



Kia ora,

The year has been flying by and we've been busier than ever.

I've been impressed by the commitment to vehicle safety that most inspecting organisations (IOs) and vehicle inspectors (VIs) are showing which reflects the important work you do every day.

When we find unlawful behaviour in the industry, we're taking action to protect the integrity of the inspecting system and the safety of New Zealand drivers, passengers, and road users.

You might have read in the news that a former VI was recently sentenced for dishonestly accessing the Motor Vehicle Register (MVR) and issuing fraudulent warrants of fitness (WoFs). We're also introducing infringement notices as another way to address non-compliance in a fair way.

You can read more about this below as well as some other important industry updates.

Ngā mihi,

Nicole Botherway

Senior Manager Safer Vehicles

Regulatory

Former vehicle inspector sentenced

In July, a former VI was sentenced to 6 months community detention and 40 hours community work for dishonestly accessing the MVR and issuing fraudulent WoFs, after an investigation and prosecution by the Safer Vehicles team.

The sentence was imposed on Aucklander Dylan Mark Walker after he pleaded guilty in the North Shore District Court to one representative charge of dishonestly accessing the MVR. Between 24 September 2021 and 8 February 2022, Mr Walker fraudulently entered new WoFs for 183 vehicles onto the MVR. He recorded that each vehicle had been inspected and given a WoF despite none of those vehicles being presented to his employer's premises for inspection.

To arrive at the sentence, District Court Judge Fitzgibbon accepted there was widespread offending and the possibility of community harm as the cars were potentially not safe and the drivers weren't aware of this, which could have resulted in a serious crash. The judge also considered there was a breach of trust with his employer and the drivers, and premeditation. From a starting point of 20 months imprisonment, the judge discounted the defendant's sentence to account for his guilty plea and remorse.

At the time of the initial investigation, we first suspended and then revoked the VI appointment held by Mr Walker and revoked all WoFs fraudulently issued by him. All affected vehicle owners were informed and required to obtain new WoFs.

WoF quiz

- 1 A horn must be able to be _____ from the _____ position.
- 2 The external sheathing of a flexible hydraulic brake hose must not be cracked to the extent that the _____ are _____.
- 3 A steering drop arm ball joint must not have play that is _____.
- 4 A hub must be _____ to the vehicle.
- 5 A towbar must have provision for _____ the _____ unless it is a NZ Defence force, or a fire-fighting vehicle

Answers are on the last page.

WoF Online will be replaced by a new system – Vehicle Inspection and Certification (VIC)

WoF

Vehicle Inspection and Certification coming this year

We'll be doing a staged rollout and will let you know when it's your turn to switch to VIC. Once everyone is on VIC, we'll shut down WoF Online.

As we prepare and then transition to VIC, we'll provide detailed information on what you need to do through emails, updates to the VIRM, training material and workshops.

You can also check for updates on: vehicleinspection.nzta.govt.nz/vic

What's new in VIC

- Modern and easy to use.
- Ability to view additional vehicle details and previous WoF inspection information.
- Vehicle warnings displayed upfront.
- Ability to add comments for WoF fails.

Email us if you have any questions:

modernisingvehiclecertifications@nzta.govt.nz

Regulatory

We've started issuing infringement notices

The Safer Vehicles team has started issuing infringement notices as another way to address non-compliance of VIs and IOs to help keep the vehicles on our roads safe.

There are three types of infringement notices that we can issue:

- carried out an incompetent vehicle inspection
- issued evidence of inspection to defective vehicle and
- carried out vehicle inspection when not qualified

Since May 2024, we've issued 4 infringement notices. In these instances, vehicle inspections were not being carried at the authorised IO, and after an investigation we concluded WoFs were issued to a few vehicles that had serious defects.

VIs and IOs that receive an infringement notice will need to pay a fine of \$370 and this will be recorded on an infringement report, which is also where any traffic infringements issued by Police are recorded.

