



## Block Exemption Explanation

### What is Block Exemption?

Block Exemption is a guide for motorists and independent repairers.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 European Union legislation, 'Block Exemption Regulations 461/2010 came into force. This gives motorists more freedom in their decision as to who should repair and service their vehicles – now any garage can be used without invalidating the manufacturer's warranty (subject to certain conditions).

This was as a result of four specific 'freedoms' that were introduced, aimed at safeguarding free competition in the entire market for vehicle spare parts, service and repair. This means:

- Parts distributors can supply parts of the appropriate quality to dealers and authorised repairers without the vehicle manufacturer/assembler using 'dealer/repairer contracts' or other means to prevent them.
- Anyone with a legitimate need for technical information has a right of access to it in a usable form and at a reasonable cost.

The BER covers service and maintenance during the warranty period and prohibits vehicle manufacturers' warranties from including conditions requiring that:

- All normal maintenance is provided within the vehicle manufacturer's network.
- All parts used must be the manufacturer's original spare parts.

The European Commission declared that such clauses in a warranty document would represent 'an unjustified restriction for the consumer'.

Independent repairers CAN carry out normal maintenance and repair services during a vehicle's warranty period without invalidating the warranty conditions provided that:

- The service is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedules and is recorded as such.
- Any parts used are of 'appropriate quality' and are recorded as such.

**All products supplied under the Comline/Allied Nippon brands are spare parts of matching quality as defined by EEC Commission Regulation 461/2010.**

**All products supplied under the Comline/Allied Nippon brands comply with current legislation and have full Regulation 90 approval in accordance with European Directives 98/12/EC (BER compliant) where appropriate.**



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