

Inspection news

for vehicle inspectors and certifiers

Issue 20

December 2025

What you'll find in this edition

WoF quiz	1
New light entry vehicle inspections update	1
Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) reminders	2
Online WoF vehicle inspector application form	2
Don't delete LT400 records from LANDATA/LATIS	2
Reminder: Cardan shaft park brakes	2
Be vigilant when inspecting draw beam couplings with dropping pins	3
Inspecting organisation reappointment process – look out for reminder emails	3
Supporting Police to target unsafe vehicles and drivers	4
Check for updated vehicle safety ratings	4
Auckland man sentenced for WoF fraud	5
Consultation on considering changes to light vehicle inspections closing soon	5
28 day WoF rule	6
WoF quiz answers	6
What the...	6

WoF

New light entry vehicle inspections update



As part of broader changes being implemented in the new light entry (NLE) space, NZTA is formalising its practice to align with the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002.

Effective from 16 December 2025 all vehicle inspectors currently holding Group 1 (motorcycles) and/or Group 2 (light vehicles) appointments will be formally appointed by NZTA to carry out the first WoF inspection for new light entry vehicles and motorcycles within their respective groups. This does not change the vehicle inspection process for vehicle inspectors carrying out WoF inspections on new vehicles. Vehicle inspections remain the same as does the current vehicle inspector review process and the VI title, Landata, and the Certificate of Appointment will not change.

Appointed WoF vehicle inspectors can continue to conduct first WoF inspections on new light entry vehicles and motorcycles, provided they hold the appropriate WoF group.

This appointment does not apply to inspections of used light entry vehicles.

WoF quiz

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 What are 3 things must brake friction material (linings) not be contaminated by? | 2 When checking the condition of suspension air bag bellows, do the bellows need to be inflated, and at what ride height should the vehicle be? | 3 The tread of a tyre on a class MC vehicle may protrude a maximum of 25mm outside of the unmodified original body panels, provided what covers the full width of the tyre tread? | 4 The noise limit for a class MA vehicle first registered in NZ on or after 1 June 2008 and manufactured after 1 January 1985 is how many decibels? | 5 What are three reasons to reject a high voltage battery on hybrid and electric vehicles? |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Answers are on the last page.

Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) reminders

Use your own login

A reminder to only use your own login when accessing VIC.

If you don't have a login, and need one, ask your VIC administrator to invite you as a user, so you can set up a login.

Alternatively, if you have a person assigned a VIC data entry role, ask them to enter the information for you (they will need to enter it against your inspector ID).

This helps protect the integrity of the inspection system.

Issuing a WoF inspection offline

If VIC is not available, use the checksheet number as the authorisation number and tick the 'Off line' box.

The inspection must be entered into the system within 7 days.

[Introduction 3-7 Recording the inspection outcome \('determination'\)](#)

Don't delete LT400 records from LANDATA/LATIS

We're still finding that some LT400 certification records are being deleted by vehicle inspectors from the IVCERT screen in LANDATA/LATIS.

Please don't delete expired or superseded LT400 certification records from LANDATA/LATIS. LT400 certification records must remain in LANDATA/LATIS indefinitely.

Heavy vehicle specialist certifiers (HVSCs) use these historical records to help with recertification.

Reminder: Cardan shaft park brakes

When testing a heavy vehicle's Cardan shaft park brake (CSPB) during a CoF inspection, remember the certified inspector must apply the brake - not the vehicle's driver. Also, you need to make sure the brake lever is applied with the lock held in the off position and the appropriate brake force is obtained from the RBM.

Refer to the testing protocol and watch the video to show how to do the test correctly.

[NZ heavy vehicle brake test protocol](#)
[Testing CSPB with a roller brake machine](#)

Also, please remember, any vehicle with a CSPB must have a warning label displayed in the cab to pass their CoF, so please provide a label if needed. If you do not have any CSPB warning labels in stock you can order them for free via our supplier Bluestar. (Product code: TA5116)

[Bluestar publications portal](#)

Online WoF vehicle inspector application form

The warrant of fitness vehicle inspector application is now available as an online form.

