

EU Motor Vehicle Block Exemption

The Block Exemption Regulation is a European Commission law meaning that motorists can have their vehicle serviced or repaired in any chosen workshop without invalidating their manufacturer's warranty.

Prior to 2003, automobile owners in the EU region risked nullifying their vehicle warranties when the vehicles were serviced or repaired in workshops not belonging to the vehicle manufacturer or its dealers. This barrier was broken in October 2003, when the European Commission (EC) passed the Block Exemption Regulation law allowing vehicle owners the freedom of having their servicing and repairs done at their chosen workshop.

On 1st June 2010 European Union legislation, 'Block Exemption Regulations 461/2010' came into force. This BER certainly gives the motorist far more freedom in deciding who will repair or service their vehicles, as well as the flexibility and benefit to reduce the amount spent on servicing.

The Commission's new rules will increase competition in the market for repair and maintenance by improving access to technical information needed for the repairs and by making it easier to use alternative spare parts. Anyone requiring technical information will have the right to access it in useable form at a reasonable cost. They will allow the Commission to tackle manufacturers' abuse of warranties when they request that cars are serviced only in authorised garages. The latest revision of the BER introduces four freedoms aimed at safeguarding free competition in the entire market for vehicle spare parts, repair and service.

Spare Parts

Workshops no longer have to use vehicle manufacturer OE parts to ensure a vehicle maintains its warranty. Parts can be sourced from any supplier as long as they are of appropriate or 'matching' quality. This means that the spare parts must match the quality of the components which are or were used for the assembly of the motor vehicles in question. Parts manufacturers must also be able to issue quality certification.

This all means that Pagid parts can be fitted in vehicles without invalidating warranties. The Pagid manufactured products comply with the requirements of article 17 of the Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation 461/210.

Pagid produce certification via a Declaration: EC Block Exemption Regulation (461/2010) which can be found here:

DOWNLOAD PAGID CERTIFICATION

N.B. This guide is intended to be a brief introduction to the subject of Block Exemption Regulation, and not a full definition of the law. Further details of the Block Exemption Regulation can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/sectors/motor_vehicles/legislation/legislation.html