



Volumetric Concrete Mixers



To clarify the use of Volumetric Concrete Mixers –

Does a Volumetric Concrete Mixer need to have an annual test?

Volumetric Concrete Mixers are required to be HGV Annual tested from 20th May 2018.

What is a 'Vehicle Special Order' and how do I get one?

As most of the current fleet of Volumetric Concrete Mixers are permitted to operate at higher-than-normal weights, a temporary arrangement has been put in place to allow these vehicles to continue to operate above the standard legal weight limits. In order to do so operators will need to apply for a Vehicle Special Order (VSO).

VSOs will be issued on a per operator basis, covering the relevant vehicles in that operator's fleet. To apply for a VSO, please send an email to Michael.hepworth@vca.gov.uk, marking the application as in relation to mobile concrete batching plant, with the following items of information for each of the vehicles in your fleet to which you wish the VSO to apply:

- Vehicle Make • Vehicle Model • Registration Number • Vehicle Identification Number • Number of axles.

What are the temporary weight limits?

The VSOs available to MCBP will provide the following derogations from the standard requirements (all other requirements, including design weights, will continue to apply):

- In place of the usual gross vehicle weights specified in Schedule 1 (parts I and II) to the Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998 ("AWR")¹, the following gross weight limits will apply to the relevant MCBP design configuration. For all other design configurations, the usual AWR requirements will apply.

2-axle rigid: 21.6 tonnes

3-axle rigid: 31 tonnes

4-axle rigid: 38.4 tonnes

5-axle rigid (or more than 5-axle rigid): 44 tonnes

- The gross weight must also not exceed 6 tonnes per metre of the front-rear axle distance.
- Schedule 3 to the AWR (axle weight limits) shall not apply. However, axle weights shall not exceed the limits set out in Schedule 3 by more than a factor of 20%.

Duration

- The VSOs will be applicable for a given vehicle until the earlier of:
 - o 31 March 2028; and
 - o The 12th anniversary of a vehicle's first registration.

All applications to subsequently add newly registered vehicles to the operator's VSO must be made by the end of 2018. After this point, newly registered vehicles will not be eligible to operate under VSOs and will therefore be subject to the standard AWR weight limits.

Does a Volumetric Concrete Mixer need to be listed on my operators' licence?

Because they carry significant quantities of cargo and have been brought into the annual testing regime, Volumetric Concrete Mixers will need to be "O" licenced from 1 September 2018.

What class of driving licence is needed?

Following the 1998 Spotmix judicial ruling volumetric concrete mixer (mobile batching plant) vehicles are still classed as Engineering Plant, albeit in a special category. Regulation 51 (1) (c) of the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999 has not been amended and still allows engineering plant other than a mobile crane to be considered as an exempted goods vehicle, allowing such vehicles to be driven on a Category "B" driving licence under regulation 7 (4) (a) of the same regulations.

Does the driver need a Drivers CPC?

Regulation 2(1) of The Vehicle Drivers (Certificates of Professional Competence) Regulations 2007 says that relevant vehicles subject to the requirement to have a driver CPC under regulation 3 (1) of the same regulations are those needing a category C or C+E, or D or D+E driving licence to be driven. Since Volumetric Concrete Mixers can continue to be driven on a Category B licence then driver CPC is still not required.

Does the vehicle need a tachograph?

The view of the DVSA is that, despite the engineering plant nomenclature, these vehicles always were goods vehicles for the purpose of EC drivers' hours and tachograph legislation (unless they are exclusively and closely involved in road maintenance for which there is a derogation) therefore a tachograph is a requirement.

IS IT WORTH ATTACHING THE OPEN LETTER?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/goods-vehicle-operator-licensing-exemptions>

Further information

Please keep an eye out for any additional information in your regular RHA newsletters and publications or if you are in any doubt as to how this decision impacts your business or the options available to you, please contact the RHA Helpdesk or your area manager.