

BCA ESSENTIAL CHECK

Customer Guide

WHAT IS BCA ESSENTIAL CHECK



BCA Essential Check has been developed to give you more information on older, higher mileage vehicles. It's especially useful if you buy online, as it gives you a broad overview on the condition of the vehicle before you purchase.



WHAT IS CHECKED?

It covers areas such as: tyre tread, headlight / sidelight illumination, vehicle starts / brake pedal pressure, window / wiper / mirror operation, some warning lights and more.

MAKING YOUR BUYING DECISION EASIER

- **35+ point check**
- **Carried out by trained inspectors, onsite at our remarketing centres**
- **More information than ever on older, higher mileage vehicles**
- **Low cost**
- **Easily access the report – on the vehicle windscreen sticker and online pre-sale**

For more information and T&Cs visit bca.co.uk/essentialcheck

FAQS

Take a minute to read our Frequently Asked Questions, some answers to your questions might be here.



CAN I MAKE A CLAIM ON THE BCA ESSENTIAL CHECK?

No, the BCA Essential Check is provided purely for information only, no claims will be entered into. It gives you a more detailed overview of the condition of some operational areas in a vehicle to enable you to make an informed purchase decision.

HOW IS THE CHECK CARRIED OUT?

The vehicle is assessed while stationary and is carried out at ground level. The inspectors do not look under the bonnet, and they don't check for leaks.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMETHING ON THE BCA ESSENTIAL CHECK HAS BEEN REPORTED INCORRECTLY?






We have rigorous quality checks and audits in place to ensure the accuracy and quality of our reporting. The report details the condition of the vehicle at the time of assessment. As such, while highly unlikely, it is possible that the condition may change from then to the time of purchase. As stated above the report is provided for information only and no claims will be entered into.

WHY DOESN'T THE BCA ESSENTIAL CHECK TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE MECHANICAL CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE?















Our research, across a wide range of our customers, told us that you, our buyers, wanted more information on older vehicles in order to help you make a more informed buying decision and you wanted the costs for this report to be significantly lower and more in line with the lower costs of the vehicles. To deliver this we designed a report to give you an overview of areas that were commonly mentioned in our research. Ensuring we deliver good value for money we have excluded some mechanical elements, found on our other reports, from this assessment.

INCLUSIONS & EXPLANATION

KEY

-  – OK
-  – Requires some attention
-  – Requires attention
-  – Not applicable
-  – Not tested

This list has been provided to help you understand how we undertake the BCA Essential Check. All checks are visual and findings are deemed to be correct at time of inspection. All checks are made when vehicle is static.

Area	Explanation of test process	Explanation of findings reported
Engine Running		
Starts	Attempt to start vehicle engine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  – engine starts.  – engine starts when aided (jump start).  – difficulties starting engine.
Tyre Tread		
NSF / NSR / OSF / NSF / LCV NS / OS	<p>Each tyre measured in 3 places with tyre tread depth gauge.</p> <p>NB: Tyre wall observations are not recorded ie bulges / cuts.</p>	<p>3 measurements reported per tyre, shown in mm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  mm - tread 3mm and over.  mm - tread over 2mm and less than 3mm.  mm - tread of less than 2 mm.
Dynamic Operation		
NS / OS door mirror (glass adjustment)	<p>Check presence of glass and adjustment of mirrors.</p> <p>NB: No check is made on blind spot warning indicator (if applicable) or folding functionality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  – glass present, mirrors operate as expected.  – only partial movement of mirror glass.  – does not operate at all.  – no mirror present.
Rear view mirror	<p>Check for presence / movement of rear view mirror and mirror glass.</p> <p>NB: No check is made on manual/ auto dimming or other electronic functionality of mirror (if present).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  – mirror present, operates as expected.  – does not operate fully - mirror may be loose / does not move freely in all directions.  – does not operate at all or is cracked.  – no interior mirror present.

