

Inspection news

for vehicle inspectors and certifiers

Issue 17

December 2024

Kia ora

It's exciting to follow the roll out of the Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) system that is replacing WoF Online.

We've been getting some great feedback from those who are using VIC. All inspecting organisations have now received an email invitation to register to VIC, so I encourage you to sign up, so you can start to take advantage of this more user-friendly system, which also has some extra features.

Recently, we had another former vehicle inspector sentenced for dishonestly accessing the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR) and issuing fraudulent warrants of fitness (WoFs). We're taking swift action and holding vehicle inspectors to account when vehicle safety is compromised. You can read about this, and other news, below.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy end of year. Keep an eye out for more *Inspection news* in 2025.

Ngā mihi,

Nicole Botherway

Senior Manager Safer Vehicles

Regulatory

Former vehicle inspector sentenced for fraudulently issuing WoFs

Former vehicle inspector Diosdado Junior Subayno Pugosa was sentenced to 5 months home detention in the North Shore District Court on 30 October 2024 for dishonestly accessing the MVR and issuing fraudulent WoFs.

Following a tip off, an investigation by NZTA found that from 20 August 2022 to 24 July 2023 Mr Pugosa recorded and issued 94 WoFs for vehicles he had not properly inspected.

During sentencing, District Court Judge Fraser acknowledged the public safety concern and that it was clear that Mr Pugosa had not properly checked the vehicles before issuing WoFs. Judge Fraser said Mr Pugosa needed to be held accountable for the harm done to his employer and the WoF system on which the community depends.

As soon as the fraud was identified, Mr Pugosa's vehicle inspector appointment was suspended and then revoked (cancelled) by NZTA. WoFs issued by him were also revoked and affected vehicle owners were asked to get a new WoF to ensure their vehicles were safe to drive.

WoF quiz

- 1 If a VIN number is missing, what must you enter in place of the VIN number on the check sheet?
- 2 The tray of a ute first registered in NZ on or after 1 January 2021 doesn't require LVV Certification if:
 - the tray protrudes no more than how far from the widest part of the vehicle cab/body structure (excluding mirrors), or
 - the forwards edges of the tray are tapered rearwards at an angle of no less than how many degrees from the tray's front edge?
- 3 What is the maximum height of a vehicle?
- 4 Does a body lift on a body/chassis vehicle (commonly a 4x4) require LVV certification?
- 5 A headlamp lens must not have damage that allows _____ or _____ to enter it.

Answers are on the last page.

CoF regime extension for B-pillar cracks

The current CoF regime for B-pillar cracks extended until 1 February 2025 is still applicable.

Read the latest information online.

[B-pillar cracks update](#)

Please use new application forms

We'd like to remind you that people submitting inspecting organisation, vehicle inspector, or specialist certifier applications that require NZTA fit and proper checks now need to get their own criminal records from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and send it to us with their application.

We also updated our forms to reflect this.

We're still receiving old forms with no MOJ criminal record (the old forms don't provide this prompt). We're having to return old forms to the applicant unactioned.

For a quick response to your application, please use the new form, and when required, add an MOJ criminal record that's less than 30 days old.

[Fit and proper person disclosure and consent for inspecting organisations and specialist certifiers \(FP01\)](#)

[How to get a criminal record check](#)

Off to a great start with Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC)

As we're rolling out the replacement for WoF Online, Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC), we've sent out email registration invites to all inspecting organisation administrators to start using the new system.

Please make sure to follow the steps in our training guides and videos to log in and navigate.

[VIC training](#)

We've also been getting some great feedback from users on navigating VIC.

'More user friendly, nice and big to view.'

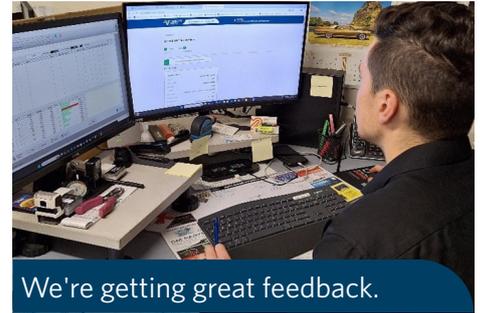
'So good to be able to bring up the vehicle before starting to work on it.'

'I am getting really good feedback all the time about this from those I reach on my list who are trialling. Haven't heard one bad thing.'

We'll only shut down WoF Online once we're confident everyone has access to VIC and is using the new system, which is expected to happen early next year.

Don't forget to bookmark our VIC page in the Vehicle Inspection Portal and check often for more updates as we continue to roll out VIC.