CoF

CoF regime extension for B-pillar cracks

In the last *Inspection news*, we let you know that the current CoF regime for B-pillar cracks would be valid until 1 June 2024.

As there is a shortage of the Mercedes-sourced B-pillar double plates, we've extended that to 1 February 2025.

This means that if a minor crack is identified at CoF inspection, a CoF can be issued with notes added to the checksheet comments section. This will allow time for owners to have it repaired.

Alternative repair procedure

An alternative repair procedure for B-pillar cracks can be found on the RepairCert NZ website.

[RepairCert NZ technical bulletin](#)

We've set up a process for repair certifiers to complete these repairs and certify under a limited heavy category. Certifiers approved to do this are listed on the RepairCert NZ website.

Regulatory

Getting your criminal record check from MoJ

Since 1 July, people submitting IO, VI, or specialist certifier applications requiring NZTA fit and proper checks need to get their own criminal records from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and send it with their application. Applications without an MOJ criminal record check will be returned as incomplete. You can apply using the updated forms.

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

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

WoF/CoF

Identifying unauthorised re-webbed seatbelts

We're aware that unauthorised businesses have been carrying out re-webs by purchasing aftermarket retractors and changing webs and hardware.

Seatbelts that are re-webbed without an exemption from NZTA won't be accepted for a WoF or CoF.

Most non-compliant re-webbed seatbelts are done in a way to hide that they are re-webbed. Usually, non-compliant re-webbed seatbelts have:

- incorrectly fitted hardware such as buckles on webbing that looks new
- new webbing, or webbing that looks newer than the other seatbelts in the vehicle, with the same compliance tags as the original seatbelts
- the same identification tags as the original belts with a different stitch pattern
- a compliance label different to the other seatbelts and not from a typical manufacturer
- no compliance labels fitted on new webbing or a new seatbelt.

CoF

WARNING

This vehicle is fitted with a Cardan shaft park brake.

It can roll away when parked on a slope, especially when the load is changing. On slopes, use wheel chocks as a precaution. The brake lever may require a lot of force, make sure it is engaged to the manufacturer's recommended setting.

If in doubt, don't risk it!

www.nzta.govt.nz/cardanbrakes

Chocks should be 25% of the diameter of your tyre

WAKA KOTAHI
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

The image shows a yellow warning sticker with a black triangle icon containing a red exclamation mark. The text is in bold and black. On the right side, there is a small illustration of a truck on a slope with a person applying a chock to its wheel. Below the main text, there is a small image of a tire and a chock. The Waka Kotahi logo is at the bottom left.

If a customer requests a Cardan shaft park brake sticker, please provide them with as many as they need for their fleet. Vehicles with these brakes are required to display the sticker.

You can order these stickers for free through Bluestar.

[Bluestar publications portal login](#)

CoF

CoF B checksheet transition to A4 printers

From 1 August 2024, we've started phasing out the use of dot matrix checksheets. You can already order CoF B checksheets for A4 printers from Blue Star. Dot matrix forms for CoF B checksheets won't be available after 30 June 2025.

[Read more about the transition](#)

Regulatory

Let us know when there are changes in your business

Changes to the structure of a business can happen from time to time. As an appointed IO and/or VI you need to notify us of changes that may affect your appointment.

Some common changes are:

- closing your business or change of inspection activities
- transfer of VIs
- change in person in control of an IO
- changes to your details such as phone or email
- relocation.

You can find details on the Vehicle Inspection Portal, Notice of Appointment or contact the 0800 699 000 help desk.

Regulatory

Work for NZTA as a certification officer

We're looking for an experienced WoF and CoF technician based in Auckland who has excellent knowledge and understanding of the VIRM and the Quality Management System.

You'll be responsible for audits and investigations into areas of high risk and non-compliance within the vehicle certification sector.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to contribute to improving standards, systems and to apply industry best practice.

[Apply on our website](#)

Regulatory



WoF fail photos needed

We're producing a series on social media highlighting the importance of WoF checks. The purpose is to educate people on what inspectors look for when vehicles go in for a WoF and to encourage people to check their vehicle during the year to maintain its safety.

