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# VIRM: In-service certification amendment 1 March and 11 March 2016

11 March 2016

## **List of changes and preview pages (WoF and CoF)**

In this amendment:

- New definition
- Clarifications to seatbelt requirements in motorhomes (including corrections – see important note below)
- New inspection requirement around bolt-in tow-eyes
- Additional electronic stability control dashboard acronyms.

This document has preview screenshots of the unchanged 1 March amendments and the 11 March corrections – the 11 March corrections are underlined in red. The website versions are highlighted in yellow as per the usual amendment process.

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## IMPORTANT

Please be advised that the NZ Transport Agency has withdrawn and modified amendments made to these VIRMs: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 will be retroactively effective 1 March 2016.

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# LIST OF CHANGES

Click on the link in the 'Section' column to view the page on the Vehicle inspection portal.

SECTION	CHANGE DESCRIPTION
<b>Introduction</b>	
7 Definitions and abbreviations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KSDP definition added.</li> </ul>
<b>General vehicles</b>	
7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification of motorhome seatbelt requirements for rear seating positions. <b>Includes corrected content.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Heavy vehicles</b>	
7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of motorhome seatbelt requirements for heavy vehicles. <b>Includes corrected content.</b></li> <li>TSDA changes to 'certifier'.</li> </ul>
<b>Light passenger service vehicles</b>	
7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification of motorhome seatbelt requirements for rear seating positions. <b>Includes corrected content.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Heavy trailers</b>	
8-3 Drawbar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Rfr 10 f) regarding inspection of bolt-in-towing eyes. It is vitally important that there be no re-tightening of this component should there be any movement detected as this can cause failure and result in the trailer separating from the towing vehicle.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical bulletins (general)</b>	
11 Electronic stability control identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic stability control dashboard acronyms added.</li> </ul>

# PREVIEW PAGES

## Introduction

### 7 Definitions and abbreviations

<b>KSDP</b>	means key service delivery partner. They are defined as organisations that are contracted or appointed by the Transport Agency to delivery regulatory products or services and who have sufficient market share and/or are of sufficient size and standing within an industry segment to be able to represent and influence the customer expectation of that industry segment.
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## General vehicles

### 7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages

Reasons for rejection	Tables and images	Summary of legislation																									
<p><b>Table 7-5-3. Vehicles first registered in New Zealand from 1 April 2002</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Vehicle class</th> <th rowspan="2">Seating position</th> <th colspan="3">Manufactured</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1/1/1955–31/10/1979</th> <th>1/11/1979–30/9/2003</th> <th>1/10/2003–</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">MA, MB, MC LE (without motorcycle controls)</td> <td>Front outer and driver's</td> <td>S<sup>1, 2</sup></td> <td>R2<sup>5, 6</sup></td> <td>R2<sup>5, 6</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Front middle</td> <td>–</td> <td>L</td> <td>L</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rear outer</td> <td>–</td> <td>R2 or R1 or S<sup>1</sup></td> <td>L<sup>8</sup> or R2 or R1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rear middle</td> <td>–</td> <td>L or S or R1 or R2</td> <td>L or S or R1 or R2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><sup>8</sup> For motorhomes only.</p>			Vehicle class	Seating position	Manufactured			1/1/1955–31/10/1979	1/11/1979–30/9/2003	1/10/2003–	MA, MB, MC LE (without motorcycle controls)	Front outer and driver's	S <sup>1, 2</sup>	R2 <sup>5, 6</sup>	R2 <sup>5, 6</sup>	Front middle	–	L	L	Rear outer	–	R2 or R1 or S <sup>1</sup>	L <sup>8</sup> or R2 or R1	Rear middle	–	L or S or R1 or R2	L or S or R1 or R2
Vehicle class	Seating position	Manufactured																									
		1/1/1955–31/10/1979	1/11/1979–30/9/2003	1/10/2003–																							
MA, MB, MC LE (without motorcycle controls)	Front outer and driver's	S <sup>1, 2</sup>	R2 <sup>5, 6</sup>	R2 <sup>5, 6</sup>																							
	Front middle	–	L	L																							
	Rear outer	–	R2 or R1 or S <sup>1</sup>	L <sup>8</sup> or R2 or R1																							
	Rear middle	–	L or S or R1 or R2	L or S or R1 or R2																							

**Table 7-5-4. Requirements for specific motor vehicles**

Specific vehicles	Mandatory equipment
Motorhomes ( <b>Note 11</b> )	<p>7. Motorhomes manufactured prior to 1 October 2003 or motor vehicles converted to motorhomes prior to 1 October 2003 must have seatbelts fitted that are appropriate for the class of vehicle in which the vehicle was registered when it was registered as a motorhome.</p> <p>8. Motorhomes manufactured from 1 October 2003 or motor vehicles converted to motorhomes from 1 October 2003 must be fitted with the following seatbelts and notice:</p> <p>a) front seating positions: seatbelts must be fitted as specified for class MB vehicles in <b>Table 7-5-3</b></p> <p>b) rear seating positions: <u>as many or more lap (type L) or lap-and-diagonal (type R1 or R2) seatbelts as there are sleeping berths minus the number of front seating positions.</u></p> <p>c) a notice must be displayed in a prominent location that recommends, on safety grounds, that when the vehicle is travelling, passengers use seats that are fitted with seatbelts, and that advises passengers that it is compulsory to wear fitted seatbelts.</p>

