

PA CIRCULAR 4/18

CLASSIFICATION OF VEHICLE ROADWORTHINESS TESTING (VRT) STATIONS IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (USE CLASSES) ORDER. SL 552.15

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Consequent to Government's decision to liberalise the number of licences for VRT stations for the first time since 1999, the demand for new licensed premises to accommodate this activity shall inevitably increase.

1.2 The development framework in the current Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidelines which guide the assessment of development applications in the various zoning designations within the Urban and/or the Rural Area do not make a specific reference to VRT stations but refer to the classification of uses in the Use Classes Order, SL552.15.

1.3 The scope of this Circular is to provide a classification of VRT stations, and similar activities related to vehicle maintenance and repair, in terms of the Use Classes Order and hence identify the applicable policies and the acceptable locations for VRT stations and similar activities.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF VRT STATIONS

2.1 VRT stations, when taking into account (i) the environmental impacts from the type of operational activities resulting directly from the VRT station and associated (vehicle repair and maintenance/retail) land-uses, (ii) the space requirements and (iii) the scale of traffic generation from visitors, have been classified by the Authority as falling within **Class 5B – General Industry** of the Use Classes Order, SL552.15.

2.2 Consequently, vehicle maintenance and repair activities (facilities which provide a computer diagnostic service and electronic repairs on vehicles, mechanics, sprayers, auto-electricians and similar) are also classified as falling within **Class 5B – General Industry** of the Use Classes Order, SL552.15.

3. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

3.1 Any previous interpretation provided by the Authority which runs counter to the provisions of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above shall not continue to be binding on the Authority.

3.2 The provisions of this Circular shall apply to all development applications which have not been determined by the date of publication of this Circular.

3.3 Any development permissions granted for VRT stations shall not be affected and shall remain in force.