3-2 Identifying the vehicle class

The table of vehicle classes - Table 3-2-1, and the charts in Figure 3-2-1 (four-wheeled vehicles), Figure 3-2-2 (three-wheeled vehicles), Figure 3-2-3 (two-wheeled vehicles) and Figure 3-2-4 (trailers) identify the class of the vehicle that is to be inspected.

Confirm that the vehicle inspector and inspecting organisation have been appointed by the NZTA for the purpose of inspecting and certifying vehicles for a WoF or CoF specific to the class of vehicle that has been presented.

Table 3-2-1. Vehicle equipment standards classifications

Class	Description
AA (Pedal cycle)	A vehicle designed to be propelled through a mechanism solely by human power.
AB (Power-assisted pedal cycle)	A pedal cycle to which is attached one or more auxiliary propulsion motors having a combined maximum power output not exceeding 300 watts. For further information visit the Transport Agency website's **Low powered vehicles page**.

LA (Moped with two wheels)*	A motor vehicle (other than a power-assisted pedal cycle) that:
	• has two wheels; and
	• either:
	  ◦ has an engine cylinder capacity not exceeding 50ml and a maximum speed not exceeding 50km/h; or
	  ◦ has a power source other than a piston engine and a maximum speed not exceeding 50km/h.

LB (Moped with three wheels)	A motor vehicle (other than a power-assisted pedal cycle) that:
	• has three wheels; and
	• either:
	  ◦ has an engine cylinder capacity not exceeding 50ml and a maximum speed not exceeding 50km/h; or
	  ◦ has a power source other than a piston engine and a maximum speed not exceeding 50km/h.
	An LB 1 motor vehicle has one wheel at the front and two wheels at the rear. An LB 2 motor vehicle has two wheels at the front and one wheel at the rear.

LC (Motorcycle)	A motor vehicle that:
	• has two wheels; and
	• either:
	  ◦ has an engine cylinder capacity exceeding 50ml; or
	  ◦ has a maximum speed exceeding 50km/h.

LD (Motorcycle and side-car)	A motor vehicle that:
	• has three wheels asymmetrically arranged in relation to the longitudinal median axis; and
	• either:
	  ◦ has an engine cylinder capacity exceeding 50ml; or
	  ◦ has a maximum speed exceeding 50km/h.

Class	Description
Side-car	A car, box or other receptacle attached to the side of a motorcycle and supported by a wheel.

LE (Motor tri-cycle)	A motor vehicle that:
	• has three wheels symmetrically arranged in relation to the longitudinal median axis; and
	• has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding one tonne; and
	• either:
	  ◦ has an engine cylinder capacity exceeding 50ml; or
	  ◦ has a maximum speed exceeding 50km/h.
	An LE 1 motor vehicle has one wheel at the front and two wheels at the rear. An LE 2 motor vehicle has two wheels at the front and one wheel at the rear.

Passenger vehicle	A motor vehicle that:
	• is constructed primarily for the carriage of passengers; and
	• either:
	  ◦ has at least four wheels; or
	  ◦ has three wheels and a gross vehicle mass exceeding one tonne.

MA (Passenger car)	A passenger vehicle (other than a class MB or class MC vehicle) that has not more than nine seating positions (including the driver's seating position).
MB (Forward control passenger vehicle)	A passenger vehicle (other than a class MC vehicle): • that has not more than nine seating positions (including the driver's seating position); and • in which the centre of the steering wheel is in the forward quarter of the vehicle's total length.

MC (Off-road passenger vehicle)	A passenger vehicle, designed with special features for off-road operation, that has not more than nine seating positions (including the driver's seating position), and that:
	• has four-wheel drive; and
	• has at least four of the following characteristics when the vehicle is unladen on a level surface and the front wheels are parallel to the vehicle's longitudinal centre-line and the tyres are inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressure:
	  ◦ an approach angle of not less than 28 degrees;
	  ◦ a breakover angle of not less than 14 degrees;
	  ◦ a departure angle of not less than 20 degrees;
	  ◦ a running clearance of not less than 200mm;
	  ◦ a front-axle clearance, rear-axle clearance or suspension clearance of not less than 175mm.

