

LOTUS 7 Replica Vehicle

Original Vehicle

The 1968-1972 Lotus 7 SIII is externally identical to the Caterham Seven that followed when the rights were acquired by Caterham in 1973.

The Caterham Seven has underwent a number of changes during the 1970's and 1980's to improve the car. However, the original car was configurable with options that change the appearance:

- The rear mounted spare wheel/tire is not always present
- The front fenders are either of a 'flared' type (as shown in the original vehicle photographs) or of a 'cycle' type (as shown on the Replica Vehicle images). This option does not affect the dimensions of the vehicle.
- Different wheel designs and sizes (13" and 14") were available.
- Roll-over protection may not always be present (as shown).

Replica Vehicle

The Replica Vehicle does not differ whether it is a replica of the 1992 Caterham Seven replica vehicle or the 1968 Lotus 7, as the Caterham has been a continuation of the original product.

The replica vehicle has a slightly larger chassis size in order to accommodate a wider range of drivers (the original is very restrictive). This chassis has also undergone the crash test approval required for sale in Europe under the European Community Small Series Type Approval (ECSSTA) scheme.

The chassis length, width and height were all increased modestly in order to retain the original vehicle's proportions. Much of the componentry, including some of the external bodywork such as the fenders, is shared between both chassis sizes.

The reference Replica Vehicle in the example photographs can be seen with a select number of minor differences aside from the dimensional changes:

- The exhaust muffler is present on the right-hand side of the Replica Vehicle due to a change in the engine. The original also has an exterior muffler, but on the left-hand side.
- The headlamps have reduced in size and position (lower) in accordance with lighting regulations for Europe.
- Other minor functional changes, such as grille detail, hood intake, roll-over protection, better side doors, relocated blinkers and improved rear lamps.