

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 It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: Border inspection of imported used vehicles > Technical bulletins

## Technical bulletins

### News and updates

11 February 2026

#### **Electronic certificate of authority (E-COA)**

From mid-February inspecting organisation certificates of authority (COAs) will no longer be posted and sent by mail.

02 February 2026

#### **Outcome of consultation on new light entry certification appointments**

After receiving support from new light entry certifiers, we decided to adopt the proposed changes to the New Light Entry Certification appointment process.

27 January 2026

#### **Reminder: check your saved VPN links to keep access**

If you use our VPN, the most secure link begins with https://. Some users still have the old URL for the VPN saved, without the s. To keep our connections secure, we're switching off the old link on 29 January 2026. Check your saved links include the 's'.

23 December 2025

### **Safety warning for Suzuki Fronx owners**

NZTA is urging the owners of Suzuki Fronx vehicles in New Zealand to stop carrying passengers in the rear seats of the vehicles. This follows the failure of a safety belt in a laboratory crash test. If you get any questions from customers, tell them to contact Suzuki directly.

19 December 2025

### **Industry alert: Risk of trailers disconnecting from incorrect coupling and damaged couplings**

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is issuing an industry alert to warn the heavy vehicle industry about the risk of trailers becoming disconnected.

16 December 2025

### **Inspection news issue 20 out now**

The latest issue of *Inspection news* is now available to download.

## **1 Takata alpha airbag recall**

The compulsory Takata alpha airbag inflator recall order 2018 becomes effective from 31 May 2018. From the effective date Takata alpha airbag inflators become a prohibited import as well as being prohibited for sale in trade.

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to outline the process to identify vehicles subject to the mandatory Takata Alpha type airbag recall and how to deal with them.

The process outlined below are the steps BIOs can take to assure they act with due diligence, best endeavours, and based upon the best information available.

## **Border Inspection Organisations**

The Border Inspection Organisations, specifically Automotive Technologies Limited, ATJ, JEVIC, Independent Verification Systems (IVS), and NZ Biosecurity Services, as per the requirements of the Boarder Inspection VIRM, will provide data to the Transport Agency regarding open safety recalls on vehicles they inspect subject to the prerequisites below.

All reasonable efforts outlined in this process will be made to assure they provide the most accurate information. All responsibility for importing any vehicle remains with the importer.

## The process

From **21 May 2018**, Border Inspection Organisations must check if vehicles they inspect (that are fitted with airbags) are on the Takata airbag recall lists from the various source countries.

### Recalled Takata Alpha airbag vehicles from Japan

In Japan, vehicles subject to this recall are listed under the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) definition 'Vehicle of concern'. The Transport Agency is using this list to populate our website at [www.vehiclerecallsafety.nzta.govt.nz/takata/importers](http://www.vehiclerecallsafety.nzta.govt.nz/takata/importers). This website is the Transport Agency definitive list of vehicles in Japan that require rectification due to the fitment of Takata Airbags that are under recall.

For vehicles from Japan a further search can be conducted on the MLIT web site at the following address to check whether the recall has been closed in Japan, if it has no action needs to be taken:

<https://www.jaspa.or.jp/portals/recallsearch/index>

### Recalled Takata Alpha airbag vehicles from other countries

Vehicles from countries other than Japan will have to be checked against official sites in those countries that are covering the Takata recalls. These include, but are not limited to:

- **USA**

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

- **Australia**

<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls/compulsory-takata-airbag-recall/takata-airbag-recalls-list>

- **UK**

<https://www.dft.gov.uk/vosa/apps/recalls/default.asp>

- There may be appropriate lists in other jurisdictions.

It is important to understand that this is not a new requirement it is just enforcing the existing requirement that recalls are to be closed prior to a vehicle being imported into New Zealand.

If the vehicle is on one of the lists and conclusive evidence from the manufacturer or jurisdictional authority that the airbag recall has been completed **is not available**, the vehicles will be damage flagged with notes recorded stating 'Open Airbag Recall'.

## Vehicle makes to check

Other than for left-hand drive vehicles, you only need to check vehicles from the following manufacturers (as listed on the [www.vehiclerecallsafety.nzta.govt.nz/takata/takataalpha](http://www.vehiclerecallsafety.nzta.govt.nz/takata/takataalpha)):

- BMW
- Daihatsu
- Honda
- Isuzu
- Lexus
- Mazda

- Mitsubishi
- Nissan
- Subaru
- Toyota.