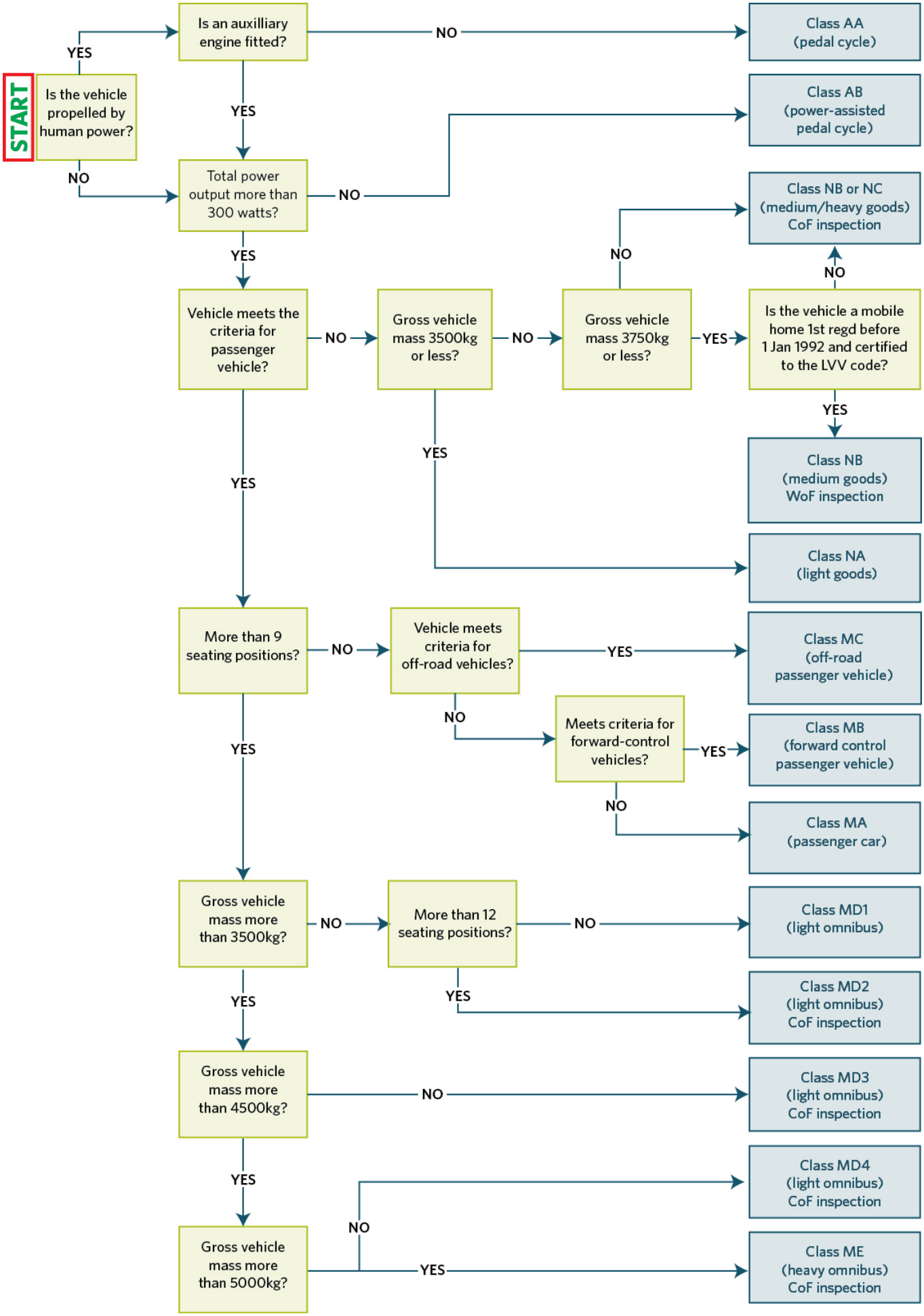
Class	Description
Omnibus	A passenger vehicle that has more than nine seating positions (including the driver's seating position). An omnibus comprising two or more non-separable but articulated units shall be considered as a single vehicle.
MD (Light omnibus)	An omnibus that has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding 5 tonnes.
MD 1	An omnibus that has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes and not more than 12 seats.
MD 2	An omnibus that has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes and more than 12 seats.
MD 3	An omnibus that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 4.5 tonnes.
MD 4	An omnibus that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 4.5 tonnes but not exceeding 5 tonnes.
ME (Heavy omnibus)	An omnibus that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 5 tonnes.

Goods vehicle	A motor vehicle that:
	• is constructed primarily for the carriage of goods; and
	• either:
	  ○ has at least four wheels; or
	  ○ has three wheels and a gross vehicle mass exceeding one tonne.

	For the purpose of this description: • a vehicle that is constructed for both the carriage of goods and passengers shall be considered primarily for the carriage of goods if the number of seating positions multiplied by 68kg is less than 50 percent of the difference between the gross vehicle mass and the unladen mass • the equipment and installations carried on special purpose vehicles not designed for the carriage of passengers shall be considered to be goods • a goods vehicle that has two or more non-separable but articulated units shall be considered to be a single vehicle.
NA (Light goods vehicle)	A goods vehicle that has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.

