



Product

Bulletin no **C3638**

Circulation Dealer Principal. Sales. Service.

Effective date **31 October 2006**

Response required **No**

Response required by

Expiry date **U/S**

Attachments **None**

Digital Tachographs

Key Points

- From 1 May 2006 it became a legal obligation for drivers/operators to ensure that digital tachographs are installed in vehicles with a gross train weight of in excess of 3500kg which are to be used for commercial transport
- The legislation applies to all registrations since that date
- There are currently no after market digital tachographs available for Land Rover vehicles
- If it is established during the sales process that a customer intends to use a vehicle for commercial towing, the seller must make it clear that no after market digital tachographs are available at the present time

Legislation

From 1 May 2006, legislation came into effect which made it mandatory for digital tachographs to be fitted by users/operators of vehicles with either a Gross Vehicle Weight or a Gross Train Weight in excess of 3500kg when used for commercial transportation. This applies to all new vehicle registrations after that date and supports the new EU Drivers Hours Rules which came into effect on 11 April 2006.

This legislation therefore applies to **operators** of Land Rover vehicles registered on or after 1 May 2006 which are being used for the purpose of commercially towing a Gross Train Weight in excess of 3500kg. This legislation does not relate to the manufacturing of the vehicle.

There are currently exemptions and derogations enjoyed by certain utility operators including certain areas of farming and agriculture.

Utility customers should refer to the Freight Transport Association (FTA) for more details. Utility customers should be referred to the FTA website for further information: <http://www.fta.co.uk/>

Fitment to Land Rover Vehicles

We are currently awaiting aftermarket digital tachographs to be made available for Defender Td5 and Discovery 3. So far it has not been possible to develop after market solutions which precisely meet the legislation's requirements.

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Land Rover has been working closely with Siemens VDO, a leading supplier of digital tachographs to help them develop a solution. They have developed a solution which utilizes a signal adapter to allow for installation of a digital tachograph into Defender Td5.

Although the solution does not fit precisely with the legislative requirements, it was presented to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) for approval. Although immediate approval for use of the adapter has not been granted, this prompted VOSA to hold a meeting in Brussels on 19 September to discuss the installation of digital tachographs into light vehicles (N1 and M1 category) and, in particular, 4x4 vehicles for which the problem of after market digital tachograph availability is widespread.

It was agreed that the legislation required amendment to allow for adapters to be used, the precise specification of which would be advised by VOSA in the near future. No further progress will be possible until the specification is released.

It will then be possible for Siemens VDO to develop a digital tachograph which will be available for installation at its Siemens VDO centres nationwide.

Current Situation

If a vehicle has been sold since May 1 2006 for the use of commercial towing, it is the owner's responsibility to comply with the legislation detailed above.

Operators who wish to use a vehicle for commercial towing must first check to see if their usage meets one of the exemptions or derogations detailed by the FTA Compliance Guide (they should contact the FTA for further information).

If any customer who has purchased a Land Rover since 1 May 2006 raises any concern as to the current lack of availability of a digital tachograph for their vehicle, you should register the concern with Colin Wells, Land Rover UK. This also applies to any existing customer orders which you are aware of for which the intended use of the vehicle is commercial towing.

If it becomes clear during the sale process that a customer intends to use a Land Rover for the purpose of commercial towing, the selling dealer must declare that there is no after market digital tachograph available at the present time.

If the customer requires any further information on their obligations under the legislation, please refer them to www.vosa.gov.uk and www.digitaltachograph.gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Wells".

**Colin Wells
Product Manager**