

Understanding the Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness (CVR) test and Certificate of Roadworthiness (CRW)



What is the CVR Test?

The CVR test is a preventative road safety measure, known as a Periodic Technical Inspection (PTI), that ensures vehicles using our roads meet minimum roadworthiness standards. A CVR test is carried out at authorised CVR testing centres and is essentially a maintenance and condition inspection of a vehicle to check that it meets the minimum roadworthiness requirements and is in a fit condition for safe road use at a point in time.

However, the CVR test only examines the parts of the vehicle that can be seen and accessed without dismantling. These parts include brakes, lights, tyres and so on. The test does not check the mechanical reliability of the vehicle. The test is carried out using specialist equipment and techniques without the use of tools to dismantle or remove any part of the vehicle. A detailed assessment of a vehicle's design is not part of the test.

CVR tests are carried out periodically with the requirement that the majority of commercial vehicles must be tested when they are over one year old and annually after that.

What is a Certificate of Roadworthiness (CRW)?

A CRW shows that a vehicle met required basic safety standards on the day it passed its CVR test. It is a legal requirement that the CRW disc be displayed on the vehicle.

A CRW is not a warranty as regards the condition of a vehicle.

A CRW is not a guarantee of the future roadworthiness condition of a vehicle and the certificate that issues when a vehicle passes a test explicitly states that it is not a warranty.

The vehicle driver and/or operator are legally responsible for ensuring that a vehicle is in a roadworthy condition when in use on Irish roads.

It is not advisable to rely on a CRW as a warranty or guarantee as regards the condition of a vehicle when purchasing a vehicle. The RSA recommends that a purchaser should get a vehicle independently assessed by a qualified mechanic before purchasing. This should provide some assurance that it is roadworthy at the time of purchase. Alternatively, a vehicle can be purchased from an authorised dealer who can provide a warranty.

What do you do when you get the CRW?

1. Keep it safe

Keep it safe and secure and, if requested, show it to a member of An Garda Síochána for inspection.

2. Display disc

Put the disc attached to your CRW on display on your vehicle's windscreen or trailer. This disc must be on display at all times.

3. Maintain and check your vehicle so it is safe to use on public roads

You must continue to:

- maintain and service your vehicle in line with the manufacturer's recommendations;
- carry out preventative maintenance checks on your vehicle(s) as needed (the regularity of these checks will depend on factors like mileage, wear and tear and manufacturer's instructions); and
- make sure that you and any other drivers do walk-around checks of vehicles before starting a journey, and report any defects so that repairs can be done.

Thinking about buying a used commercial vehicle?

If you are thinking about buying a used commercial vehicle, we recommend that you get a qualified mechanic to independently assess it to make sure it is safe and roadworthy before you buy it. Or else buy from an authorised dealer offering a warranty. A warranty is usually regarded as a commitment by the dealer to replace any faulty parts or repair any defects within a set period of time so long as they are not related to misuse or abuse of the vehicle by the owner.

You should also check the vehicle's history. Check for three things:

- outstanding finance - is there money owed on the vehicle?
- the vehicle's status - has the vehicle been written off by an insurance company?
- odometer fraud (sometimes called 'clocking') - is when the mileage on a vehicle is tampered with so it looks like the vehicle has done fewer miles or kilometres than it actually has done. Has the mileage meter been interfered with? (Odometer readings have been printed on the CRW and disc since May 2016.)

You can also check if a vehicle's CRW is genuine by visiting www.cvrt.ie and entering the vehicle registration number. This shows the expiry date of the last CRW issued for that vehicle.

Remember cheaper vehicles may seem like a bargain at the time, but they can end up costing you more in the long term with expensive replacement parts and labour.

For more information

For more information about the test and legal requirements on maintaining vehicles, visit www.cvrt.ie