Benefits

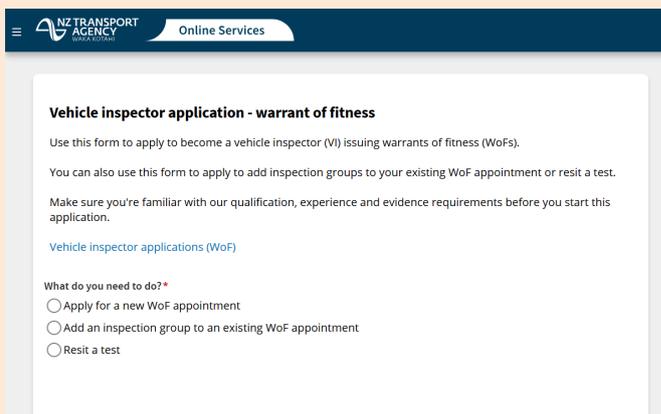
The new online form makes the application process easier. It allows applicants to submit the application directly, without needing to attach it to an email.

Instructions are all in the form, mandatory fields are clearly indicated, and you'll receive a confirmation immediately after submitting.

After starting the online form application, you have approximately 2 hours to complete it before it times out. This includes attaching all required documents.

To help with the application, all requirements are displayed upfront, at the start of the application process.

[Vehicle inspector applications](#)



Be vigilant when inspecting draw beam couplings with dropping pins

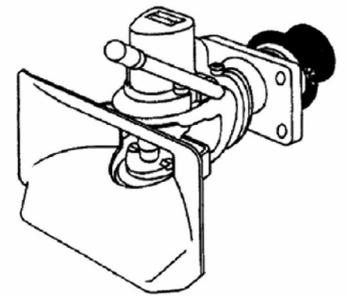
NZTA is aware of recent events where drawbar trailers have failed to couple correctly and have disconnected or caused damage to the coupling.

Please be vigilant when inspecting draw beam couplings with dropping pins. You need to ensure that:

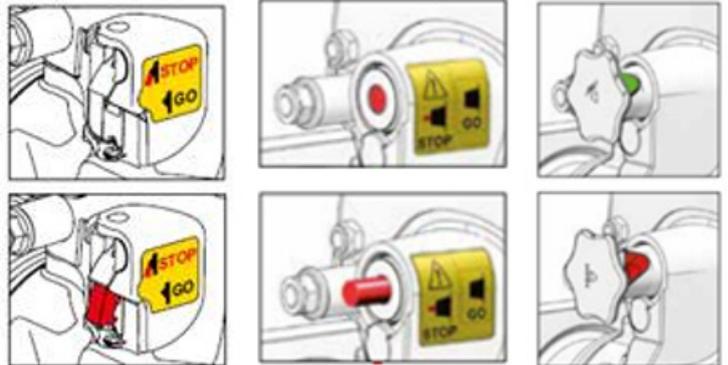
- The locking indicator correctly indicates the coupling's pin position, open or locked
- The release handle is not obstructed or hitting other components and drops freely into the locked pin position
- The coupling is reasonably clean and the lower bush which receives the dropping pin is not contaminated (full of debris).

The dropping pin must be able to drop to the fully locked position and lock without being held up by obstruction or contamination.

The coupling device must be safe and effective and ensure that a secure connection can be maintained between the towing and towed vehicles under all conditions. Towing connections must not be modified from their last certified state.



Pin type coupling



Regulatory

Inspecting organisation reappointment process – look out for reminder emails

From early 2026, some NZTA-approved inspecting organisations (IOs) will start reaching the end of their 5-year appointment.

From early January 2026, we'll start sending reminder emails out.

This is a reappointment process and those organisations with expiring appointments will be required to send us the following documents for all Directors and the key contact person at each site (even if you provided this documentation before):

- a *Reappointment application* (IORPT) form
- a *Fit and proper person disclosure and consent* (FP01) form
- a current Ministry of Justice (MOJ) criminal conviction history check (must be issued within 30 days of the date you submit your application).

We encourage those who receive the reminder email to begin the re-appointment process as soon as possible to ensure you have enough time to complete the process before your current appointment ends.

If the required documents and applications are not submitted, your organisation's current appointment will expire. If that happens, you will no longer be authorised to operate as an NZTA-approved IO site, and all inspection activities must end until a new appointment is granted.