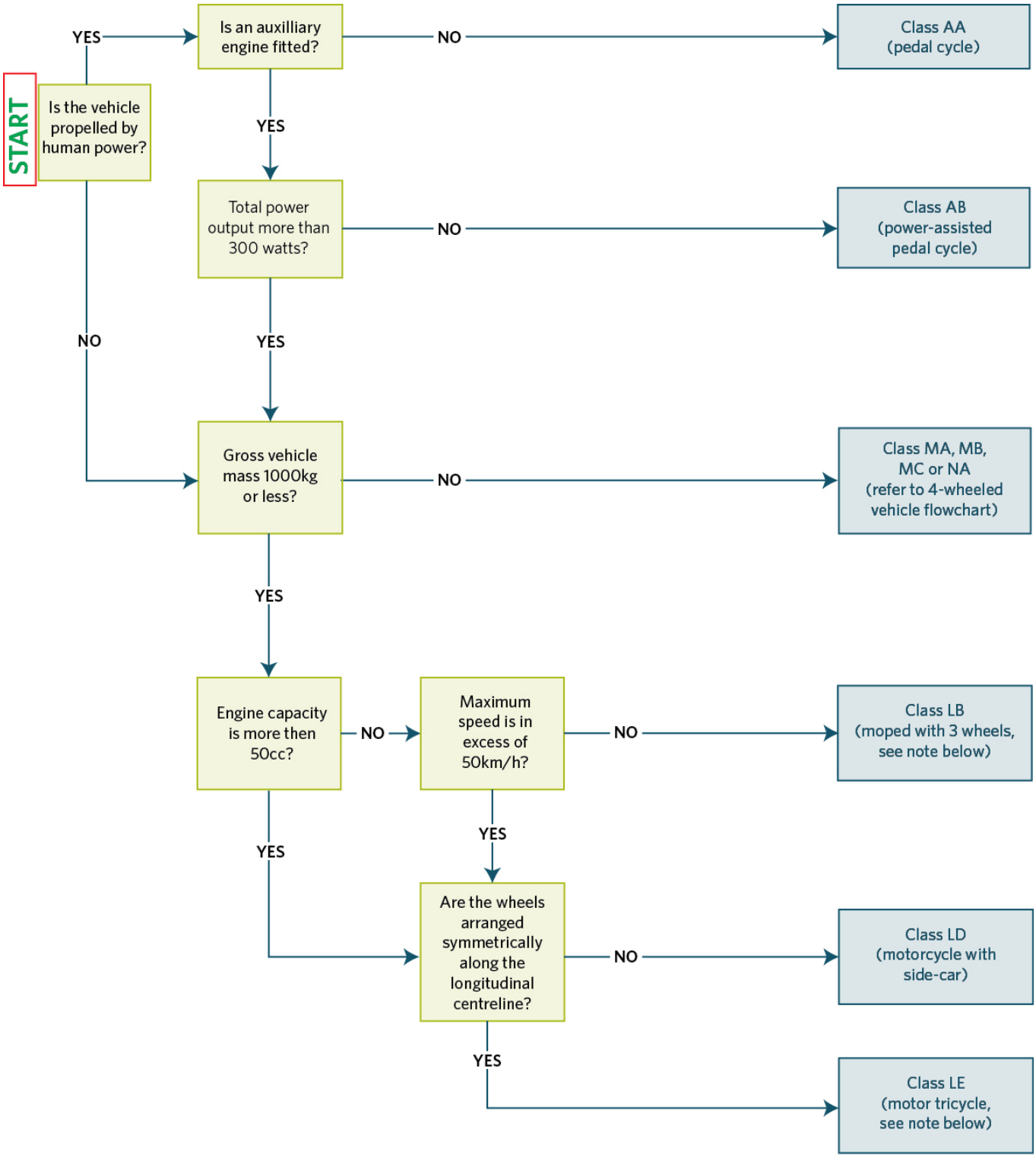
Class	Description
NB (Medium goods vehicle)	A goods vehicle that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12 tonnes.
NC (Heavy goods vehicle)	A goods vehicle that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 12 tonnes.
Trailer	A vehicle without motive power that is constructed for the purpose of being drawn behind a motor vehicle.
TA (Very light trailer)	A single-axled trailer that has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding 0.75 tonnes.
TB (Light trailer)	A trailer (other than a class TA trailer) that has a gross vehicle mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.
TC (Medium trailer)	A trailer that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 10 tonnes.
TD (Heavy trailer)	A trailer that has a gross vehicle mass exceeding 10 tonnes.