[New VIC system](#)



Updated standard for heavy vehicle towing connections

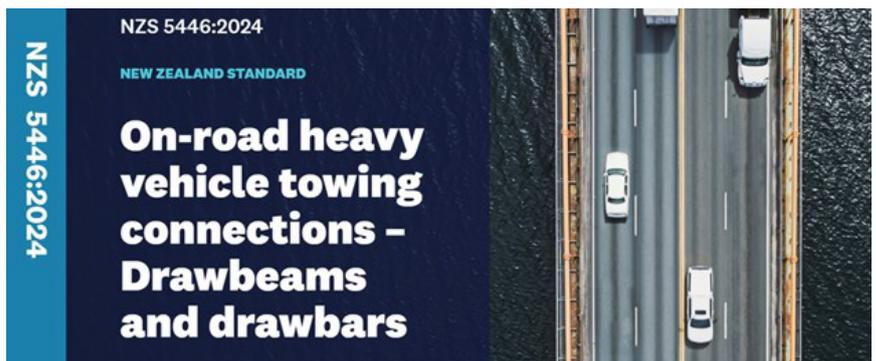
The NZS 5446:2024 On-road Heavy Vehicle Towing Connections - Drawbeams and Drawbars standards revision has recently been published on the Standards NZ website.

Heavy Vehicle Specialist Certifiers (HVSCs) must now use this new standard.

[On-road Heavy Vehicle Towing Connections - Drawbeams and Drawbars](#)

The standard establishes design, manufacture, installation, testing, maintenance, repair, and certification criteria necessary for a secure connection to be maintained between towing vehicles and drawbar trailers on sealed and unsealed roads.

The standard is used as a method of compliance by approximately 150 HVSCs. It's also used by truck and trailer manufacturers and coupling suppliers.



Printing

Ordering labels and forms over Christmas and New Year's

BlueStar will close at 12pm on Friday 13 December 2024 and will reopen for orders on Friday 3 January 2025.

If you place an order after 12pm on 13 December 2024, it'll be dispatched from 3 January 2025.

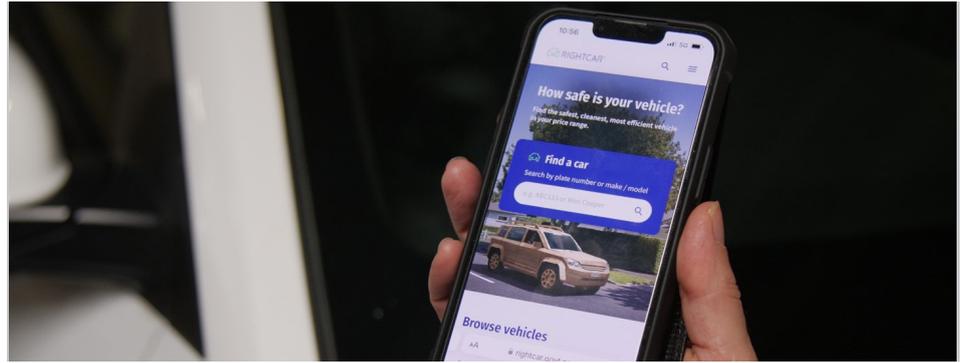
If you need an emergency order after 17 December, call 0800 504 704 between 8.30am and 5pm (excluding statutory holidays).

Make sure you order now to cover the holiday period. Due to high demand before Christmas, your order could take a couple of days longer to arrive.



Safety

Vehicle safety ratings updated on Rightcar



Look out for updated vehicle safety ratings on Rightcar - including a crash avoidance features rating added this year to help Kiwis find safer vehicles.

[rightcar.co.nz](https://www.rightcar.co.nz)

Safety ratings provide the best indication of how well vehicles protect people on our roads. The updated (2024) used car safety ratings apply to most cars, SUVs, utes and other light vehicles in New Zealand.

The extra crash avoidance features rating (which contributes to the overall safety rating) is calculated based on the reduced risk of crashing due to a vehicle's crash avoidance features such as automatic emergency braking and lane keep assist.

As inspectors, your work is critical in ensuring vehicles are safe to drive. You can also play a role in informing people about safety ratings, crash avoidance features and the Rightcar website.

Remember, vehicles are rated under different systems and safety ratings change over time. The updated 2024 ratings apply to used vehicles (including used imports regardless of age) - approximately 88% of light vehicles. The balance have ANCAP ratings.

Email safevehicles@nzta.govt.nz if you have any questions.

Regulatory

Quality Management System (QMS) updates for VIC

The roll out of Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) also involves a change to QMS master records and how you manage your inspection staff from now on. The QMS Staff Record has been updated to reflect the additional VIC requirement of adding and removing vehicle inspector access to your system.

As well as notifying us of any inspection staff that have left or joined your organisation with the Notification of Vehicle Inspector Transfer form, there'll be an additional VIC requirement to add or remove them from the list of staff accessing your system to enter inspections.

The last column of the *QMS Staff record* has been updated with the wording 'Date left and NZTA access removed' to reflect this new requirement. Now's a great time to print off the updated record and complete it for all the inspection staff you employ so you don't forget once you start using VIC.

Name	Date joined	Induction date	Authority of classes	Driver licence for classes	Sample signature	Initials	Date left and NZTA access removed

Once you're using VIC, and if you delegate administrative tasks to staff, you'll also need to update your *Delegation record* to show who the administrator is that's doing the addition or removal of inspection staff.