# Heavy vehicles

## 7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages

Reasons for rejection   Tables and images   Summary of legislation

3. A motorhome is not fitted with seatbelts as specified in Table 7-5-7.

Reasons for rejection   Tables and images   Summary of legislation

**Table 7-5-7. Seatbelt requirements for heavy vehicles first registered in New Zealand from 1 April 2002**

Vehicle class	Seating position	Manufactured <sup>3</sup>	
		before 1 October 2003	from 1 October 2003
NB, NC	Front outer and driver's	–	R2 <sup>2</sup>
	Front middle	–	L
	Rear outer <sup>1</sup>	–	–
	Rear middle <sup>1</sup>	–	–
Motorhome	Front outer and driver's	–	R2
	Front middle	–	L
	Rear outer <sup>1, 4</sup>	–	R1 or R2 or L
	Rear middle <sup>4</sup>	–	L or S or R1 or R2
	Rear sideways-facing <sup>1, 4</sup>	–	L

<sup>1</sup> A sideways-facing seating position in a vehicle first registered in New Zealand before 1 October 2002 may be fitted with a seatbelt of any type, and in a vehicle first registered from 1 October 2002 may be fitted with a seat belt that is a lapbelt only.

<sup>2</sup> Front type R1 seatbelts may remain fitted if they were fitted as OE and have a declaration issued by a certifier, or a plate affixed to the vehicle in a position approved by the Transport Agency.

<sup>3</sup> For a motorhome, manufactured means motor vehicles converted to motorhomes as well as manufactured as motorhomes.

<sup>4</sup> Rear seating positions: as many or more lap (type L) or lap-and-diagonal (type R1 or R2) seatbelts as there are sleeping berths minus the number of front seating positions.

Reasons for rejection   Tables and images   Summary of legislation

3. A motorhome manufactured on or after 1 October 2003 or a motor vehicle converted into a motorhome on or after 1 October 2003 must be fitted with seatbelts as specified in Table 7-5-7.

# Light PSVs

## 7-5 Seatbelts and seatbelt anchorages

Reasons for rejection

Tables and images

Summary of legislation

**Table 7-5-3. Vehicles first registered in New Zealand from 1 April 2002**

Vehicle class	Seating position	Manufactured		
		1/1/1955–31/10/1979	1/11/1979–30/9/2003	1/10/2003–
MA, MB, MC LE (without motorcycle controls)	Front outer and driver's	S <sup>1, 2</sup>	R2 <sup>5, 6</sup>	R2 <sup>5, 6</sup>
	Front middle	–	L	L
	Rear outer	–	R2 or R1 or S <sup>1</sup>	<u>L<sup>8</sup> or R2 or R1</u>
	Rear middle	–	L or S or R1 or R2	L or S or R1 or R2

<sup>8</sup> For motorhomes only.

**Table 7-5-4. Requirements for specific motor vehicles**

Specific vehicles	Mandatory equipment
Motorhomes (Note 11)	<p>7. Motorhomes manufactured prior to 1 October 2003 or motor vehicles converted to motorhomes prior to 1 October 2003 must have seatbelts fitted that are appropriate for the class of vehicle in which the vehicle was registered when it was registered as a motorhome.</p> <p>8. Motorhomes manufactured from 1 October 2003 or motor vehicles converted to motorhomes from 1 October 2003 must be fitted with the following seatbelts and notice:</p> <p>a) front seating positions: seatbelts must be fitted as specified for class MB vehicles in <a href="#">Table 7-5-3</a></p> <p>b) rear seating positions: <u>as many or more lap (type L) or lap-and-diagonal (type R1 or R2) seatbelts as there are sleeping berths minus the number of front seating positions.</u></p> <p>c) a notice must be displayed in a prominent location that recommends, on safety grounds, that when the vehicle is travelling, passengers use seats that are fitted with seatbelts, and that advises passengers that it is compulsory to wear fitted seatbelts.</p>

# Heavy trailers

## 8-3 Drawbar

Reasons for rejection	Tables and images	Summary of legislation
<p>10. The towing eye:</p> <p>a) is not protected from striking the ground, or</p> <p>b) is worn beyond (<b>Note 1</b>):</p> <p>i. 41.6mm for a 40mm towing eye, or</p> <p>ii. 51.5mm for a 50mm towing eye, or</p> <p>c) has been repaired, or</p> <p>d) is the demountable type and has been welded, or</p> <p>e) is the weld-in type and has been welded other than parallel to the shank (<b>Figure 8-3-1</b>) or as permitted by the towing eye manufacturer</p> <p>f) is a bolt-in towing eye and shows evidence:</p> <p>i. of looseness around the securing nut, split pin or washer, or</p> <p>ii. in the form of witness or fretting marks between the mounting boss and tow eye, or</p> <p>iii. that the retainer nut has been re-tightened, having been loose.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> it is vitally important that there be no re-tightening of this component should there be any movement detected as this can cause failure and result in the trailer separating from the towing vehicle.</p>		

## Technical bulletins (general)

### 11 Electronic stability control identification

- A tell-tale indicator on the vehicle's dashboard comprising one of the following acronyms:

Acronym	Meaning
ASC	Active stability control
DSC	Dynamic stability control
DSTC	Dynamic stability and traction control
ESC	Electronic stability control
ESP	Electronic stability program
MSP	Maserati stability program
PSM	Porsche stability management
VDC	Vehicle dynamic control
VDCS	Vehicle dynamics control systems
VSA	Vehicle stability assist
VSC	Vehicle stability control