Figure 3-2-1. Vehicle class logic chart – four-wheeled vehicles


START
Is the vehicle propelled by human power?
YES
NO
Is an auxilliary engine fitted?
NO
Class AA (pedal cycle)
YES
Class AB (power-assisted pedal cycle)
Total power output more than 300 watts?
NO
YES
Class NB or NC (medium/heavy goods) CoF inspection
NO
NO
Vehicle meets the criteria for passenger vehicle?
NO
Gross vehicle mass 3500kg or less?
NO
Gross vehicle mass 3750kg or less?
YES
Is the vehicle a mobile home 1st regd before 1 Jan 1992 and certified to the LVV code?
YES
Class NB (medium goods) WoF inspection
YES
YES
Class NA (light goods)
More than 9 seating positions?
NO
Vehicle meets criteria for off-road vehicles?
YES
Class MC (off-road passenger vehicle)
NO
Meets criteria for forward-control vehicles?
YES
Class MB (forward control passenger vehicle)
YES
NO
Class MA (passenger car)
Gross vehicle mass more than 3500kg?
NO
More than 12 seating positions?
NO
Class MD1 (light omnibus)
YES
YES
Class MD2 (light omnibus) CoF inspection
Gross vehicle mass more than 4500kg?
NO
Class MD3 (light omnibus) CoF inspection
YES
Class MD4 (light omnibus) CoF inspection
NO
Gross vehicle mass more than 5000kg?
YES
Class ME (heavy omnibus) CoF inspection

- Download Figure 3-2-1. Vehicle class logic chart – four-wheeled vehicles (PDF)

