

### Kia ora

I'm pleased that all inspecting organisations who were on WoF Online are now using the new Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) system. WoF Online served us well, but it was time to retire it and replace it with a modern system. The feedback we're getting is encouraging, especially with the new features being mentioned as great additions. We already have over 1 million inspection results recorded in VIC.

We're also working on a next set of videos to add to the WoF and CoF guides series, which we'll share with you in the next few months.

In this edition, you'll read about important industry updates and our latest successful prosecutions. Auditing, investigating, and prosecuting fraudulent activity when appropriate is a priority for NZTA.

If you'd like us to cover a topic you'd like more information on, please let your NZTA contacts know.

Ngā mihi,

Nicole Botherway, Senior Manager Safer Vehicles

### Regulatory

## NZTA welcomes sentencings for unauthorised vehicle inspections

On 27 March, vehicle inspector Juan Carlos Acarapi Scoria and mechanic Gideon Tali from Automotive New Lynn were sentenced to 5 months' community detention and 60 hours' community work respectively for accessing a computer system (WoF Online) for dishonest purposes.

Acting on a tip off, NZTA found that from 7 June to 8 July 2022 Mr Tali was carrying out WoF inspections without authority. Mr Tali was following the instructions of his employer Mr Scoria and was using Mr Scoria's vehicle inspector authority to issue WoFs.

The investigation established that 121 WoF inspections were registered and 86 WoF labels were issued to vehicles without a proper WoF safety inspection by an authorised vehicle inspector.

To arrive at the sentence, Waitakere District Court Judge Singh acknowledged the seriousness and period of the offending, that the vehicles may have been unsafe, the issue of integrity and premeditation.

'We welcome the sentencing of these individuals, and hope it serves as a deterrent to others. We don't tolerate misconduct by appointed vehicle inspectors and inspecting organisations and we will take action whenever our investigations find unlawful behaviour. The actions of these individuals put road users at risk,' says NZTA Senior Manager Safer Vehicles Nicole Botherway. 'These vehicles had not been checked by an inspector authorised by NZTA to ensure they had the necessary technical skills to understand and meet safety standards.'

NZTA cancelled all WoFs issued under Mr Acarapi's name during that period and informed vehicle owners that they needed to get new ones.

## WoF quiz

- 1 The maximum width for a light trailer is \_\_\_\_\_ metres.
- 2 A WoF cannot be issued to a Trailpro TP5 trailer, unless it's been repaired using the approved repair process and has a drawbar that's not \_\_\_\_\_ to the trailer, and it contains an \_\_\_\_ in the serial number on the identification plate located on the drawbar.
- 3 A light trailer must be fitted with one pair of forward-facing position lamps if it is more than \_\_\_\_\_ wide.
- 4 A light trailer with a laden weight between 2001kgs and 2500kgs must be fitted with either a direct or indirect \_\_\_\_\_ and a breakaway brake, unless fitted with an appropriate coupling and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 A light trailer with a laden weight less than 2000kgs must have a safety chain that can withstand a force of about \_\_\_\_\_ the likely \_\_\_\_\_ of the trailer.

*Answers are on the last page.*

# VIRMs survey coming soon

## Regulatory

Within the next few weeks, we'll send you a survey about the Vehicle Inspection Requirements Manuals (VIRMs).

It's been a while since we last captured your feedback on the VIRMs and we'd like to understand your current experience with the manuals, how you use these, what you most and least like about them.

Your feedback will help us shape our future approach to VIRMs updates.

## WoF

# Out with WoF Online, in with VIC

After the successful roll out of the new Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) system to over 3200 inspecting organisations, NZTA has shut down WoF Online.

## Reminders

Please remember that each site has an administrator who's responsible for controlling who has access to VIC. They'll invite new users when needed or remove users when they leave. Each user should have their own RealMe login (it doesn't need to be a verified RealMe account) which is easy to set up when you start the registration process.

