

Autodata's 2010 Timing Belts Manual launched

With the average mileage of used cars rising all the time – a typical Ford Mondeo clocks up 15,483 miles a year* – the newly-enhanced version of Autodata's best-selling Timing Belts manual is a must-have for workshop technicians.

Car owners are not always aware that mileage, as much as age, is also a critical factor in belt replacement.

Conversely, long periods of inactivity place as much demand on belt drive systems as regular operation, so vehicles with less than average mileage also need to be seen as contenders for belt replacement.

With a belt drive system the most commonly-used technology in Europe for overhead camshaft drives**, the latest incarnation of Autodata's workshop 'bible' will render timing belt tasks simple and save vital workshop time.

With a majority of cars on the road utilising belt drives, it is vital they are inspected and replaced as manufacturers specify, along with other parts integral to the reliability of the system, like the water pump and tensioners.

This year's edition gains 28 additional chapters relating to new vehicles such as the latest Audi A4 TDI, Ford Fiesta 1.25 and 1.4, Kia Cee'd and Vauxhall Insignia, to name just a few. MINI is also included for the first time.

The new information doesn't stop there, a further 123 chapters have been updated with revised data straight from manufacturers, while replacement intervals have been altered by Alfa Romeo, Citroën, Fiat, Ford and Volkswagen.

Tony Swiatek, Autodata's Managing Director, says: "While we all know it's vital to prevent camshaft timing belt failure, actually carrying out the task of replacing it isn't easy, particularly considering how different the job can be from car to car.

It's easier to tell if the belt has been replaced on new cars with up-to-date service records, but older cars with patchy history can be a different matter. It is often prudent to consider a replacement if the owner can't be certain when the cambelt was changed."

All the information included in Autodata's manuals is carefully collated and reflects exactly what manufacturers specify, enabling workshops to carry out essential servicing and maintenance on the very latest vehicles and older cars alike.