More information

All information about the reappointment process is available on the Vehicle Inspection Portal:

[Reappointment process for inspecting organisation](#)

If you have any questions or need assistance with the process, contact us on vehicleinspections@nzta.govt.nz

Supporting Police to target unsafe vehicles and drivers



Over the past 18 months, NZTA has been working with NZ Police on operations targeting unsafe vehicles to ensure the safety of all road users.

A recent example includes our support to an operation in Auckland, helping ensure dozens of unsafe vehicles were removed from the roads.

The 2-night operation targeted a large boy-racer event dubbed 'The Auckland Invasion' and involved around 220 Police, including aerial support from the Eagle helicopter, explains Scott Thacker, Team Manager Safer Vehicles Upper North Island.

'Police relied on our team's expertise to quickly identify which of the 100s of vehicles involved were not roadworthy,' he says.

The operation resulted in:

- 8 vehicles being impounded

- 39 vehicles being written off for defects
- 25 vehicles being ordered off the road (referred to as 'pink stickered')
- 58 vehicles being 'green stickered' because of faults which needed to be repaired
- 83 vehicles being sent for inspection.

In addition, over 2,000 drivers were breath-tested, resulting in 34 excess breath alcohol detections, 93 infringements being issued, 2 arrests and 5 driver licence suspensions.

Illegal street racing and associated behaviour pose serious safety risks, says Scott. Gatherings organised through social media often involve large convoys, modified vehicles which are not safe to drive and dangerous driving.

Check for updated vehicle safety ratings



Updated vehicle safety ratings are now live on [rightcar.co.nz](https://www.rightcar.co.nz)

Safety ratings provide the best indication of how well vehicles protect people on our roads. People are twice as safe in a 5-star safety rated vehicle than in a 1-star vehicle.

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 and the Rightcar website.

Safety ratings change over time, so make sure you check it out.

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

Auckland man sentenced for WoF fraud

On 19 November 2025, Kieu Uon, owner of Mr Q's Autos, was sentenced in the Waitakere District Court to 3 months community detention for issuing fraudulent warrants of fitness (WoF).

In late 2022, during an operation targeting Mr Q's Autos, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) investigators discovered vehicle inspector Mr Uon was conducting WoFs without proper processes and found numerous significant inspection errors.

'The way Mr Uon was conducting inspections was a clear breach of the responsibilities of an NZTA-appointed vehicle inspector. His actions put New Zealanders driving and using our roads in danger as WoFs ensure vehicles are safe to drive,' says Tara Macmillan, NZTA Acting Head of Vehicle Regulation.

At the time, NZTA immediately suspended Mr Uon's vehicle inspector appointment, and Mr Q's Autos, from issuing WoFs.

Over 2,500 WoFs issued by Mr Q's were made invalid (revoked) and all affected vehicle owners were asked to get new WoFs to ensure their vehicles were roadworthy.

'We hope this discourages others from taking similar actions. Mr Uon is being held accountable for the harm done to the community, ensuring we protect the integrity of the inspection system, where the majority of inspectors are conducting WoFs to a high standard', says Ms Macmillan.

From a starting point of 12 months' imprisonment, to arrive at the sentencing District Court Judge R Guthrie considered his guilty plea, no previous convictions and remorse.

Report suspected fraud

You can report suspected fraud by emailing whistleblower@nzta.govt.nz

More information is available on our website:

[Report suspected fraud or wrongdoing](#)

Consultation on considering changes to light vehicle inspections closing soon

We're consulting on making changes to light vehicle inspections - warrants of fitness (WoFs) and certificates of fitness (CoF A).

If you haven't yet provided your feedback, there's still time.

New Zealand checks vehicles more often than most countries, but this doesn't always lead to better safety outcomes.

The changes proposed aim to reduce unnecessary costs for low-risk vehicles, while still maintaining safety standards for higher-risk vehicles.

We're seeking feedback on proposed changes to:

- **Inspection frequency:** vehicles less likely to be involved in crashes where mechanical faults are a contributing factor would need fewer inspections overall.
 - **New vehicles:** first WoF issued for 4 years.
 - **Vehicles 4-10 years old:** WoF required every 2 years.

