances.

2.1. Every test must have at least one person responsible for:-

- a) The general running of the test;
- b) Observing and recording penalties;
- c) Recording the times taken;

- d) Completing the score card with the addition of penalties.
- 2.2. Judges of Fact must be appointed to each test site to adjudicate on excessive sound.
- 2.3. Warning notices as required by D.31.1 must be displayed.
- 2.4. Fire extinguishers (minimum 5kg total capacity in units of not less than 2kg) must be available at each test site.
- 2.5. The Organisers must provide a First Aid Kit.
- 2.6. A Medium sized Spill Kit must be available at each test site.

Supplementary Regulations (SRs)

3. The Supplementary Regulations must specify:-
- a) Details of the tests or when these details will be notified to Competitors;
 - b) The number of runs per Driver and how these count towards the results;
 - c) The method of identifying cars;
 - d) The method of timing and whether or not the timing apparatus is started by the car or by the starting signal;
 - e) The starting signal;
 - f) Whether carrying a passenger will be allowed or not, or will be compulsory.

Technical Regulations applying to All events

4. Competing Vehicles must comply with the following:-
- 4.1. Body (including Aerodynamics)
- a) Body shape must conform to the original silhouette of the production vehicle and retain the original layout of engine and transmission;
 - b) Bumpers can be removed and wheel arch extensions added;
 - c) An effective windscreen or Aero-type screen must be fitted;
 - d) Any areas of window, opening or transparent material originally specified as part of the vehicle to provide Driver visibility must remain consistent with the original specified dimensions and position. No additional areas may be added. If a vehicle is equipped with any such additional areas they must be rendered opaque before the vehicle is allowed to compete;
 - e) Vehicles not complying with the above will be classified as Specials.
- 4.2. Engine must comply with J.5.4.
- 4.3. Silencing must comply with silencing levels in J.5.17.
- 4.4. Safety: all open cars and Specials are recommended to fit safety roll-over bars to at least K.1.6.1.
- 4.5. The following parts of Section J remain unmodified by this section: Chassis; Seating; Suspension; Brakes; Steering; Tyres; Cooling; Oil Systems; Fuel Systems; Electrical Systems; Weight/Ballast; Exhausts; Silencing.
- 4.6. All vehicles should carry a small spill kit complying with J5.20.13.
- 4.7. Tyres from Lists 1b or 1c are not permitted.

Miscellaneous

5. Classes are free, but the class structure MUST be stated in the Supplementary Regulations (SRs)
- 5.1. Any entered vehicle must be a Car for vehicle tax purposes, and currently registered and taxed, unless otherwise specified in the SRs.
- 5.2. Whilst on the Public Highway, vehicles must comply with all Statutory Regulations as to Construction and Use.
- 5.3. Hybrid, Electric, Battery-powered, and Light Goods Vehicles may compete in appropriate Classes, subject to SRs.
- 5.4. Production cars whose original wheelbase is less than that specified in J.5.20.7 are permitted.

Test Layouts

6. The route must be made available to all Drivers before any test.
- 6.1. There must be no optional direction of travel, except as specified in 7.7.
- 6.2. Clarification of where and how a change of direction or spin turn may be made without incurring a penalty must be available on request to all Competitors before the start of any test.
- 6.3. Practising for tests is not permitted.
- 6.4. The start and finish of all tests must be in a forward direction.
- 6.5. All drivers should have the opportunity to walk the course before competing. If not, the tests must be arranged such that the whole of the course is visible to the Driver from the start line
- 6.6. Markers should be not less than 1m in height, unless otherwise specified in the SRs.

Test Procedures

7. Drivers will be considered under Starter's orders when instructed by an Official to proceed to the Start line.
- 7.1. Drivers then failing to proceed may forfeit their run or may be penalised in accordance with Table M.7(a).
- 7.2. A start will only be valid if made under the vehicle's own power.
- 7.2.1. Timing will start when the leading wheel of the front axle crosses the start line.
- 7.3. When a car is required to stop astride a line, the line must be between its front and back axles and all the area of the tyres in contact with the ground must be seen to have crossed the full width of the line.
- 7.4. Similarly, if a car is required to cross a line with all four wheels, all tyre contact area must be seen to be clear of the line.
- 7.5. Timing at completion of a test must be based on the leading wheel (on the front axle) crossing the Finish line.
- 7.6. Penalties will be applied for failure to cross the line with both front wheels, or alternatively, if timed to a flying finish, for crossing the baulk line. In the event of Competitors performing a test incorrectly, their times must still be recorded, together with the appropriate penalties.

7.7. In any diagram illustrating a test, the dimensions should be approximate and for guidance only. Indications of the direction of travel of the competing cars when crossing a line, or passing between markers, must be shown unless specified otherwise (ignoring 'shunts' to avoid markers).