Figure 3-2-2. Vehicle class logic chart – three-wheeled vehicles

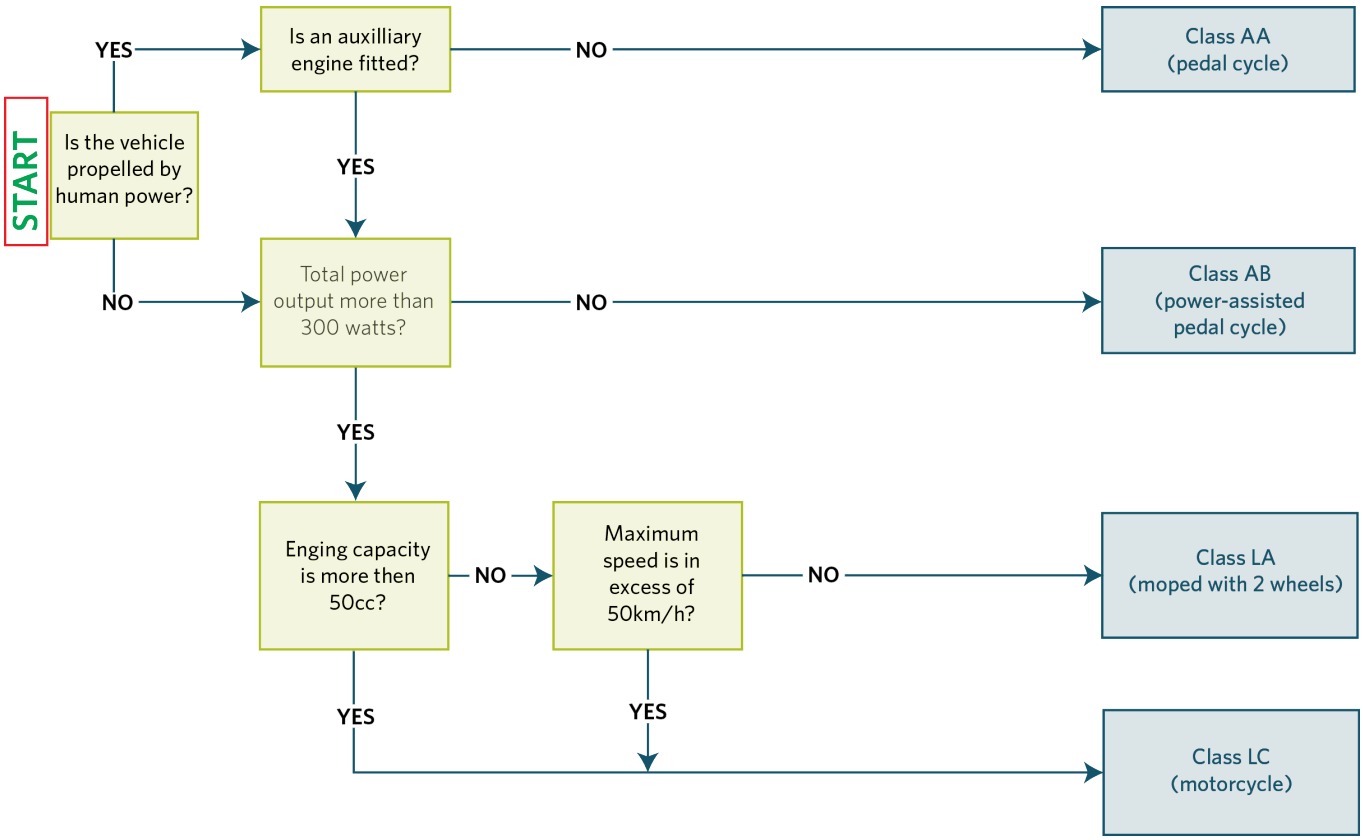


Note for classes LB and LE:

- Where the vehicle has one wheel at the front and two at the rear, the class has the suffix '1', ie, LB1 or LE1.
- Where the vehicle has two wheels at the front and one at the rear, the class has the suffux '2', ie, LB2 or LE2.

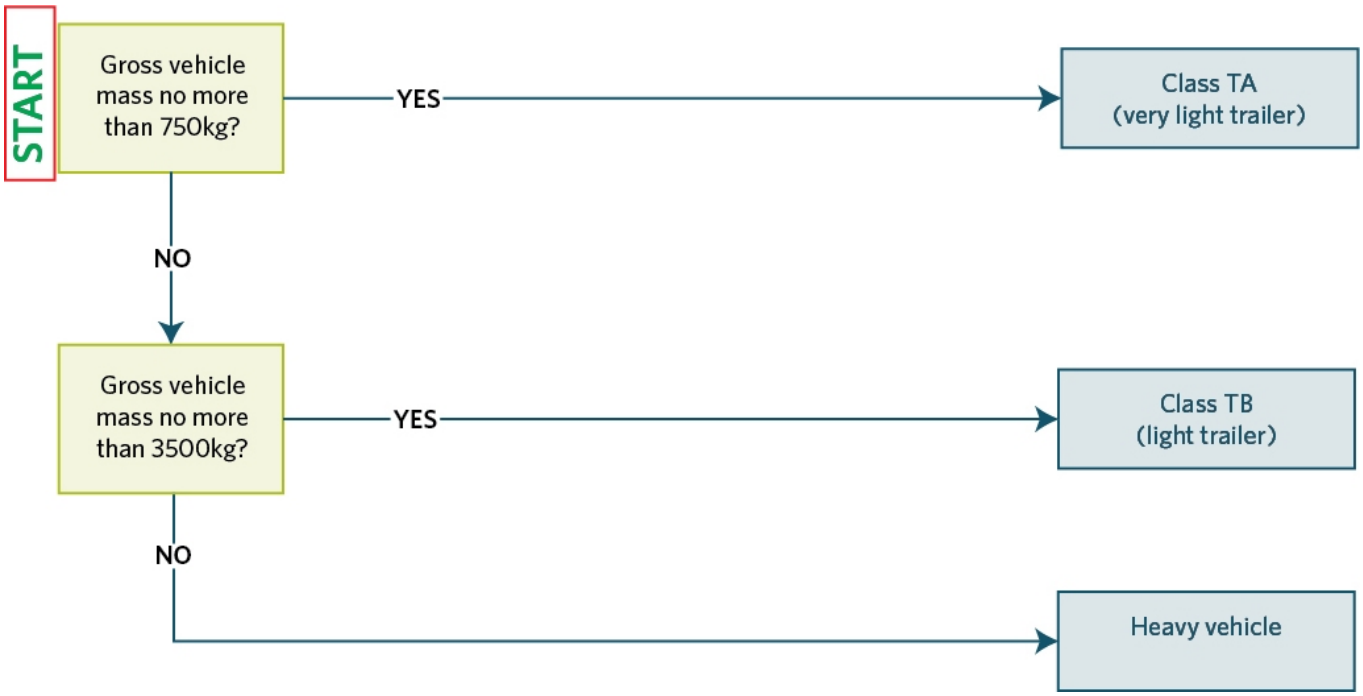
- Download Figure 3-2-2. Vehicle class logic chart – three-wheeled vehicles (PDF | 303KB)

Figure 3-2-3. Vehicle class logic chart – two-wheeled vehicles



- Download Figure 2-2-3 Vehicle class logic chart – two-wheeled vehicles (PDF | 336KB)

Figure 3-2-4. Vehicle class logic chart – trailers



- Download 3-2-4. Vehicle class logic chart – trailers (PDF | 309KB)