

SAFETY ALERT

STARTING AN AUTOMATIC VEHICLE WITH NO GEAR SELECTION INDICATORS

It's not that common, but sometimes you might have to inspect an automatic vehicle that doesn't have gear selection indicators. This makes it hard to know what gear the vehicle that has been presented for inspection is in. These vehicles would most likely be older models or modified vehicles.

If you can't determine the position of the gear selector, **it is good practice to apply the footbrake, handbrake, or both before starting the vehicle.** This is because it is also possible that the vehicle may not have an automatic transmission interlock (inhibitor), or that it may not be working.

If you don't apply the brakes before ignition, and the vehicle's automatic transmission interlock is not working or missing and the vehicle is not in park/neutral, then the vehicle could begin moving when

you start the vehicle and depress the accelerator. **This could cause a serious accident in the workshop.**

At the next amendment we will put a note in the VIRM as an additional reminder.

Remember though that it's not a legal requirement for automatic transmission vehicles to have gear selection indicators, so it isn't a fail item on the inspection checklist.

REMINDER

WOF LABEL STOCKS

As you know, we expect you to maintain adequate stocks of controlled documents.

This means you are not permitted to ask for supplies from another garage nor give out any of your own stock.

1 MARCH 2016 VIRM AMENDMENT CORRECTIONS

Seatbelts in motorhomes

Please be advised that the NZ Transport Agency has withdrawn and modified amendments made to these VIRMs:

In-service certification

- **General vehicles: Vehicle interior: 7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages**
- **Light PSVs: Vehicle interior: 7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages**
- **Heavy vehicles: Vehicle interior: 7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages**

Entry certification

- **Technical bulletin 24: Recording the number of seats for self-propelled motorhomes.**

The 1 March 2016 VIRM amendments were issued to correct a discrepancy between *VIRM: In-service certification* and *VIRM: Entry certification* with the **Land Transport Rule: Seatbelts and Seatbelt Anchorages 2002**. However, a result of the amendment is that it immediately invalidated certain existing motorhome seatbelts, which was not the intent of the amendment.

As a result of the repercussions, the Transport Agency is working to effect a Rule change that will clarify the intent of the Rule and not disadvantage owners of existing motorhomes. In the meantime, please refer to the modified VIRM amendments, which are retroactively effective from 1 March 2016.

Updated List of changes and preview pages

The *List of changes and preview pages* for the In-service and Entry VIRM amendments have been updated. The documents have preview screenshots of the unchanged 1 March amendments and the 11 March corrections - the 11 March corrections are underlined in red. The live website versions are highlighted in yellow as per the usual amendment process.

Download

VIRM: In-service certification

- **List of changes and preview pages (WoF Only)**
- **List of changes and preview pages (WoF and CoF)**

VIRM Entry certification

- **List of changes and preview pages**

WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE'S TWO TRAILERS

Recently the question came up as to whether two simple light trailers can be coupled together to make one full trailer. The answer is that they cannot.

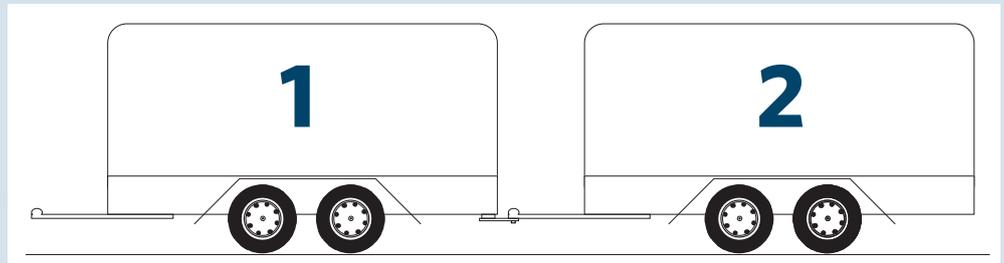
This is because they are actually, physically, two separate vehicles and, to be used on the road in New Zealand, **must be registered separately and have their own WoFs.**

If these trailers were presented as in the image to the right, you would be able to inspect them if each trailer had its own registration plate.

However, it is not legal in New Zealand for a light vehicle to tow two trailers - but at the same time there is no reason to hold the trailers up for a WoF if they are both registered. You should advise

the customer at this point legally they cannot tow two trailers, and suggest they make two trips to take the trailers home.

You may get the customer saying to you that it is one trailer, or that in the past they got one WoF for both, but in the end the "it is what it is" logic applies. No matter what anyone says, **they are two separate trailers** and that's the way to treat them.



WOF SITE APPLICATIONS AND UPDATES

If you are submitting a WOFIO, COFIO, WOFAD or COFAD form?

The following applies to the processing of your application.

You will receive an acknowledgement of your application and we will request some further information from you in regards to your proposed inspecting organisation and/or new site.

Your application will be assessed:

- If your application is declined, we will contact you in writing.
- If the assessment deems your application to be suitable for progression we will arrange for a Certification Officer to assess your inspection site.
- You have the option of waiting for the outcome of your application assessment before ensuring your site meets requirements. Please let us know if you wish to take this option.
- If your application is progressed to a site inspection we will contact you to arrange a time for this.
- Your site must meet all requirements by the agreed date of the site inspection.

Note:

- Your site does not need to meet all site requirements at the time you submit your inspecting organisation application.

Are you closing your WOF business?

Please remember to let us know if you are planning to stop being an inspecting organisation.

We will ensure your access is closed at the agreed time to ensure your authorisation is not left open to potential fraudulent use.

Please also remember that if you are buying or selling a business which currently conducts inspecting activities, you are not buying or selling the inspecting authority. The new owners must apply for an appointment to be an inspecting organisation and have no entitlement to conduct inspection activities until appointed.

If you have any questions regarding the process and any possible options during a change of ownership, please call us on 0800 699 000.

Are you applying for a new inspecting organisation appointment (WOFIO, COFIO forms) and/ or additional inspecting organisation sites (WOFAD, COFAD forms)?



For general enquiries or contact information about the Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

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TRANSPORT
AGENCY

0800 587 287

(for technical assistance and reporting staff movements)

0800 108 809

(for phone inquiries from members of the public)

UNISYS

0800 243 687

(for problems with user access codes and passwords)

We welcome your feedback. Please send any comments to:

Vehicles
Technical Services
NZ Transport Agency
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Wellington 6145

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