7.8. *A maximum penalty (see Table M.7(c)) shall be applied if a competitor fails to follow the prescribed test route by passing the wrong side of one or more markers, crosses with both leading wheels a marked test line in the wrong direction, out of the prescribed sequence, or too many/few times, without correcting the mistakes by returning to the point where they deviated from the test diagram, before crossing the test finish line, unless otherwise specified in the SRs.*

7.9. In changes of direction and spin turns, either lock can be used (unless the test diagram specifically states otherwise). It is recommended for safety reasons that Drivers are on the 'inside' during spin turns.

7.10. Clerks of the Course wishing to define direction of travel between markers should include any necessary marked line(s).

7.11. In the event of re-run caused by a timing failure, the greater number of penalties incurred in either run will be added to the time taken in assessing the performance on that test.

Marking

8. Judges must be appointed to each test to adjudicate

On:-

- a) False starts;
- b) Crossing/failing to cross marker lines;
- c) Touching markers and not following correct route.

8.1. Competitors will be provided with a score card for the Organisers to record times and penalties at the completion of each test run.

8.2. Marks will be lost for time taken (if applicable) and for any infringements of the test instructions, such as striking a marker or crossing a boundary line.

Results

9. To be classified as a finisher, Competitors must complete not less than half of the tests and must hand in their score card to Officials within 15 minutes of all other Competitors completing the final test.

9.1. Competitors will start with zero marks.

9.2. All Class awards must be calculated on the basis of penalty marks lost, with the Competitor incurring the least penalty points being judged the winner.

9.3. *In the event of a tie, the Competitor who was first to have the lesser penalty from the start will be adjudged the winner, unless otherwise specified in the SRs.*

9.4. *Performance will be assessed as in Table M.7, 'Marks Lost', see Appendix 1, Table M.7, unless otherwise specified in the SRs.*

Licences

10. Competitors must produce a valid Club membership card and, where required, a valid Competition Licence (Section H, Appendix 1).

10.1. Competitors must declare on their entry form if they hold a valid, full RTA Licence.

10.2. Competitors holding a valid, full RTA licence may use any vehicle allowed by the Technical Regulations.

Instructions to Competitors

11. Before the start, cars and Competitors (including any Passengers) must be checked for eligibility.

11.1. Any Competitor not reporting as instructed may be fined, penalised, excluded or forfeit their starting position.

11.2. *A car may not be entered to compete for the same award more than twice, unless otherwise specified in the SRs, and in all circumstances it must be driven by different Drivers.*

Autotests – Specific Regulations

12. Passengers are not allowed on Autotests.

Test Layouts

13. Cars must not be allowed to travel more than 100m (between manoeuvres) without having to stop astride a penalty line and reverse or drive clear of the line, or manoeuvre in a garage or box.

13.1. Competitors must either stop astride a penalty line or make a change of direction of at least 90° at a distance of not more than 25m before the Finish line.

13.2. **Any 'garage' used in an Autotest must have a minimum length of 6m and a minimum width of 3.5m.**

13.3. **When Competitors are required to perform a 180° turn in a box, the size of the box should be sufficient to contain a circle of 16m diameter.**

13.4. **All lines, or pairs of adjacent markers, forming part of any test must be a minimum of 3.5m long or apart.**

Minimum Ages and Unlicensed Drivers

14. Entries may be accepted from Drivers who are aged 16 years and over who do not have a valid, full RTA Licence, subject to the following:-

- a) The vehicle must by definition be a 'touring car';
- b) Engine capacity must not exceed 1400cc;
- c) Forced induction is not Permitted.

Additionally, where the tests are "all forwards"

15. Passengers are not allowed on All Forwards Autotests.

Test Layouts

16. In tests where the direction of travel is all forward and where there are no stop astride penalty lines (other than the Start and Stop lines), Competitors must not be allowed or required to travel more than 50m without changing direction by:-

- a) Executing a turn of over 180° around a single marker; or
- b) Changing direction through a three marker line either in slalom fashion or by completing a turn of between 90° and 180°; or
- c) Changing direction through a three marker triangle whose base is at right angles to the original line of travel requiring Competitors to turn through 90° from the line of entry.

16.1. Whichever of the above methods is used to change direction, this will not preclude the inclusion of less severe slalom manoeuvres which produce turns of less than 90° being incorporated between the mandatory directional changes every 50m.

16.2. All lines, or pairs of adjacent markers, forming part of any all-forward test must be a minimum of 3.5m and a maximum of 5m long or apart.

16.3. See Appendix 1, Drawing number 5. Example of a test showing all of 16., 16.1., and 16.2. elements in use.

Production Car Autotests – Specific Additional Regulations

17. A passenger must be carried on Production Car Autotests.

17.1. The Passenger must occupy the seat alongside the Driver and wear a properly fastened and approved seat belt at all times during the test.

