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NGK - MOT CAMPAIGN

NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd has entered the fight against proposed changes to the current vehicle MoT testing system.

The leading supplier of OE-quality spark plugs, glow plugs and Lambda sensors has put its weight behind a campaign to retain the current MoT testing frequency under which vehicles are tested when they reach their third anniversary of registration and then annually - the 3-1-1 system – in the face of government proposals to change the frequency to a first test at four years and then every two years; 4-2-2.

The campaign is backed by many of the country's leading automotive bodies including the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Retail Motor Industry Federation, Garage Equipment Association, The AA and The RAC Foundation.

And the Independent Automotive Aftermarket Federation (IAAF) – which represents motor factors, importers and independent wholesalers and distributors of vehicle replacement components, independent garages, fast-fits, workshops and service-fit centres – has organised a petition against the proposed changes via its website www.iaaf.co.uk

The IAAF is horrified by Transport Research Laboratory forecasts that any reduction in testing would lead to 30-plus extra road deaths a year, plus an increase in serious casualties.

It also claims that it will affect motor trade employment prospects as halving the number of MoT tests would consequently halve the number of test appointments, test stations and authorised testers with an estimated 12,000-15,000 testers losing their jobs.

It adds that any change would also harm the environment with mis-tuned vehicles being allowed to continue polluting for an extra 12 months.

The Government minister responsible for these suggestions wants to reduce the financial burden on the motorist – potentially a saving of £50 per year. But the IAAF believes that any potential saving will be eroded by other factors including insurance premiums which will, it suggests, go up by more than the saved test fee because of the increase in accidents caused by unroadworthy vehicles.

NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Ltd is urging the trade, as well as motorists, to add their voice to the IAAF's demand that the ill-considered proposals to relax the frequency of MoT testing be dropped.

PRESS RELEASE

The frequency of MoT testing was last reviewed in 2008 when it was deemed to be appropriate and any relaxation in testing seen as unrealistic.

The IAAF has asked for a Parliamentary debate on the Government's proposals and has been granted permission to launch a petition.

The Government recently introduced an e-petitions website as a way for members of the public to influence government policy in the UK. It is now possible to create an e-petition about anything that the Government is responsible for.

The text of the IAAF's petition reads:

The Government should drop its proposals to reduce the frequency of MoT tests.

Currently vehicles are tested when they reach the third anniversary of registration, and are then tested annually (so called 3-1-1). The Government (DfT) has proposed a change to first test at four years and then retest every other year (4-2-2) and claims it would "reduce the burden on the motorist".

It is hard to see what this 'burden' is. The maximum fee for a test is £54.85 and many test stations charge a great deal less.

The test is a vital part of keeping the UK's cars safe, road-worthy and environmentally compliant.

Any reduction in testing would lead to increased road casualties (deaths and serious injuries), increased pollution, and have employment consequences. All of which has been supported by independent and reliable research. The system was reviewed in 2008 and seen to be appropriate and any relaxation in testing seen as unrealistic.

Let's drop this ill-considered proposal!

You can sign the petition by following the link at the IAAF website www.iaaf.co.uk - there is no cost involved.

An MoT topic specific website www.motsafe.org is to go live later this month with links to other organisations involved in the campaign.

For more information visit www.ngkntk.co.uk

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