

A SAFE CHECKLIST FOR YOUR RIDE

**CASE's Standard and Functional
Evaluation (SAFE) Checklist for
Pre-Owned Cars**



An initiative by the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE)

THE SAFE CHECKLIST

Buying a car is a significant financial decision. Consumers purchasing a pre-owned car must understand that the quality and condition of the car will depend on its age.

The Standard and Functional Evaluation (SAFE) Checklist was developed by the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) in consultation with multiple stakeholders to guide consumers in their purchase of a pre-owned car.

PART A
Checks by
Car Dealer



PART B
Checks by
Professional
Evaluation
Centre



SAFE
Purchase

HOW TO USE THE CHECKLIST

Use the SAFE Checklist to guide you through your car purchase. Below are five easy steps to a SAFE purchase!



STEP 1
Interested in
a car?



STEP 2
Get the SAFE
Checklist!*



STEP 3
Dealer will complete Part A
of the Checklist. Endorse and
keep a copy of it.



STEP 4
Dealer to send the car to a Professional
Evaluation Centre for third-party
evaluation. Use Part B of the Checklist to
understand the evaluation report.



STEP 5
Compare the evaluation report
with Part A. If there are no
inconsistencies, you may
proceed with your purchase.

*A copy of the Checklist can be downloaded at www.case.org.sg, or obtained from your dealer.

PART A: Checks by the Car Dealer

Consumers should request that the car dealer complete Part A of the Checklist for the car.

A copy of the Checklist can be downloaded at www.case.org.sg, or obtained from your dealer.

Part A of the Checklist records:

- Car details
- Functional checks
- Visual checks
- Warranty coverage (where applicable)

Both the consumer and car dealer should endorse the Checklist and keep a copy of the Checklist.



Part B: Checks by the Professional Evaluation Centre

Part B allows consumers to better understand the key parts of the Professional Evaluation Report and allow consumers to make an informed choice on their purchase.

Where possible, consumers are encouraged to test drive the pre-owned car before committing to a purchase as defects may sometimes surface during the test drive.

Consumers who have further queries on their Professional Evaluation Report should contact the applicable centres.



Understanding Key Parts of Your Professional Evaluation Report

Items Checked	Description of Checks Performed
Engine	Includes visual inspection to identify oil seepage, overheating and abnormal engine noise and condition of the drive belt <i>Note: A Professional Evaluation Centre may not perform checks on the following engine types: Electric, LPG, CNG or Hybrid system engine.</i>
Engine Mounting	Includes checks to identify abnormal vibrations resulting from the defective engine mounting
Fluid Level	Includes various dipstick and/or visual checks (where possible) to ensure that there is sufficient engine oil, power steering fluid, transmission oil, brake fluid, cooling system coolant level, clutch fluid and a visual inspection for potential contamination of the fluids
Transmission Box	Includes road tests and checks to identify abnormal noises during engine operation, including the gear transmissions
Chassis Frame	Includes visual inspection to identify possible cracks or damage to chassis, welding and corrosion of the chassis (if any) <i>Note: Presence of cracks, damages and welding are possible indications that the car was previously involved in an accident</i>
Bodyworks	Visual checks for scratches, dents, and sign of touch-up of bodyworks
Suspension System	Inspection of the shock absorbers for seepage and defective component and observing the performance of the suspension and the condition of the suspension linkages
Air-Conditioning	Measurement of temperature of cooled air for a specified period
Cooling System	Checking of the engine temperature, check cooling fans, hoses and radiator cap of the cooling system for leakage to ensure that the cooling system is operating within the normal operating parameters as indicated in the car instrument panel
Electrical System	Includes checks on the working electrical system to ensure that all lights, air conditioning, battery (using battery tester) and alternator are working
Brakes and Alignment	Inspection of brake rotor and brake pad, measurement of brake efficiency using roller brake tester. Alignment test conducted on side slip tester to check for misalignment of wheel(s)
Rims and Wheels	Visual inspection for damaged, uneven wear and missing nuts on rims and depth of all the tyres threads
Road Testing	Observation for engine misfiring, proper gear transmission, steering wobble, vehicle swerving and abnormal noises (including wheel bearing or wind noise)
Visual Inspections	Includes visual inspection of body works, accessories (if any), tinted film, spoiler, additional lamps for compliance with the relevant Land Transport Authority regulations

A VICOM FIT Evaluation, STA Evaluation and AAS Car Evaluation Service Check consist of the minimum checks set out above.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if the dealer's checklist is inconsistent with the Professional Evaluation Report?

Results of an independent third-party professional evaluator should take precedence over the dealer's checklist (i.e. Part A of the Checklist). Consumers should bear in mind that the purpose of Part A is for the dealer to disclose inherent defects in the car to the consumer at the point of purchase.

What to do when the pre-owned car is defective?

i) Before purchase of the pre-owned car

Under the Lemon Law, consumers will not be able to make a claim against the car dealer for any defects disclosed/identified prior to the purchase (i.e. defects disclosed / uncovered in Parts A and B of the Checklist read with the Professional Evaluation Report). In such instances, consumers may still decide to proceed with the purchase of the pre-owned car.

ii) After purchase of the pre-owned car

In the event that the pre-owned car is defective (and the defect is not otherwise disclosed in Part A or B of the Checklist; read with the Professional Evaluation Report), the burden is on the consumer to prove that the pre-owned car was defective at the point of delivery.

iii) Pre-owned car is proved or agreed by parties to be defective

The car dealer is required to repair the pre-owned car sold within a reasonable time, without causing significant inconvenience to the consumer. This will however depend on the specific type of defect.

Consumers are only able to request for other remedies (i.e. cash refund or reduction in price) if the car dealer fails to repair the pre-owned car within the requirements stipulated under the Lemon Law. Consumers may approach CASE for assistance.



Any other enquiries?

Feel free to contact CASE if you require any assistance or clarifications regarding your purchase of a pre-owned car.

AN INITIATIVE BY:



Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE)

The Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation committed towards protection of consumers' interest and promoting an environment of fair and ethical trade practices.

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SUPPORTED BY:



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The Singapore Vehicle Traders Association (SVTA), was established in 1972 to encourage friendly relations, promote business growth and support welfare for their members.

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AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

Automobile Association of Singapore (AAS)

Automobile Association of Singapore is the leading motoring association in Singapore with over 80,000 members. The Association is the local leader in the provision of Roadside Assistance Services, and the voice of motorists, acting as a bridge between the motoring public and relevant authorities. In addition to its motoring-related services, AA Singapore organises driving holidays and a comprehensive selection of motoring and lifestyle workshops and activities.

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