Guidance on using assistants during vehicle inspections

Our investigations have identified inspecting organisations allowing unauthorised people to conduct part or full WoF and CoF vehicle inspections.

We would like to remind inspecting organisations and vehicles inspectors of their duties and responsibilities and clarify what activities a person may carry out during an inspection on a vehicle they're unauthorised to inspect. This includes people training to become a vehicle inspector.

Duties and responsibilities

Only vehicle inspectors and inspecting organisations may carry out inspection and certification activities they were appointed for.

Vehicle inspectors and inspecting organisations are not permitted to delegate any function or power to carry out inspection and certification activities for which they were appointed, except under conditions specified by NZTA in writing.

This is outlined in section 2 of Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002 and the Introduction section of the *Vehicle inspection requirements manual* (VIRM).

NZTA has and will continue to take action - including issuing infringements - when inspecting organisations and/or vehicle inspectors breach these duties and responsibilities.

Using assistants

A vehicle inspector may require help from an assistant to inspect vehicle components or systems. Here's guidance on what assistants may and may not do.

An assistant may:

- drive or manoeuvre the vehicle to allow the inspector to conduct the inspection.
- operate certain vehicle controls under the direction of the vehicle inspector, for example:
 - operating the lights,
 - applying the brakes to inspect brake hoses under pressure, and
 - shaking the steering wheel during a laden steering inspection.

An assistant may not:

- carry out any part of a vehicle inspection that requires an inspection decision. This includes, but isn't limited to, using a suspension inspection bar to bar the wheels, and operating the brakes during a brake performance inspection.

Training vehicle inspectors

A trainee vehicle inspector may practice on a live inspection, provided that:

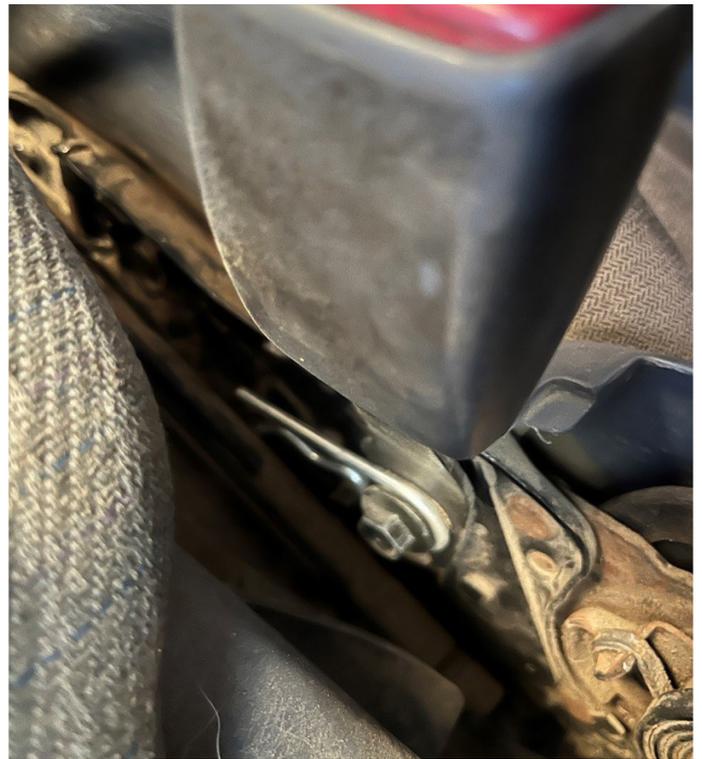
- the authorised vehicle inspector is right next to, and directly observing the trainee conduct each part of the inspection, and
- the vehicle inspector fully re-inspects each vehicle component or system the trainee inspects, and
- the vehicle inspector completes the check sheet for the vehicle being inspected (the trainee may practice on a check sheet copy that is clearly marked as being for training purposes only), and
- the training is clearly documented on a training record and filed in the inspecting organisation's Quality Management System (QMS) folder.

What the...!

If you come across anything a bit dodgy, send in some pictures with your thoughts and tell us how you dealt with it. Just email inspectionnews@nzta.govt.nz with 'Inspection news' in the subject line.



Bilstein may have been his first choice, but Bob found another quality German product for a much cheaper price.



Finally, John understood what the R stood for, in Ar4m.

WoF quiz answers

1. Not found

2. 100mm, 30°

3. 4.3 metres

4. Yes

5. Water, dirt

1-1 VIN and chassis number, RFR 2, Note 3

2-1 External projections, RFR 6, Table 2-1-1. Modifications that do not require specialist certification, Ute trays

2-2 Dimensions, RFR1, Table 2-2-1

3-1 Structure (incl. frontal impact), RFR 3, Note 7

4-1 Headlamps. RFR 10

For general enquiries or contact information about NZTA please visit www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

We welcome your feedback. Please send comments to inspectionnews@nzta.govt.nz

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