

# The importance of making time for daily van checks

Faulty vehicles are the bane of every fleet operator. They can cost your business a lot of time and money while you wait for them to be fixed. In fact, the cost of having a van off the road can be as much as £1,000 per day. Even worse, they can cause accidents involving your drivers. According to the latest government figures, vehicle defects contributed to 1,687 accidents and 2,586 casualties on Britain's roads in 2016.



## Fluids

Check brake fluid, windscreen, oil reserves.



## Windscreen

Is there any damage on the drivers view? Are your wipers clearing the windscreen?



## Brakes

Do they feel loose or unresponsive? Is there tension in the handbrake?



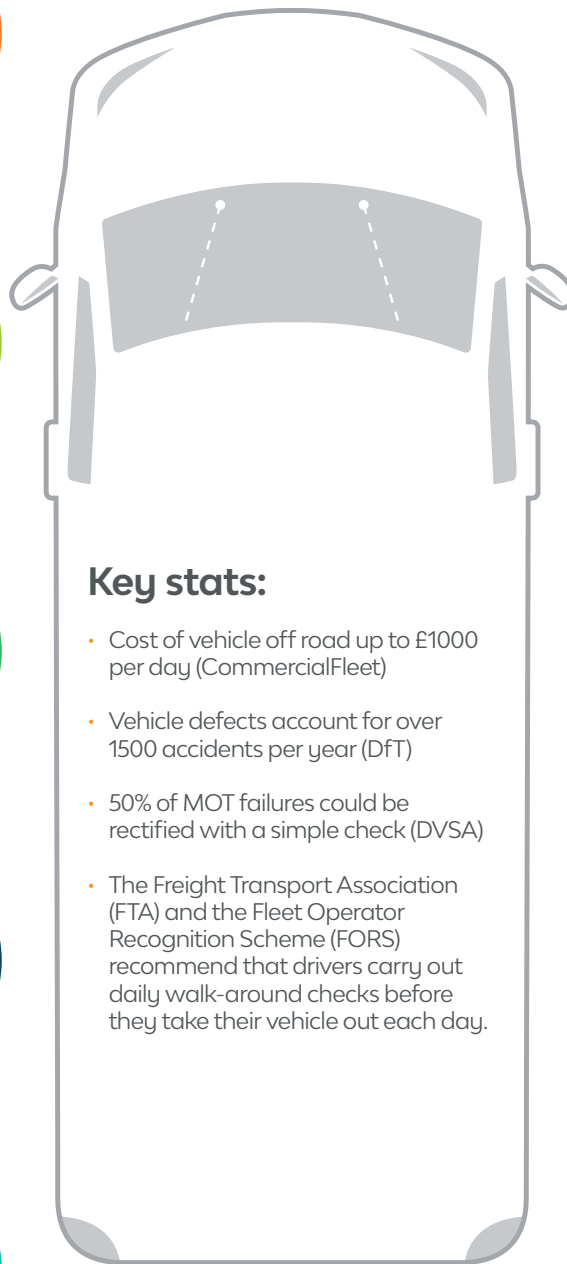
## Lights

Are all lights fully working?



## Exhaust

Does it produce any unusual noises or abnormal smoke?



### Key stats:

- Cost of vehicle off road up to £1000 per day (CommercialFleet)
- Vehicle defects account for over 1500 accidents per year (DfT)
- 50% of MOT failures could be rectified with a simple check (DVSA)
- The Freight Transport Association (FTA) and the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) recommend that drivers carry out daily walk-around checks before they take their vehicle out each day.

## Steering

Is your steering responsive?



## Dashboard

Always check for warning lights on the dashboard – and read the manual to see what they mean.



## Suspension

When applying weight to the corner of the vehicle does it quickly spring back into position?



## Tyres

Check tyre pressure and tyre tread (legal minimum: 1.6mm).



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What's next?