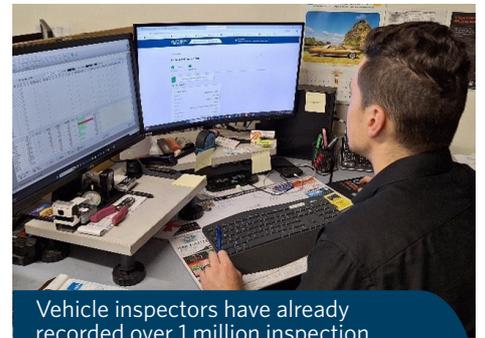
## Training

The training page has all information you need to log in, search and view vehicle information, record a pass, fail, a pass (recheck) or a PDI and on how administrators can set up and manage users.

More information about VIC is available on the Vehicle Inspection Portal.

## New VIC system

If you have any questions or issues, please call 0800 804 580 and select option 4.



Vehicle inspectors have already recorded over 1 million inspection results in the new system.

## Regulatory

# Correction - guidance on using assistants during inspections

In the December 2024 edition of *Inspection news*, there's a mistake in the article 'Using assistants during vehicle inspections', under 'Using assistants' where we describe what an assistant may not do.

### 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.~~

The information in the last sentence about 'operating the brakes during a brake performance inspection' is inconsistent with the Heavy Brake Protocol and should be disregarded, so this section should read:

#### 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.

We apologise for this.

## Regulatory

### **Notify us when a vehicle inspector joins or leaves**

When a vehicle inspector joins or leaves an inspecting organisation, please remember that the inspecting organisation must notify NZTA using the *Notification of vehicle inspector transfer* form.

#### **[Notification of vehicle inspector transfer](#)**

## Regulatory

### **Keep your contact details up to date**

If any of your contact details change, including postal addresses, please make sure you let us know. We're getting a lot of returned mail.

## Admin

### **Please use the correct email**

We've been noticing that applications for inspecting organisations and vehicle inspectors are often going to the wrong email address. If you do not send your form to the correct address it will end up with the wrong team, resulting in delayed processing.

Please double check that you're sending to the email address on the form (usually on the last page of IO and VI forms).

Applications should be sent to **[vehicleinspections@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:vehicleinspections@nzta.govt.nz)**

To correct a WoF, PDI or for VIC Support send to

**[inspections@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:inspections@nzta.govt.nz)**

## Regulatory

### **VIRM amendments to inspection equipment requirements**

We've updated some inspection equipment requirements for certain inspection groups in the VIRM.

#### **Motorcycles (Class LC, LD, and LE)**

- All inspecting organisations approved for motorcycle inspections must now have an approved (safety standard rated) motorcycle helmet.
- It's recommended to have helmets in various sizes to fit all vehicle inspectors you employ inspecting these classes (including part-time inspectors).

#### **Forklifts and tractors**

- In some circumstances, beam setters are impractical for some forklift and tractor headlamp fittings. As a result, lightboards have been approved for testing headlamps on these vehicles.

#### **[Keep up to date with the latest VIRM amendments](#)**

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## Regulatory

### **Duplicate WoF and CoF label register now required**

To ensure NZTA has information on all duplicate WoF and CoF labels issued, all inspecting organisations are now required to hold a duplicate WoF and CoF label register, capturing the reasons for issuing these labels. An example of a Duplicate label register file is available in the Portal under QMS In service certification.

#### **[QMS In service certification](#)**

You can read more online.

#### **[Duplicate Wof and CoF label register required from 1 April](#)**

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## Repair

### **Repair certification - Unable to enter notes form now online**

The *Repair Certification - unable to enter notes* form is now available as an online form. This replaces the old form repair certifiers had to complete and attach to an email, making it simpler and quicker to send us this information.

#### **[nzta.govt.nz/repair-notes](https://nzta.govt.nz/repair-notes)**

We've updated the link to this form in the repair VIRM.

