

The Smart Tachographs Are Coming: What Workshops Should Know about Testing

- **Important:** In the coming months a new generation of tachographs will be coming to workshops for their first inspections
- **Continental's VDO Workshop Tablet, services and new test equipment offer solutions for workshops of any size**
- **Business potential:** The next generation will arrive as soon as 2023, followed by retrofitting campaigns and an extension to vehicles weighing less than 3.5 metric tons

Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany, March 2021. In the coming months many workshops will, for the first time, have to perform the §57b inspection as extended according to Annex 1C, which is more complicated than the previous routine. In the summer of 2019 already, vehicle workshops began applying the extended test procedure for the new generation of smart tachographs, as required by EU Regulations 165/2014 and 2018/502. The DTCO tachograph was calibrated accordingly in new vehicles. However, the first vehicles with smart tachographs that are due for mandatory two-year inspection and maintenance will start coming to workshops only now. This will open up new opportunities for them, and with the help of digital equipment they will be able to limit the greater complexity and manage the test procedure successfully. Against this background, technology company Continental is calling attention of commercial vehicle workshops to changes in the testing of smart tachographs as compared to devices of earlier generations. At the same time, it is reminding them of the coming extension of mandatory testing to new vehicle classes and the phased introduction of the next DTCO generation, including mandatory retrofitting, starting in 2023.

The smart tachographs will have new interfaces, and workshops will have to be able to test them. Besides performing familiar tasks like checking the integrity of the Kitas seal and testing the tachograph's memory functions, they will now have to test the DSRC interface and satellite reception. The test personnel will have to demonstrate that they have the technical prerequisites for activating, testing, installing and later inspecting smart tachographs. In addition, workshops that perform these tests will need a workshop card of the second generation. Continental advises workshops to update their knowledge and make sure that their inspectors are trained and certified for the new generation. Although it remains to be seen how the authorities will handle the issuance of new workshop cards in practice, it is possible that they will insist on documentary evidence of proficiency.

Securing current business and planning for future opportunities

It must also be considered that a large number of tachographs requiring new calibration can soon be expected. The EU Mobility Package I stipulates that all vehicles with a gross weight of 3.5 metric tons and over must be retrofitted for the coming second generation of smart tachographs no later than autumn of 2025 – if they are to be used for cross-border journeys. In less than a year after that, digital tachographs will also be required for light commercial vehicles weighing 2.5 tons and over – again if they are used for cross-border transport. “In view of this market potential, workshops should not ask themselves whether or not to offer §57b inspections in the future, but rather how to make the inspection process as fast and reliable as possible,” says Weide.



Continental_PP_DSRC_Testing

From now on, workshops must test the DSRC antenna for proper functioning.



Continental_PP_Workshop_Tab_Cabin

Preparation pays off: Workshops can use the VDO Workshop Tablet to speed up inspection processes and increase their profits.

Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent, and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2019, Continental generated sales of €44.5 billion and currently employs more than 233,000 people in 59 countries and markets. In 2021, the company celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Continental develops pioneering technologies to make commercial transport safer, more efficient and more connected. The company's products and services deliver measurable impact for commercial vehicle manufacturers and the aftermarket. They benefit from a broad portfolio and from fully integrated systems. The portfolio includes tires, digital tire monitoring, fleet management, telematic solutions, Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) and tachographs, hoses, air springs, Electronic Control Units (ECU), displays, drivetrain and exhaust aftertreatment systems, sensors, advanced driving assistance systems, as well as eHorizon maps and events and cloud based services. In 2019, the share of Continental's global sales for commercial vehicle products, systems and services was 5 billion.

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