

## Basic Horsebox Maintenance :

### Check for yourself

The ten most common reasons vehicles fail the UK MOT test and details of some fortnightly checks that you can carry out yourself. There are also some suggested questions which you can ask your mechanic. Keeping your vehicle in a garage will help.

**Headlights and lamps** Check that they work and are the right colour. Look for faded and broken lenses.

**Service and secondary brakes (footbrake)** Regular use of your vehicle can help maintain the braking efficiency by preventing the moving parts of the braking system from seizing.

**Fuel Systems** Check for obvious fuel leaks and black smoke coming from the exhaust pipe as well as the condition and security of the exhaust system.

**Brake systems** Check for air and fluid leaks and drain air tanks if required

**Speedometer** Make sure that it illuminates.

**Tachograph** Has the vehicle got a tachograph? (If the vehicle is exempt from using a tachograph, an exemption form must be completed, which is available from your local HGV testing station)

**Speedlimiter** Has the vehicle got a speedlimiter? Check that it has the appropriate calibration plaque and seals.

**Parking brake (handbrake)** Regular use of your vehicle can help to keep the hand brake efficient. Check the condition of the parking (hand) brake application mechanism.

**Steering mechanism** Check for obvious oil leaks and any unusual knocking noises when driving

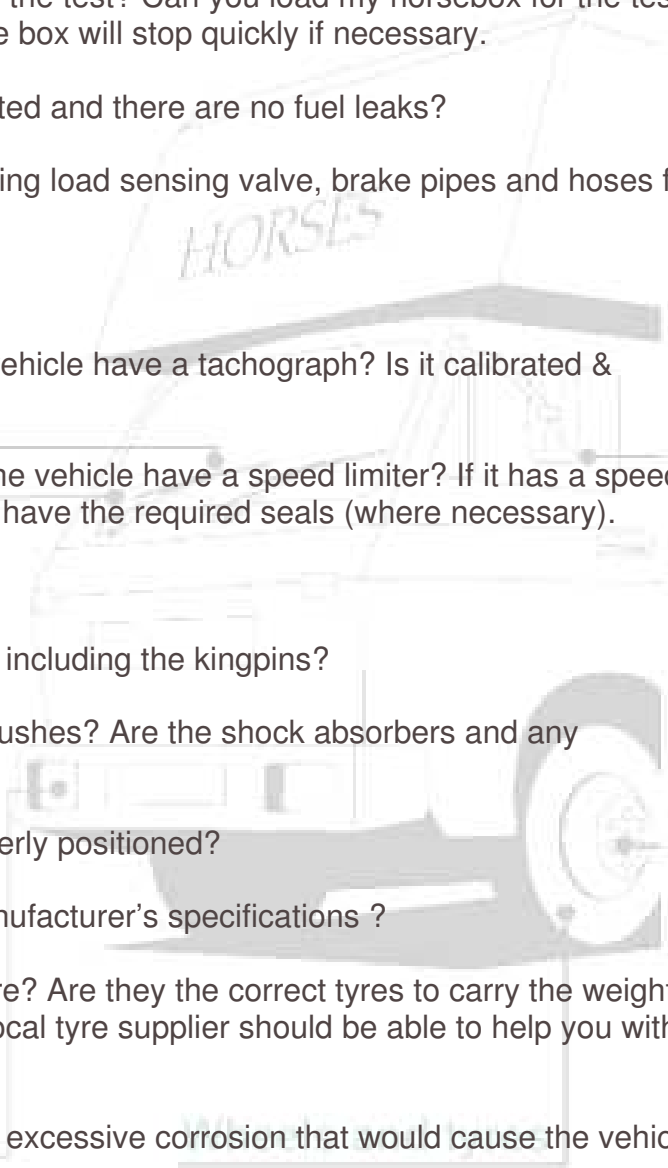
**Suspension** Is the vehicle is sitting square or lopsided. Listen for knocking noises in motion.

**Reflectors** Check for obvious missing reflectors at the rear and the sides of your vehicle.

**Wheels and tyres** Check the wheel nuts for security and your tyre pressures. Use your vehicle regularly and park with the tyres in alternating resting positions. Parking your vehicle out of direct sunlight can also help to prevent tyre sidewalls from perishing.

## Basic Horsebox Maintenance (cont' ) :

### Questions to ask your mechanic.

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- Q.** Have you checked the headlight aim and the condition/operation of all the lights?
  - Q.** Have you roller brake tested my horsebox before the test? Can you load my horsebox for the test? I need to know that when I carry my horse, my horse box will stop quickly if necessary.
  - Q.** Have you checked that the fuel cap has a seal fitted and there are no fuel leaks?
  - Q.** Have you checked the mechanical system including load sensing valve, brake pipes and hoses for corrosion or perishing?
  - Q.** Does the speedometer illuminate?
  - Q.** Does the vehicle need a tachograph? Does the vehicle have a tachograph? Is it calibrated & sealed?
  - Q.** Does the vehicle require a speed limiter? Does the vehicle have a speed limiter? If it has a speed limiter, does it have a calibration plaque and does it have the required seals (where necessary).
  - Q.** Does the handbrake work properly?
  - Q.** Have you checked the complete steering system including the kingpins?
  - Q.** Have you checked the springs and suspension bushes? Are the shock absorbers and any mounting brackets secure?
  - Q.** Are you sure all the reflectors are there and properly positioned?
  - Q.** Have the wheels been torqued to the correct manufacturer's specifications ?
  - Q.** Are the tyres legal and to the correct tyre pressure? Are they the correct tyres to carry the weight? Do the tyres show the correct speed rating? (Your local tyre supplier should be able to help you with this).
  - Q.** Have you checked the cab, chassis and body for excessive corrosion that would cause the vehicle to fail the MOT.