Recognition of UK certificates of roadworthiness (MOT certificate) in the event of UK exiting the EU

Brexit
In the event of the United Kingdom (UK) leaving the European Union (EU), NCTS on behalf of the RSA will cease the processing of Mutual Recognition applications in respect of UK private vehicles being imported into the State after the departure date. These recognition certificates recognise the unexpired portion of EU certificates of roadworthiness issued by a Member State in respect of a vehicle being re-registered in the State.

As a consequence, private vehicles over four years or more imported from the UK and re-registered in the State from date the UK leave the EU will be subject to a National Car Test (NCT) in line with the date of registration in Ireland.

The advice to vehicle owners importing and re-registering private vehicles is to check if the vehicle has a valid UK certificate of roadworthiness (known as a MOT certificate) and if so, the owner may submit Mutual Recognition Application form as soon as possible before UK departure date to the NCTS for the application to be processed. Further information on how to do this can be found at https://www.ncts.ie/1112

In the event that the UK departure date is deferred, the RSA will publish revised guidance for vehicle owners.

‘An initiative of the Government of Ireland’

FAQ on Brexit and NCT recognition certificates

Q1. In the event of the UK departing the EU how will this affect the recognition arrangements for unexpired portions of UK certificates of roadworthiness (MOT certificates)?

A. In the event that the UK exits the EU, recognition arrangements for the unexpired portion of certificates of roadworthiness issued by the UK will cease from the departure date in respect of private vehicles being re-registered in the State.

As a consequence, private vehicles being imported from the UK and re-registered in the State from UK departure date will be subject to a National Car Test in line with the date of registration in Ireland.

The advice to vehicle owners importing and re-registering private vehicles is to check if the vehicle has a valid UK MOT certificate and if so, the owner may submit a Mutual Recognition application form as soon as possible before departure date to Applus Car Testing with the required documentation.

Q2. The vehicle which I have imported from the UK was registered in Ireland before Brexit Date, however I cannot submit my roadworthiness recognition application until after Brexit Date. Will NCTS process my application?

No. If the UK exit the EU there will no longer be a legal basis for unexpired roadworthiness certificates to be recognized if they were issued in the UK. This means that applications will cease being accepted from the date of exit and vehicle owners will be required to submit the vehicle for roadworthiness testing in Ireland.
Q3. The vehicle which I am importing from the UK will be registered in Ireland from Brexit Date or later. Will the NCTS accept and process my roadworthiness certification application?

A. No. In the event of the UK exiting the EU, recognition arrangements for the unexpired portion of certificates issued by the UK for vehicles will cease from date of exit from the EU. The vehicle will be subject to a National Car Test in line with the Date of Registration in Ireland.

Q4. I am importing a private vehicle from the UK which is less than four years old. Can I apply for a recognition certificate?

A. No. A recognition certificate will only be issued by Applus Car Testing on behalf of the RSA to recognise the unexpired portion of a certificate of roadworthiness issued by another Member State where the vehicle concerned is being re-registered in the State and is in line with Irish testing regulation requirements.

Q5. What rules apply to private vehicles 4 years or older which do not have a Certificate of Roadworthiness issued by another country at the time of re-registration?

A. If your imported private vehicle is aged over 4 years old and does not have a valid Certificate of Roadworthiness issued by another EU country or the UK following re-registration in the State then it needs to be tested in line with Irish regulations.

Q6. Can I apply for a recognition cert in circumstances that the UK certificate is lost and the UK/NI cert was issued and valid before the UK departure from the EU?

A. No. An application for a recognition cert must be accompanied with the original or a certified true copy of your out-of-state roadworthiness certificate. It cannot be processed without this. The onus is on the vehicle owner to obtain this from the relevant authorities.

Q7. My vehicle was tested in the UK before Brexit Date and has a valid certificate from when the UK was still a member of the EU. However, my vehicle was not registered in Ireland until after Brexit Date. Am I entitled to a recognition certificate?

A. No. Private vehicle owners importing and re-registering private vehicles in the State from date the UK depart the EU will need to be tested at a NCT centre.

Q8. Where can I find information about testing a private vehicle?

A. Information can be found on www.ncts.ie

Q9. Will the private vehicle import process change in the event of the UK departing the EU?

A. Information on any changes will be located on www.ncts.ie/1145