

Inspection news

for vehicle inspectors and certifiers

Issue 22

August 2026

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WoF

Changes to light vehicle inspections coming from 1 November



The Government has announced changes to light vehicle inspections, which will start to come into effect from 1 November 2026.

These changes aim to cut down on unnecessary costs while keeping people safe on the road. They affect inspections for cars, vans, people-movers, trailers and rental vehicles. There are also changes for motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000.

This announcement follows public consultation on proposed changes to light vehicle inspections, which ran from 29 October to 17 December 2025.

We received over 5,000 submissions, with overall support indicated for the proposals.

More details are coming

This is just an overview. We'll soon provide more detailed information to support you, including:

- updates to the *Vehicle inspection requirements manual* (VIRM)
- more information about Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)
- system updates to reflect the changes.

What's changing

Inspection frequency

There will be fewer inspections for light vehicles at lower risk of crashes.

Note: light vehicles between 4 and 14 years old are changing in phases, so some won't be eligible for the new warrant of fitness (WoF) frequency until 1 November 2027.

See the next page for a table showing the changes.

Inspection scope

From 1 November 2026, WoF and CoF A inspections will check that no warning or malfunction indicators are showing for any advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) that fully or partially assist with steering or movement of the vehicle.

Enforcement and public awareness

- The infringement fee for operating a vehicle with a WoF expired by more than two months will increase from \$200 to \$350.
- Penalties for non compliant wheels and tyres will increase from \$150 to \$350 (infringement fee) and up to \$1000 (maximum court ordered fine).
- Public education will be developed to help people understand how to maintain their vehicles between inspections.

More information

You can read more about the consultation on our website:

[Changes to light vehicle inspections](#)

Summary of changes

Vehicle type and age	Current frequency	New frequency	Takes effect
New light vehicles	Second WoF at 3 years	Second WoF at 4 years	From 1 November 2026
Light vehicles 4 to 14 years old	Annual WoF	WoF every 2 years	Registered on or after 1 November 2019: WoF every 2 years from 1 November 2026 Registered between 1 November 2013 and 31 October 2019: WoF every 2 years from 1 November 2027
Light vehicles 14 to 26 years old	Annual WoF	Annual WoF (no change)	No change
Light vehicles over 26 years old, (registered before 1 January 2000) and less than 40 years old	WoF every 6 months	Annual WoF	From 1 November 2026
Light rental vehicles	CoF every 6 months	Annual CoF	From 1 November 2026
Motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000	WoF every 6 months	Annual WoF	From 1 November 2026
Motorcycles registered on or after 1 January 2000	Annual WoF	Annual WoF (no change)	No change

WoF quiz

- 1 The VIN number on the vehicle you are inspecting has evidence of tampering. What must you do?
- 2 The vehicle you are inspecting has A-frame brackets welded to the chassis that are recessed 30mm behind the forward surface of the front bumper. Is LVV certification required?
- 3 Corrosion damage must not be less than *how much* from a body mount, or individually larger than *how much* in diameter on a vehicle with a separate chassis?
- 4 A number plate light on an MA Class vehicle must be visible from what distance during the hours of darkness?
- 5 A forward-facing reflector must reflect white light as either *what* or *what*?

Answers are on the last page.

CoF

New cardan shaft park brake warning label



We've updated our guidance for vehicle owners around cardan shaft park brakes (CSPBs), including releasing a new CSPB warning label (sticker).

Please order the new label – it's available free from our supplier Bluestar (Product code: TA5116). You can also order copies of the updated safety alert too (Product code: TA5115).

[NZTA agent Bluestar portal](#)

While the old label is still acceptable for passing a CoF, we recommend it's replaced with the new version when possible. It

includes a QR code so drivers can easily access a new video on how to safely use a CSPB and other safety information on our website.

[Cardan shaft park brakes](#)

Reminder: The certified inspector must apply the brake when testing a vehicle's CSPB during a CoF inspection – not the vehicle's driver. Also, make sure the brake lever is applied with the lock held in the off position and the appropriate brake force obtained from the roller brake machine (RBM).