- **Vehicles over 10 years old:** WoF required every year.
- **Light rental vehicles under 5 years old:** CoF A required every year.
- **Inspection scope:** WoF and CoF A inspections would require checks of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) features. Inspectors would check fault lights for important ADAS safety features - like Automatic Emergency Braking and Lane Keep Assist - are not showing.
- **Enforcement and public awareness:** the possibility of higher fines or demerit points for not having a valid WoF/CoF A and other offences, like having bald or damaged tyres. Public education would help people understand how to maintain their vehicles between inspections.

Have your say

Go to our consultation hub to read the discussion document about the proposed changes and fill out the online form. The last day for providing feedback is **17 December 2025**.

[Visit our consultation hub](#)

All feedback will be considered before the Associate Minister of Transport makes a decision.

If you have a question about this consultation, please send it to: rules@nzta.govt.nz

28 day WoF rule

We've been receiving some queries about when the 28 WoF recheck period starts and ends. For clarity, if a vehicle fails a WoF inspection a recheck can be done and no extra fee charged, if;

- the defects are repaired, and
- the vehicle is presented back to the original inspection site, and
- no more than 28 days after the inspection date have passed.

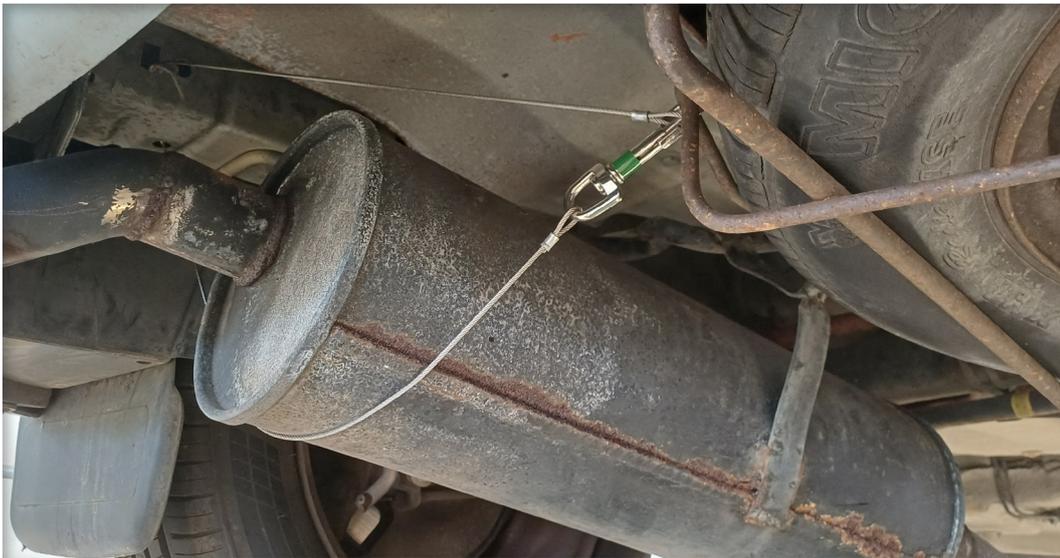
For example, if a vehicle fails a WoF on 1 January, the recheck period starts on 2 January and ends on 29 January. On 30 January a new inspection and fee are required.

Note: This does not apply to a CoF inspection.



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.



Kiwi ingenuity isn't always the best option.

WoF quiz answers

1. Brake fluid, oil, grease
[8-1 Service brake and parking brake, RFR 23c](#)
2. Yes, they need to be inflated.
Standard/normal ride height
[9-1 Steering and suspension systems, RFR 9](#)
3. Flare or wheel arch extension
[10-1 Tyres and wheels, RFR 25, Table 10-1-1](#)
4. 87dBA
[11-1 Exhaust system, RFR 7, Table 11-1-1](#)
5. Insecure/not adequately secured, damaged/deteriorated, leaking or showing signs of leaking
[13-5 Electric and hybrid vehicle fuel and electrical system, RFR 2](#)

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

© December 2025
NZ Transport Agency
Waka Kotahi
NZBN: 9429041910085
ISSN: 2624-3091