

**From:** [SOS, Third Party Testing](#)  
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**Subject:** Guidance- new technology test procedures 6-11-18  
**Date:** Monday, June 11, 2018 1:48:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Guidance - automobile technology 6-11-18.pdf](#)

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**We ask that you reply to this email to confirm receipt.**

The attached memo has important information your auto examiners need. You are required to ensure that each of your auto examiners read and understand the guidance.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

June 11, 2018

## **GUIDANCE: NEW TECHNOLOGY TEST PROCEDURES**

This guidance is intended to standardize how auto examiners determine whether a particular technology feature on a test vehicle may be used by an applicant and to ensure that examiners' practices are uniform.

Examiners are presented with vehicles containing many new technologies. As more vehicles include a particular "new" device or system, the device or system may become a standard feature or even mandated. For example, the backup camera is required on all automobiles manufactured since May 2018.

Rather than attempt to address every current or upcoming technological feature, this guidance divides these features into two categories: Passively Active and Driver Activated. Passively active features may be used on a test; driver activated features may not. Examiners should assess a feature and use this guidance to determine which category fits the feature and whether the applicant may use it on the test.

### **Passively Active Feature**

A "passively active feature" is a device or system that operates by default when a vehicle is started and does not require activation by the driver.<sup>1</sup> Examples include but are not limited to: backup camera, blind-spot indicator lights, lane departure warning. Passively Active Features are permitted and an applicant may use any of these features on the test—during both the off-road and on-road test segments.

### **Driver Activated Feature**

A "driver activated feature" is a device or system that does not operate by default when a vehicle is started and requires activation by the driver to be used. Examples include but are not limited to: parking assist (vehicle parks without driver hands on steering wheel), a 4-way camera, and an automated self-drive feature (vehicle steers itself).

If an examiner has a question regarding vehicle technology, they are encouraged to contact the Driver Testing Section at 517-241-6850 or [thirdpartytesting@michigan.gov](mailto:thirdpartytesting@michigan.gov). This information will be added to the *Driving Skills Test Study Guide* (SOS-360) the next time it is reprinted.

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<sup>1</sup> This guidance should not be applied to an absurd effect. For example, one could argue that seat belts and signal lamps (turn signals) are driver activated technology that are "new" since the origin of the automobile; seat belts and turn signals continue to be required to be used by an applicant on every test.