If you need a refresher:

[New Zealand heavy vehicle brake test protocol](#)

[Testing CSPB with a roller brake machine](#) (video)

Reminders

Use online application forms: save time and avoid delays

If you're applying to become a WoF or CoF vehicle inspector, we encourage you to use the online application form. You can also use this form to apply to add inspection groups to your existing appointment or resit a test.

[Vehicle inspector application form \(WoF and CoF\)](#)

The online form makes applying easier by guiding you through the process, clearly identifying mandatory fields, allowing you to submit your application directly, and providing immediate confirmation that it has been received. It also helps reduce delays caused by incomplete applications.

If you need help with the application call 0800 108 809.

The screenshot shows the 'Apply to be a vehicle inspector' page on the NZ Transport Agency's Online Services portal. It includes instructions on how to use the form, a note to ensure familiarity with requirements, and a link to 'Vehicle inspector applications (WoF and CoF)'. Below this, there are two sections: 'What are you applying for?' with radio button options for 'A new appointment as a vehicle inspector', 'Add an inspection group to my existing appointment as a vehicle inspector', and 'Resit a test'; and 'What inspection type are you applying for?' with radio button options for 'Warrant of fitness (WoF)', 'Certificate of fitness (CoF)', and 'Both'. A 'Get started' button is located at the bottom right.

Use an up to date *Notification of vehicle inspector transfer form*

When a vehicle inspector joins or leaves your inspecting organisation, you must notify NZTA using the Notification of vehicle inspector transfer form.

To help us process transfers quickly and accurately, please make sure you're using the most up to date version of the form. Older versions may not contain the information we need, which can result in delays and additional follow-up.

Before submitting a transfer request, download a new copy of the form from the Vehicle Inspection Portal rather than a version you've previously saved. This ensures your request reaches the right team and can be processed efficiently.

[Notification of vehicle inspector transfer](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Notification of vehicle inspector transfer' form. It includes a header with the NZ Transport Agency logo and title. A disclaimer states that the form is used when advising NZTA that an inspecting organisation will be employing a new vehicle inspector or that a vehicle inspector will be leaving. It also mentions that NZTA requires as much notice as possible to action requests and that requests are submitted at least 5 days before the date of transfer. Below this, there is a section for 'Inspecting organisation / employer details' with fields for 'Site name', 'Address', 'MS number', 'MS', 'Employer name', and 'Signature'. There are two main sections: 'Details of new vehicle inspector' and 'Details of leaving vehicle inspector'. Each section has fields for 'Full name of vehicle inspector', 'Inspector ID or authority #', 'Start date', 'Previous employer's name and address', and 'New employer's name and address'. The form is dated 02/28 and includes the NZTA logo and 'New Zealand Government' text at the bottom.

Need help?

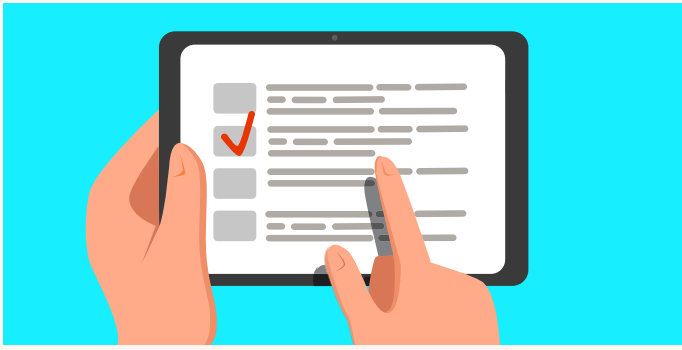
Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC) system support

For support with WoF inspections, the VIC system, or related processes, please call **0800 804 580** and select option 4.

How to update an inspection check sheet or correct an odometer reading

Email inspections@nzta.govt.nz with the details and supporting information. Sending requests by email helps ensure they are directed to the right team and processed quickly.

NZTA connected digital check sheets are coming



Digital check sheets connected directly to NZTA systems will soon be available to the vehicle inspection industry through organisations approved by NZTA. This marks an important step towards a more modern, efficient vehicle inspection system.