Vehicles from other manufacturers will not have Takata Alpha type airbags fitted, or be Japanese vehicles of concern, so are not subject to the recall.

For left-hand drive vehicles it is up to the importer to supply conclusive evidence that there is no recall for the vehicle and/or that the airbag has been replaced.

## Conclusive evidence

To meet the burden of proof of conclusive evidence, it must be shown that the vehicle is not on any current recall lists generated by the manufacturer. Alternatively, where available a current list maintained by a jurisdictional authority can be used.

Also note, Japanese Shaken issued after 1 May 2018 is de facto evidence from a jurisdictional authority. The rationale for this is that 1 May 2018 is the deadline for all 'vehicles of concern' to have their mandatory recall cleared. Any Shaken issued after this date will require this recall to be closed.

## Recall completion certificate

A Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) process document like the image below can be used to provide evidence of a Shaken test (Japanese WoF). A vehicle can only pass a Shaken test if it has had its Takata Alpha airbags replaced.

If a copy of this document is presented in for the vehicle in question and with a dealers stamp on it, it can be accepted as evidence that the vehicle in question can pass a Shaken test and therefore has had its airbags replaced. It can be accepted as proof that a vehicle has been rectified at a dealership level but might not yet have come off their website.

様式 (改善措置済証) (第2条第2項関係) 管理番号

改 善 措 置 済 証			
下記の車両は、下記のリコール届出番号について、道路運送車両法（昭和26年法律第185号）第63条の3第1項の届出に係る改修を実施したことを証明する。			
1 リコール届出番号		2 車台番号	
		3 自動車登録番号/車両番号	
4 改修作業 年月日	年 月 日	5 改修作業実施者	事業者名 住所、電話番号 <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">印</div>
6 発行者		事業者名 住所	
7 備考			

車検を受ける際に提出が必要となりますので、必ず車検証と一緒に保管してください。  
万一ご不明の点がございましたら、ご遠慮なく上記改修作業実施者の連絡先へお問い合わせください。

Example of recall completion certificate (without dealer stamp).

## Other safety recalls

As the Transport Agency (or other delegated entity) makes information on additional recalls available, this process can be expanded to include those recalls for which information is available.

## 2 Takata non-alpha airbag recall

Following the compulsory Takata alpha airbag inflator recall order 2018 which came into effect on 31 May 2018, the Transport Agency is taking action to prohibit vehicles with any outstanding Takata airbag recalls from entering the New Zealand fleet.

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to outline, for Border Inspectors, the process for flagging vehicles subject to a Takata non-alpha airbag recalls and how to deal with them.

The process outlined below are the steps BIOs can take to assure they act with due diligence, best endeavors, and based upon the best information available.

### Border Inspection Organisations

The Border Inspection Organisations, specifically Automotive Technologies Limited, ATJ, JEVIC, Independent Verification Systems (IVS), and NZ Biosecurity Services, as per the requirements of the Boarder Inspection VIRM, will provide data to the Transport Agency regarding open safety recalls on vehicles they inspect subject to the prerequisites below.

All reasonable efforts outlined in this process will be made to assure they provide the most accurate information. All responsibility for importing any vehicle remains with the importer.

### The process

From **1 November 2018**, Border Inspection Organisations are required to identify and report on vehicles they inspect (fitted with airbags) that are on the Takata airbag recall lists from the various source countries.

On finding a vehicle subject to recall for Takata airbag the vehicle is to be damage flagged with note added stating 'Open Airbag Recall'.

#### Recalled Takata airbag vehicles from Japan

In Japan, vehicles subject to recalls are listed on the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) web site at the following address, Border Inspection Organisations are to check whether the recalls have been closed in Japan, if it has been closed no action needs to be taken:

<https://www.jaspa.or.jp/portals/recallsearch/index>

#### Recalled Takata airbag vehicles from other countries

Vehicles from countries other than Japan will have to be checked against official sites in those countries. These include, but are not limited to:

