

When fitting a new TPMS sensor to a vehicle the new sensor ID code will need to be relearned by the vehicles ECU. Although the relearn procedures can differ from manufacturer to manufacturer, they can all be grouped into three main categories. The three main types of relearn procedure are;

Stationary

Stationary relearn procedures allow new sensor ID codes can be programmed to the vehicles ECU without the need of driving the vehicle. This type of relearn requires the use of a TPMS activation tool along with the car being placed in to a relearn state, either by using a diagnostic tool or by selecting the appropriate option in the vehicles computer menu. The vehicle then uses the signal emitted from each sensor in turn to establish which sensor is in which specific location.

Pro-

- Car does not need to be driven to perform the relearn.

Con-

- Can occasionally require the car to be returned to the main dealer to initiate the relearn.
- A TPMS diagnostic/scan tool is required to complete the relearn.

OBD

An OBD relearn requires the use of a TPMS scan tool such as an ATEQ or BARTEC tool to program the new sensor IDs directly into the vehicle's ECU. The user would firstly need to scan each TPMS sensor in turn with the scan tool. Secondly the tool will then need to be connected to the vehicle's OBD port, and by following the step by step instructions on the tool the new ID codes are then transferred to the vehicle.

Pros-

- New IDs can be programmed without the need of driving the vehicle.
- The relearn can be completed very quickly with the warning light going out straight away.

Cons-

- A TPMS diagnostic/scan tool is required to complete the relearn.

Auto Learn

Auto relearns are the most common type of TPMS relearn procedure used in the industry. They are more frequently used on newer vehicles, as this make it simpler for customers to replace the sensors. It simply involves driving the car after installation of the new sensor/s in order for the vehicle to learn the new sensor/s ID/s. The vehicle will often be capable of learning a single or multiple sensors at the same time, without the requirement of using a diagnostic/scan tool.

Pros-

- Very simple relearn process, only a small amount of steps to complete.
- Does not require the use of a TPMS scan tool.

Cons-

- Vehicle will need to be driven to turn off the TPMS warning light.

Please note that there are some vehicles which may use a combination of two of the above relearn types.