NZTA has opened applications for digital check sheet providers and approved providers can connect their products directly to NZTA systems once they have been vetted and security verified. Digital check sheets replace paper-based inspection records with an electronic version completed during the inspection. If you adopt a digital check sheet offered by an approved provider, inspection results will be transferred electronically without the need to manually re-enter information after an inspection.

Benefits for inspecting organisations

Using an approved digital check sheet connected to NZTA can help inspecting organisations:

- reduce double handling by eliminating manual re-entry of inspection results

- save time and improve workflow efficiency
- reduce transcription errors and improve data quality
- maintain digital inspection records that are easier to store and retrieve
- support more consistent inspection processes.

Approved providers

To protect the integrity and security of the vehicle inspection system, providers must be approved by NZTA before they can offer digital check sheet services. As part of the approval process, providers must meet NZTA's fit and proper, digital and security requirements. Once approved, digital check sheet products can be used by inspecting organisations. Only approved digital check sheet providers and approved digital check sheet products can be used for inspections.

We'll publish and maintain a list of approved digital check sheet providers on the Vehicle Inspection Portal so inspecting organisations can easily identify solutions that meet NZTA requirements. We'll let you know when the list is available. Existing digital check sheets will be replaced after a transition period by approved provider services.

Digital check sheets are an important part of modernising vehicle certification services. As more approved providers enter the market, inspecting organisations will have more choice in how they manage inspections while staying connected to NZTA systems.

Proposed changes to modernise NZTA services



Modernising NZTA services requires updates to the rules and regulations that support how those services are delivered. We're seeking feedback on proposals to allow electronic alternatives to physically displaying vehicle licences and labels, recognise digital driver licences and modernise

driver licensing processes. If these changes go ahead, more NZTA services will be delivered online or flexibly by:

- removing the need to display physical vehicle licences and labels where compliance can be checked electronically
- allowing people to use a secure digital driver licence on their mobile device
- making driver licensing services simpler, faster, and more available online.

Detailed information on the consultation and how to provide feedback is available on our website:

[Proposed changes to modernise NZTA services](#)

Consultation closes on **12 August 2026**.

NZTA Head of Vehicle Regulation

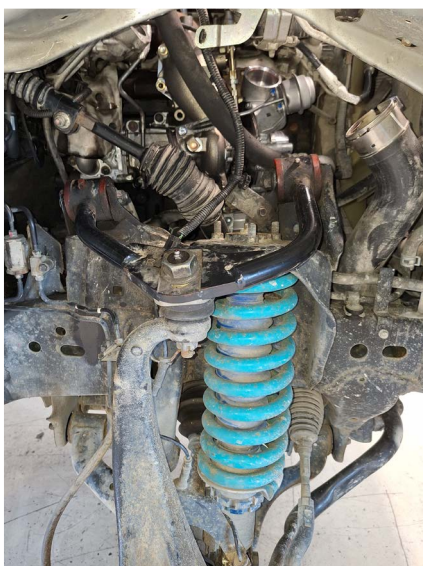
We're pleased to confirm that Geoff Williamson has been appointed as NZTA's permanent Head of Vehicle Regulation. Geoff had been acting in the role since February 2026.

As Head of Vehicle Regulation, Geoff will continue work to strengthen a modern and effective system maintaining strong safety outcomes for New Zealanders.

Geoff is looking forward to leading the team and working with the industry as we continue to improve the vehicle regulatory system together.

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.



This vehicle did not have LVV certification.

- Body lifts always need LVV.
- Adjustable front suspension arm, LVV needed.
- Oversize wheels, 315/75R16 vs factory size 255/60R18 or 255/70R16. LVV certification is required where tyre circumference exceeds the OE specification by more than 5%.

WoF quiz answers

1. Fail the vehicle and complete a Vehicle Report Form.
1-1 VIN and chassis number
RfR 4, Note 1
2. Yes.
2-1 External projections RfR 6, Table 2-1-1
3. 150mm, 50mm
3-1 Structure, RfR 1e and 1d
4. It's not specified in the VIRM
4-12 Rear-reg.-plate illumination lamps
5. White or amber
4-15 Other Lighting, RfR 4

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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