#### **[3-1 Duties and responsibilities](#)**

We're no longer accepting forms sent by email.

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## Regulatory

### **Changes in the NZTA team**

Kim Reymer ten Hove, NZTA Manager Safer Vehicles Central North Island, is temporarily seconded to the safety cameras team at NZTA until the end of June. During this period, Manager Heavy Vehicle Certification Ivan Torstonsen is stepping in to cover for Kim.

## Safety alert on risk of vehicle separation

In February 2025, we issued a safety alert following an incident where a logging truck's trailer separated from the truck and continued along the road, crashing, and spilling its load across the road.

The safety alert provides critical advice to all heavy vehicle operators, heavy vehicle specialist certifiers and heavy vehicle service providers about the safe installation and operation of automatic de-coupling devices.

Any affected vehicles must be removed from service until key actions described in the safety alert are completed.

[Safety alert: Risk of vehicle separation – air operated auto coupling devices \[PDF, 295 KB\]](#)

The key points of the alert are:

- Air operated automatic tow coupling devices must either be installed:
  - according to the manufacturer's instructions including all safeguards, or
  - with a safety mechanism that ensures that unintentional trailer disconnection is not possible while the vehicle is moving.
- Where the air supply to operate an automatic tow coupling device is drawn from the brake system supply, protection of the brake system supply must be fitted and be certified by a heavy vehicle specialist brake certifier (HVEK category).
- Signage, instructions, and training should be provided to alert the operator of the device and ensure its correct operation.

## Safety

### Supporting Road Safety Week 2025



The theme for this year's Road Safety Week, running from 12 to 18 May, is 'Be a road safety hero'. This recognises everyone helping make our roads safer - from people designing and building safer roads or inspecting vehicles to kids on school road patrols - and highlights the part we can all play through our work and by being safe road users too. It's easy to get involved and you can also nominate someone making an outstanding contribution to road safety to the Road Safety Hero Award.

[How to get involved](#)

[Nominate a road safety hero](#)

## Vintage car and motorhome WoF and CoF consultation



The Minister of Transport is considering reducing the frequency of WoF checks on vintage and veteran vehicles and CoF checks on privately owned heavy motorhomes from every 6 months to every 12 months. These changes would require an amendment to the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002.

We consulted the public on the proposed changes for 6 weeks and feedback closed on 4 April 2025. We're reviewing submissions with a decision from the Minister likely from approximately mid-2025.

We thank everyone who shared their feedback and look forward to sharing further updates with you later this year.

You can find more information about NZTA consultations at:

[nzta.govt.nz/consultations](https://nzta.govt.nz/consultations)



Drugs are present in nearly a third of all fatal crashes on New Zealand roads. NZTA's latest advertising campaign is helping to raise awareness that drug driving is causing harm and wants to discourage people from driving after taking drugs.

**Don't let the drugs drive (30" video)**

## 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](mailto:inspectionnews@nzta.govt.nz) with 'Inspection news' in the subject line.



Might need my DTI to confirm the play in this one.



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

### WoF quiz answers

1. 2.55

2. Bolted, 'R'

3. 2 metres

4. Service brake, 2 safety chains

5. Twice, maximum laden weight

[2.2 Dimensions, RFR 2, table 2-2-1](#)

[3-1 Structure, RFR 6, Tables and Images Figure 3-1-5, 3-1-6 and 3-1-7](#)

[4-6 Forward-facing position lamps, RFR 1](#)

[5-1 Service brake, parking brake and breakaway brake, RFR2, table 5-1-1](#)

[8-1 Light trailer drawbar and kingpin. RFR 5e](#)

For general enquiries or contact information about NZTA please visit [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz) or email us at [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz)

We welcome your feedback. Please send comments to [inspectionnews@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:inspectionnews@nzta.govt.nz)

Copyright: April 2025  
 NZ Transport Agency  
 Waka Kotahi  
 NZBN: 9429041910085  
 ISSN: 2624-3091