

Correct as at 26th June 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Heavy vehicles > Vision > Windscreen wipe and wash

## 5-3 Windscreen wipe and wash

### Reasons for rejection

#### Mandatory equipment

1. A vehicle that has a windscreen is not fitted with a windscreen wipe system.
2. A vehicle manufactured on or after 1 January 1992 is not fitted with a windscreen wash system.
3. A vehicle manufactured on or after 1 January 1960 is fitted with wipers that are not power driven.

#### Condition

##### Windscreen wipe system

4. The wiper operating device is missing.
5. A wiper arm or wiper blade is:
  - a) missing, or
  - b) insecure, or
  - c) damaged so as to affect the performance of the wipers.
6. The wiper operating mechanism is:
  - a) missing, or
  - b) insecure, or
  - c) damaged so as to affect the performance of the wipers.

##### Windscreen wash system

7. A wash system component is missing or insecure.
8. The wash operating device is missing.

#### Performance

##### Windscreen wipe system

9. A windscreen wiper does not wipe the windscreen effectively, preventing adequate forward vision by the driver.
10. The wipe operating device is unable to activate the wipe system.

### Windscreen wash system

- 11. A windscreen wash nozzle does not discharge washer liquid directly onto the windscreen.
- 12. The wash operating device is unable to activate the wash system.

### Modifications

- 13. A modification affects a windscreen wipe system, and:
  - a) is not excluded from the requirements for specialist certification (Table 5-3-1), and
  - b) is missing proof of specialist **or accepted overseas** certification, ie:
    - i. the vehicle is not fitted with a valid certification plate, or
    - ii. the operator is not able to produce a valid modification declaration or authority card.

**Table 5-3-1. Modifications that do not require specialist certification**

| Fitting of or modification to:  | Specialist certification is never required:  |
|---|--|
| Removal of a windscreen wash system from a vehicle manufactured before 1/1/1992             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in-service requirements for condition and performance must be met.</li></ul> |
| Any modification for the purposes of law enforcement or the provision of emergency services |  |

## Summary of legislation

### Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Glazing, Windscreen Wipe and Wash, and Mirrors 1999.](#)

### Mandatory equipment

- 1. A vehicle manufactured before 1 January 1992 that is fitted with a windscreen must have a windscreen wipe system.
- 2. A vehicle manufactured on or after 1 January 1992 that is fitted with a windscreen must have a windscreen wipe and wash system.
- 3. Windscreen wipers must be power driven, unless they follow OE specifications in a vehicle manufactured before 1 January 1960.

### Permitted equipment

- 4. A vehicle may be fitted with a wash system when this is not required.

### Condition

- 5. A vehicle's windscreen wipe system must be efficient and within the vehicle manufacturer's operating limits.

## **Performance**

6. The equipment fitted must be capable of keeping an adequate area of the windscreen clean and clear so that the vehicle may be operated safely under all reasonably foreseeable conditions.

## **Modifications**

7. An OE windscreen washing system may be removed from a vehicle manufactured before 1 January 1992.

8. A modification to the windscreen wipe system must be inspected and certified by an specialist certifier unless the vehicle:

a) is excluded from the requirement for specialist certification (Table 5-3-1), and

b) has been inspected in accordance with the requirements in this manual, including those for equipment, condition, and performance.