



Department  
for Transport

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Our Ref: 239907

21 November 2018

Mr Pete Clarke

**By email**

[request-525368-fle73899@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-525368-fle73899@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Clarke

**Wheel welding**

Thank you for email dated 10 October to the Department for Transport about wheel welding. Your correspondence has been passed to International Vehicle Standards Division as we have responsibility for vehicle safety. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) need to be for recorded information held by the public authority. Your request relates to the guidelines concerning the welding of alloy wheels and whether it is safe. Information regarding this topic is in the public domain and therefore this enquiry has been handled outside of the FOIA.

There is no specific legislation to cover the welding or repair of alloy wheels. Vehicles are required to be maintained so as not to create a danger and are subject to periodic roadworthiness inspections where their condition is assessed. The standards applied at these inspections are set out in the relevant MOT inspection manuals which can be found on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

These manuals give guidance on how to categorise a defect as minor, major or dangerous. The MoT test manuals should also be used as a general guide to maintenance.

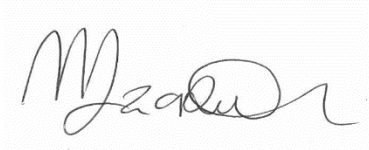
- In the case of cars and light commercial vehicles, if a road wheel has been repaired this is not necessarily considered to be a reason to refuse to issue an MOT certificate. However, the examiner is required to examine welding on a road wheel and if it is considered to be of poor quality or defective it would be classified as “dangerous”.
- The same criteria are applied to the road wheels of heavy goods vehicles, buses and coaches but, in addition, the manual makes

specific reference to a repair by welding to a wheel made of aluminum alloy. In this case welding is considered to be a defect and is classed as “major”.

In either case a test certificate would be refused.

Examinations of vehicles at the roadside by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency can also result in enforcement action being taken. This can include immediate prohibition of the use of the vehicle for a wheel that is fractured or has defective welding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Lacovara', is written over a light gray grid background.

Matt Lacovara  
**International Vehicle Standards**