

Office of the State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, SCO 177-178, Sector 17-C, Chandigarh.

To

✓ All the Secretary,  
Regional Transport Authorities in the State.

No.STC-P(P-3)/23988-98

Dated: 23-9-2021

Subject: Inspection of Transport & Non Transport Motor Vehicles through Authorized Testing Stations.

For the safety of people, vehicles & to minimize road accidents it is very important that the vehicles in good conditions should ply on the roads meaning thereby the fitness of vehicles is of prime importance. The responsibility for conducting the test of fitness of transport vehicles and grant/renewal of certificate of fitness is an important regulatory function of the Transport Department. The key legal provision regulating grant of Certificate of Fitness are laid down in Sections 56, 213 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988; S.O. 443 (E) dated 12.06.1989 read with S.O.1215 (E) dated 08.03.2019 u/s 213 (4) MV Act, 1988; Rules 62 to 73, 81 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and Rule 38, Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993. A bare reading of the same reveals that the Law provides for the following two modes for conducting Test of Fitness and for Grant of Certificate of Fitness:

1. Test of Fitness is conducted by and the Certificate of Fitness is granted by the 'Prescribed Authority'. The Prescribed Authority is laid down by Rule 38 of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 under provisions of Section 56 read with Section 65 (2) (a) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The Prescribed Authority for issue or renewal of Certificate of Fitness in the State of Punjab is thus a **Board of Inspection** consisting of a concerned District Transport Officer & Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) and any other officer appointed by the State Transport Commissioner. It is pertinent to mention here that Govt. of Punjab, Department of Transport (Transport-2 Branch) vide Notification No.S.O.42/C.A.59 /1988/S.68/2017 dated 04.08.2017 constituted the Regional Transport Authorities instead of District Transport Officers as member of Board of Inspection.

Provided that in the case of a Tourist Vehicle the Secretary, State Transport Authority shall be the member of Board of Inspection in place of the Regional Transport Authority.

2. The Test of Fitness is conducted by and the Certificate of Fitness granted by the "Authorized Testing Station" Section 56 (2), Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 empowers the State Government to authorize any facility including automated testing facilities to operate an Authorized Testing Station where fitness testing may be conducted in accordance with rules made by

the Central Government for recognition, regulation and control of such stations. The Authorized Testing Station is permitted to issue the Certificate of Fitness to the Transport Vehicle that passes the Test of Fitness under the provisions of section 56 (1), Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Rule 63, CMVR, 1989 lays down the procedure for application to the Registering Authority for grant/renewal of Letter of Authority for operation of Authorized Testing Stations for grant of Certificate of Fitness.

The Test of Fitness and Grant of Certificate of Fitness in State of Punjab has, thus far, been done by the Prescribed Authority (Board of Inspection). The same has, however, been plagued by the problems of capacity including expert manpower and infrastructure required for testing as well as the perennial complaints regarding transparency. In light of the same it has been decided to increase the availability of quality facilities for testing fitness and for grant of Certificate of Fitness to improve Ease-of-Doing-Business and for transparency in regulation.

#### Procedure for Application and Grant of Letter of Authority

Rule 63(2) CMVR, 1989 lays down that the application for grant of Letter of Authority shall be made in Form 40 to the Registering Authority. It has been decided that the aforesaid application shall be addressed to the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) having jurisdiction. On receipt of the application accompanied by the appropriate application fee and security deposit as laid down in rule 63 (2) (a) and 63 (2) (b) respectively the Regional Transport Authorities shall satisfy himself/herself that use applicant meets the criteria/requirements laid down in rule 63 (3) as well as the stipulation of rule 63(4) that the setting up of the Authorized Testing Station would improve the availability of testing facilities in the area in relation to the number of vehicles and proximity to such facilities. On being, thus, satisfied Secretary, RTA shall issue the letter of Authority to the applicant in Form 39 of CMVR, 1989 for operating an Authorized Testing Station. The Letter of Authority granted to an Authorized Dealer of an OEM shall mention the make and class of vehicles that shall be tested for fitness at the Authorized Testing Station.

