

Sep 28, 2015 16:24 BST

## **RAC says main emissions lab test needs to be supported by road ‘conformity’ test**

RAC chief engineer David Bizley said: “In light of the emissions tests revelations, car buyers need to be given absolute confidence in the emissions and fuel economy performance of their new vehicles. We believe this is best achieved through a more stringent laboratory test that is more representative of ‘real world’ driving.

“There has been much debate about the nature of tests but while on-road tests are often thought to be the answer, these would not be sufficiently repeatable or reproducible to ensure reliable results. A laboratory test has to be the main element of any approval process, but the test method needs to be more representative of real-world driving, with the caveat, of course, that it will never completely mirror a car being driven on a real road by different drivers.

“The new worldwide laboratory test – due to be implemented in Europe in 2017 – aims to address this by incorporating a wider range of vehicle operating conditions with four test modes of low, medium, high and extra high – or in real-world driving terms: urban, rural, motorway and autobahn.

“This is a positive step as vehicles are known to emit more nitrogen oxides at higher speeds, and under heavier loads, which current tests do not take sufficient account of. It is also important to note that this may lead to vehicles being found to emit greater quantities of nitrogen oxides than current test results indicate.

“What is needed to ensure production vehicles meet the standards is a robust protocol involving not just a laboratory test but also an on-road ‘conformity’ test which cannot easily be identified by the vehicle’s software. This way

vehicles found to have drastically differing results would be automatically identified and investigated.

“The combination of a lab test and an on-road test would also go a long way towards allaying motorists’ long-held concerns about manufacturer-claimed mpg figures being so much better than what they actually see on their dashboard computers while driving. This discrepancy is purely another aspect of the emissions problem as they are generated from the same test data. It is therefore no surprise real-world mpg figures are lower than those generated under laboratory test conditions.”

---

The press office email address is [press.office@rac.co.uk](mailto:press.office@rac.co.uk) and media centre is at [media.rac.co.uk](http://media.rac.co.uk). **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

## About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to nearly 14 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. Included in this is the first-of-its-kind nationwide Mobile Mechanics service which brings the garage to homes and workplaces.

At the forefront of new solutions for business fleets and consumers, the RAC’s breakdown service is electric-ready with mobile EV charging technology and can be called on using [myRAC](#) – the all-in-one route planner, fuel finder and breakdown reporting app.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

## Contacts



### **RAC Press Office**

Press Contact

[press.office@rac.co.uk](mailto:press.office@rac.co.uk)

Emails monitored during normal office hours. For breakdown queries, call 0330 159 0740

ISDN number on request