17.2. No other Passenger is allowed.

17.3. If the Driver holds a valid, full RTA Licence, the Passenger must be aged 12 years or over, and be at least 135cm in height.

Test Layouts

18. All lines, and pairs of adjacent markers, forming part of any test must be a minimum of 3.5m long or apart.

18.1. Any 'garage' must have a minimum length of 6m and a minimum width of 3.5m.

18.2. When Competitors are required to perform a 180° turn in a box, the size of the box must be sufficient to contain a circle of 16m diameter.

18.3. Each test must be designed so that a Competitor is not expected to engage reverse gear more than four times (ignoring manoeuvres to correct mistakes).

Minimum ages and Unlicensed Drivers

19. Entries may be accepted from Drivers who are aged 14 years and over, subject to:-

- a) The passenger MUST hold a valid, full RTA licence and be experienced in Autotesting;
- b) The vehicle must be by definition a 'touring car'.

Miscellaneous

20. Every PCA car must have been in series production and on general catalogued sale, available from stock through normal retail dealer outlets in the UK.

20.1. Open or sports cars can only compete with their hoods erected or a hardtop fitted.

20.2. When an event is organised solely for open or sports cars, hoods need not be erected nor hardtops fitted, provided that all drivers hold a valid, full RTA licence and the passenger is aged 16 years or over, and at least 135cm in height.

Additionally, where the tests are 'all forwards'

21. Where there are no stop astride penalty lines (other than the Start and Stop lines), Competitors must not be allowed or required to travel more than 50m without changing direction by:-

- a) Executing a turn of over 180° around a single marker; or
- b) Changing direction through a three marker line either in slalom fashion or by completing a turn of between 90° and 180°; or
- c) Changing direction through a three marker triangle whose base is at right angles to the original line of travel requiring Competitors to turn through 90° from the line of entry.

21.1. Whichever of the above methods is used to change direction, this will not preclude the inclusion of less severe slalom manoeuvres which produce turns of less than 90° being incorporated between the mandatory directional changes every 50m.

21.2. All lines, or pairs of adjacent markers, forming part of any all-forward test must be a minimum of 3.5m and a maximum of 5m long or apart.

21.3. See Appendix 1, Drawing number 5. Example of a test showing all of 21., 21.1., and 21.2 elements in use.

AutoSOLOs – Specific Regulations

22. A passenger may be carried on AutoSOLOs.

22.1. The Supplementary Regulations for an event will specify whether the driver can elect to carry a passenger or not.

- 22.2.** One Passenger MAY be carried in each competing car to assist in giving directions to the Driver. Once the event has started, the number of occupants of the car must not be varied.
- 22.3.** If carried, the Passenger must occupy the seat alongside the Driver and wear a properly fastened and approved seat belt at all times during the test.
- 22.4.** No other Passenger is allowed.
- 22.5.** If the driver holds a valid, full RTA licence, the passenger in a touring car, or a sports car with the hood erected or a hardtop fitted, must be aged 12 years or over and be at least 135cm in height. The passenger in a sports car without hood erected or hardtop fitted must be aged 16 years or over and be at least 135cm in height.

Organisers' Regulations

- 23.** Only sealed surfaces can be used for AutoSOLO tests which must be run in an all-forwards direction.
- 23.1.** The course must consist of a series of gates, slaloms, and turns of at least 90° every 60m.
- 23.2.** The maximum spacing of cones in a slalom along the line of the test is 20m.
- 23.3.** Turns of over 90° must be on a minimum radius of 5m.
- 23.4.** All lines, or pairs of adjacent markers, forming part of any test must be a minimum of 3.5m and a maximum of 5m long or apart.
- 23.5.** A typical test is illustrated in Appendix 1, Drawing number 19.

Minimum Ages and unlicensed drivers

- 24.** Entries may be accepted from Drivers who are aged 16 years and over without a valid, full RTA Licence, provided the vehicle used is by definition a 'touring car'.
If a passenger is carried, they must hold a valid full RTA licence.
- 24.1.** Entries may be accepted from Drivers who are aged 14 years and over, provided the vehicle used is by definition a "touring car". A passenger MUST be carried, and they MUST hold a valid full RTA licence and be experienced in AutoSOLOs or Autotests.

Technical Regulations

- 25.** Every AutoSOLO car must have been driven to the event, must be currently registered (no trade plates), taxed, insured and, where appropriate, in possession of a valid MOT.

Reason: The Autotest Committee has completed a thorough review of the regulations and the above changes represent the first phase comprising both new and clarifications of existing regulations that become clearer with the second phase, separately published which is a complete representation of the regulations in a clearer manner.

Date of implementation: 1st January 2017