#### Fees

The table of fees given in rule 81 CMVR, 1989 prescribes the fee to be charged by the Authorized Testing Station for conducting test of fitness as well as for grant/renewal of Certificate of Fitness, Rule 65 (g) clearly states that the holder of a Letter of Authority shall not charge a fee for inspection of a vehicle

for the purpose of issue or renewal of the appropriate Certificate of Fitness in excess of the fee specified in rule 81. But provided that the States may levy [fee lower than the amount specified in the table and may also levy] additional amounts to cover the cost of automation and technology utilized for conducting the testing or providing value added services.

Sr. No.	Purpose	Amount	Rule	
10.	Conducting test of a vehicle grant or renewal of certificate of fitness	Three Wheeled or light motor vehicle or quadricycle.	Manual : Rs.400	62(2)
			Automated : Rs.600	
		Medium or heavy motor vehicle.	Manual : Rs.600	
			Automated: Rs.1000	
11	Grant or renewal of certificate of fitness for motor vehicle	Rs.200 Note: Additional fee of fifty rupees for each day of delay after expiry of certificate of fitness shall be levied.	62(2)	
12	Grant or renewal of letter of authority	Rs.15000	63(2)(a)	

The table of fee also specifies the fee of Rs.15000 to be charged for grant/renewal of Letter of Authority under rule 63(2)(a) and a fee of Rs.7500 for issue of duplicate Letter of Authority under rule 66(2), CMVR, 1989.

63.Regulation and control of authorized testing station.-(1) No operator of an authorized testing station shall issue or renew a certificate of fitness to a transport vehicle under section 56 without a letter of authority in Form 39 granted by the registering authority.

(2) An application for grant or renewal of a letter of authority under sub-rule (1) shall be made in Form 40 to the registering authority having jurisdiction in the area in which the service or garage is situated and shall be accompanied by-

(a) the appropriate fee as specified in rule 81;

(b) a security deposit of [rupees one lakh] in the form of FD.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this rule and rules 64 to 72, the registering authority means an officer not below the rank of the regional transport officer of the Motor Vehicles Department established under section 213.

#### Refusal and Appeal

Regional Transport Authorities may refuse to grant Letter of Authority after giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard and by recording the reasons for such refusal in writing as per provisions of Rule 63(5), CMVR, 1989. Any person aggrieved by such refusal may file an appeal with State Transport

Commissioner, Punjab by paying the prescribed fee under Rule 81, CMVR, 1989 of Rs.3000.

#### Grant of Certificate of Fitness

The Authorized Testing Station shall carry out test of fitness for a vehicle registered anywhere in the State of Punjab as per provisions of rule 62, CMVR, 1989. The Certificate of Fitness shall be uploaded on the Parivahan Portal by the Authorized Testing Station using the credentials to be provided by the Department.

#### Supervision and Control

Regional Transport Authorities shall maintain tight supervision and control over the Authorized Testing Stations operating under his jurisdiction as envisaged under the provisions of Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 to prevent any malpractice:

1. Rule 63 lays down the basic framework for regulation and control of Authorized Testing Stations. The Authorized Testing Station has to meet at all times the criteria regarding technical qualifications of trained manpower and the infrastructural facilities for testing as laid down in this rule.
2. Rule 65 lays down the conditions to be followed by the Authorized Testing Station. The Authorized Station has to, amongst other things. Keep the premises of the testing station and all records, registers, machinery equipment and apparatus open for inspection by the Registering Authority or other authorized officer at all reasonable time.
3. Rule 67 allows the Registering Authority or other authorized officer to conduct test checks at the premises of the Authorized Testing Station with a view to ensure that vehicles are properly tested by the Authorized Testing Station.
4. Rule 68 empowers the Registering Authority to call for information or returns from the Authorized Testing Station.
5. Rule 69 empowers the Registering Authority to suspend/cancel the letter of Authority and order forfeiture of security deposit furnished by the Authorized Testing Station.