We'd love to build on this messaging and know of any concerns that affect IOs. If you have photos of vehicles that would fail a WoF inspection, particularly anything unexpected, send them to:

regulatorycomms@nzta.govt.nz

You might see your pictures in the What the...! section as well.

Check out our social media pages:

facebook.com/nztransportagency

instagram.com/nztransportagency

CoF

Recall on some Kenworth models

There's a current recall on Kenworth Kenworth, C509, K200, T410, T610, T659, T909, W900 – model years 2023-2024, where the 45° elbow fitting has been insufficiently torqued.

You can find more information on the safety recalls database.

[Vehicle recalls](#)

CoF

You may start to see protection screens in buses

NZTA has recently updated the Requirements for Urban Buses (RUB), which standardises urban bus requirements across regional councils and Auckland Transport (AT).

The update introduces the new requirements for driver protection screens. A driver protection screen creates a transparent physical barrier between the driver and passengers to act as a safety measure. This is to reduce the risk of harm to drivers from aggressive and threatening passengers by enclosing most of the driver compartment or fully enclosing it. This feature is optional and may be retrospectively fitted to buses or installed in new buses by the manufacturer.

You may start to see buses fitted with these screens, but there's nothing you need to do.

You can find more information at

[Requirements for Urban Buses](#)

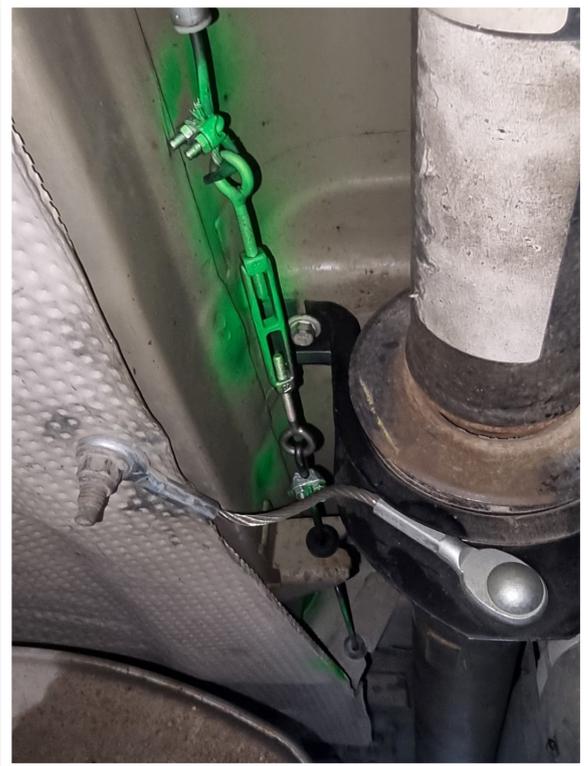
HVSC engineer statements need to be issued by HVSC engineers

Engineer's assessments, letters or statements for chassis corrosion, heave and any historic repairs at CoF can only be accepted from an HVSC engineer with the HVEC category.

We've been alerted to a number of letters that have been written by non-appointed people.

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.



Bob wondered if the \$5.00 that he'd saved getting his brake hose from Jelly Express was really worth the effort.

Jim was surprised that his hand brake repair did not pass, and wondered if the green paint might have been a step too far.

WoF quiz answers

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Easily, operated, driver's, seating. | 2. Reinforcing, cords, exposed | 3. Beyond, manufacturer's, specifications. | 4. Securely, attached. | 5. Securely, fitting safety chain, |
| <u>7-13 Audible warning devices, RfR 2</u> | <u>8-1 Brakes RfR 17e</u> | <u>9-1 Steering and suspension systems RfR 5d</u> | <u>10-2 Hubs and axles, RfR 1a</u> | <u>12-1 Light vehicle towbar and fifth wheel</u> |

For general enquiries or contact information about Waka Kotahi 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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