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Area	Explanation of test process	Explanation of findings reported
Dynamic Operation <i>(Continued)</i>		
NSF / NSR / OSF / OSR Electric window operates	<p>Check for operation of electric windows from driver's door panel.</p> <p>NB: No check is made for one shot, window lock, anti-trap or auto close functionality. No check is made on manual windows.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – window operate as expected. ⚠ – window does not operate fully, as it should. ❗ – window does not operate at all. ⊖ – no operable window present.
Tailgate electric window operates	<p>Check for presence and operation of electric tailgate window.</p> <p>NB: No check is made on heated window element functionality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – window present / operates as expected. ⚠ – window does not operate fully. ❗ – window does not operate at all / is missing. ⊖ – no electric tailgate window present.
Brake pedal pressure	<p>Attempt to apply foot brake.</p> <p>NB: pedal pumped with engine turned off, foot held down & engine started to check for servo assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – brake pedal pressure ok. ⚠ – reduced brake pedal pressure. ❗ – no brake pedal pressure. ⊖ – no brake pedal present.
Front / Rear wiper arm movement	<p>Attempt to switch on front / rear window wipers.</p> <p>NB: No check is made on automatic functionality / variable speed of wipers or noise / condition of wiper blades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – wipers operate as expected. ⚠ – wipers operate, but not smoothly. ❗ – wipers do not operate at all. ⊖ – wipers not present.
Front / Rear screen washer(s)	<p>Attempt to operate front / rear window washers.</p> <p>NB: Fluid level not checked. Headlight washers not checked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – washers operate as expected. ⚠ – washers do not operate as expected, not all jets working. ❗ – washers do not operate at all. ⊖ – washers not present to check.
Horn	<p>Attempt to sound horn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – horn sounds. ⚠ – abnormal sound from horn noted. ❗ – no sound from horn. ⊖ – horn operation button / stick not present to check

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Area	Explanation of test process	Explanation of findings reported
Driver Visibility		
NSF / OSF Head light illuminates	<p>Attempt to switch on head lights, check high beam and low beam.</p> <p>NB: Directional, adaptive or level adjustment functionality is not checked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – headlights illuminate. ⚠ – headlights do not illuminate as expected eg high / low beam only. ❗ – 1 or more headlights do not illuminate. ⊖ – no headlight present.
NS / OS Brake / High level brake light illuminates	<p>Apply foot brake and check brake lights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – brake light illuminates. ⚠ – brake light does not illuminate as expected / only part of high level light illuminates. ❗ – brake light does not illuminate. ⊖ – no brake light present.
NSF / NSR / OSR / OSF Side/ Running light illuminates	<p>Attempt to switch on side / running lights.</p> <p>NB: Auto dimming of side running lights not checked when indicator activated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – side / running light illuminates. ⚠ – side / running light does not illuminate as expected. ❗ – side / running light does not illuminate. ⊖ – no side / running light present.
NSF / NSR / OSR / OSF Fog light illuminates	<p>Attempt to switch on front and rear fog lights (where present).</p> <p>NB: Left / right turn functionality not checked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – fog light illuminates. ⚠ – fog light does not illuminate as expected. ❗ – fog light does not illuminate. ⊖ – no fog light present.
Indicators / Hazard lights operate	<p>Attempt to indicate right / left and switch on hazard lights.</p> <p>NB: No check is made on automatic indicator cancellation or lane change indication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – indicator / hazard lights illuminate. ⚠ – indicator / hazard lights do not illuminate as expected. ❗ – indicator / hazard lights do not illuminate. ⊖ – no indicator / hazard lights present.
NB: No check is made on automatic light functionality.		

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Area	Explanation of test process	Explanation of findings reported
Interior Checks		
Engine Management Light / ABS / Oil / Brake wear indicator / Airbag warning light	Check if engine management / ABS / Oil / brake wear indicator / airbag warning light illuminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – light not illuminated. ⚠ – Illuminated amber. 🚫 – Illuminated red. ☐ – no check possible.
Glow plug light	Check if glow plug warning light illuminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ – light not illuminated. ⚠ – Illuminated amber. 🚫 – Illuminated red. ⦿ – not relevant to this vehicle. ☐ – no check possible.
Other warning light	Note if any other warning light illuminated. NB: if no lights are illuminated nothing reported here.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚠ – Illuminated amber. 🚫 – Illuminated red. ⦿ – no bulb failure warning light present. ☐ – no check possible.
<p>NB If dashboard warning lights are illuminated no check is made on the mechanical state of the relevant area. OBD Plug in test not carried out. Dashboard warning lights are checked more than 10 seconds after the engine is running.</p>		

Comments	Any visual observations will be noted in this section

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