The Letter of Authority shall clearly mention on the reverse side of the form the responsibilities of the Authorized Testing Station as well as the penal provisions in the law/rules as discussed above in case of failure to meet the same.

### Work of Authorized Testing Stations

In order to enhance public facilitation and public safety it would be desirable to declare workshop having adequate trained manpower required testing equipments, operators, good financial resources for inspection of vehicle as Automatic Test Centres for specific vehicles i.e. Tata Dealer/Authorized Workshops will be authorize for inspection of Tata make vehicles only.

The vehicle owner will apply for inspection of vehicle online through [www.parivahan.gov.in](http://www.parivahan.gov.in). The Authorized Testing Stations will inspect the vehicle through fitness tab/mobile application of Vahan (Design, developed & maintained by NIC under MoRTH supervision). The tab/mobile application will also allow Authorized Testing Stations to capture photograph of vehicle which will be uploaded on Vahan web application data base. It will enhance more transparency in the system & bring more facilitation for the vehicle owner.

Under Rule 62(2) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 fee for conducting test & grant or renewal of tests of fitness for three wheeler & light motor vehicle is Rs.600 and for medium or heavy motor vehicle it is Rs.800.

The OEMs shall maintain proper supervision over their authorized dealers that have been permitted to carry out fitness test of vehicles for grant of certificate of fitness. The names and contact details of customer complaint service of OEMs should be prominently displayed at such Authorized Testing Stations for easy communication of grievances by vehicle owners to senior management levels of the OEM. The involvement of OEMs in supervision of their dealers shall be in addition to the statutory supervision.

As per rule 64, the letter of authority for Authorized Testing Stations can be granted for 5 years. However, MoRTH is in the process of setting up of automated vehicle fitness centres which is likely to be set up in the next financial year i.e. 2022-23. Therefore, for the time being the Authorized Testing Stations may be given provisional authority for a period of one year only. Thereafter upon satisfactory performance & compliance of all laid down norms & bench mark, the same may be extended upto four years.

The approved authorized workshops will have provision to apply online in the prescribed application Form 40 under Rule 63(2) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 for Authorized Testing Stations for certificate of fitness of vehicle on a link available at [www.punjabtransport.org](http://www.punjabtransport.org). The concerned Registering Authority will accept or reject the application based on documents submitted. The grant or renewal of letter of authority will be issued in Form 39 under Rule 63(1) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Letter of authority for grant or renewal will also be issued digitally against the application received and will be mapped with each other.

The Authorized Testing Stations will do inspection of vehicles through a tab/mobile application of VAHAN integrated directly with VAHAN 4.0 web application. The vehicles inspection application of NIC will capture the images of vehicles inspected on real time. The workshops of the Authorized Testing Stations will be equipped with CCTV Cameras and shall preserve and maintain the recorded data for a period of 90 days and will produce it before the inspecting/audit and registering authority when asked to do so.

Therefore, you are directed to implement the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 regarding Grant of Letter of Authority for operation of Authorized Testing Stations for grant of certificates of fitness. This will go a long way not only facilitating the public but will also ensure thorough vehicles inspection & digital record keeping.

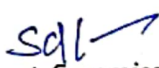
  
State Transport Commissioner,  
Punjab

Endst.No.STC-P(P-3)/23999-24002

Dated: 23-9-2021

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information:

1. The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Transport.
2. Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Core 4-B, 5th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 (E-mail : [siam@siam.in](mailto:siam@siam.in))
3. Federation of Automobile Dealers Association, 804-805-806, Surya Kiran, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001 (e-mail: [fada@fada.in](mailto:fada@fada.in))
4. Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Association, Dada Motors Pvt. Ltd., Savitri Complex-1, G.T.Road, Near Dholewal Chowk, Ludhiana.

  
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