- USA

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>

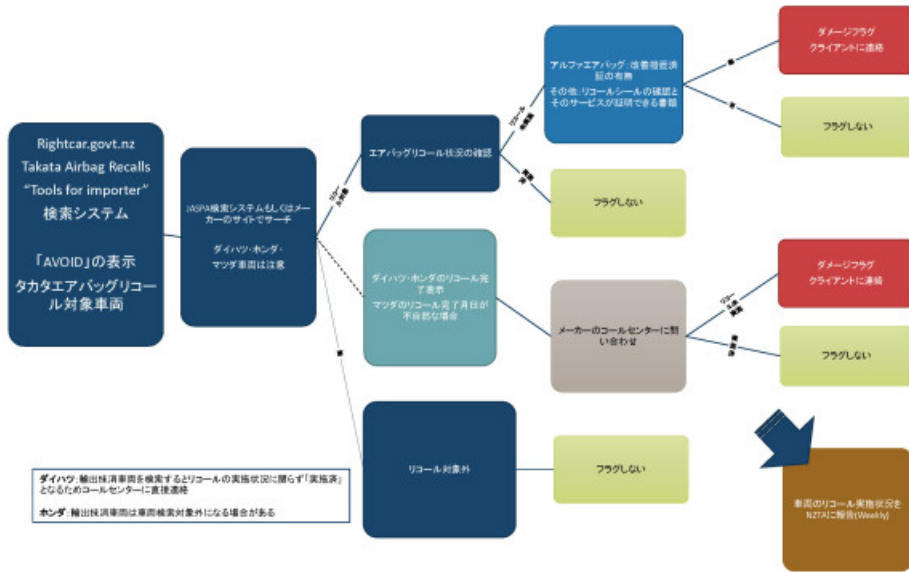
- Australia

<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls/compulsory-takata-airbag-recall/takata-airbag-recalls-list>

- UK



## 2018年11月1日からのタカタ製エアバッグリコール対象の中古車両の ボーダーインスペクションプロセス(日本から輸入車に限る)



Page added 26 September 2018 (see [amendment details](#))

### 3 Vehicles fitted with ITS Connect

If any vehicle that is effected by this technical bulletin (by make/model/model code) has damage that requires photos are uploaded to BIS, please prioritise the damage photos and note the ITS-Connect status in the Damage notes.

For example:

- ITS Connect not fitted, or
- ITS-Connect fitted and active, or
- ITS-Connect fitted and de-activated/removed.

The ITS Connect system fitted to some vehicles originating in Japan operates by broadcasting a signal on the 760MHz frequency. This frequency is not compatible with the licensing framework in New Zealand. Under the Radio Communications Act 1989 it is illegal to import or operate a device that operates on this frequency

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to define a process for identifying vehicles fitted with ITS Connect systems and how these vehicles need to be processed if an ITS Connect system is fitted.

The process outlined below shows the steps border inspection organisations (BIOs) can take to assure they act with due diligence, best endeavours, and based upon the best information available.

### BIOs to provide data to NZTA

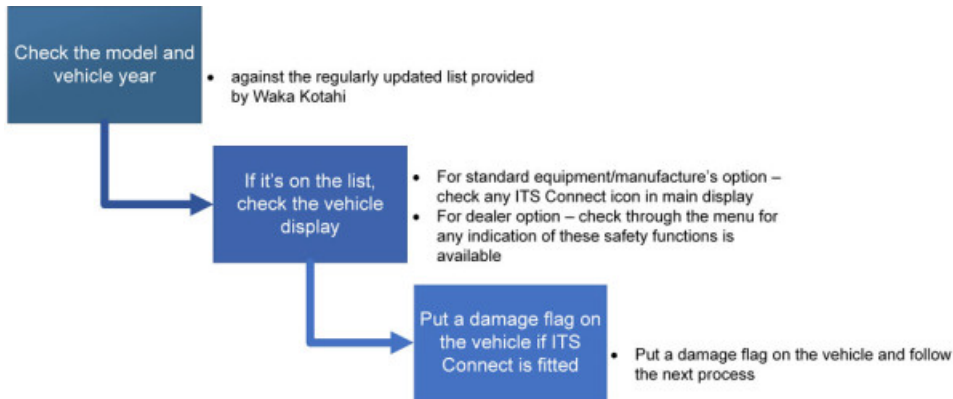
The BIOs, specifically Automotive Technologies Limited, ATJ, JEVIC, Independent Verification Systems (IVS), and NZ Biosecurity Services, as per the requirements of this manual, will provide data to NZTA regarding the presence of ITS Connect on vehicles they inspect, subject to the prerequisites below.

All reasonable efforts outlined in this process will be made to assure the BIOs provide the most accurate information. All responsibility for importing any vehicle remains with the importer.

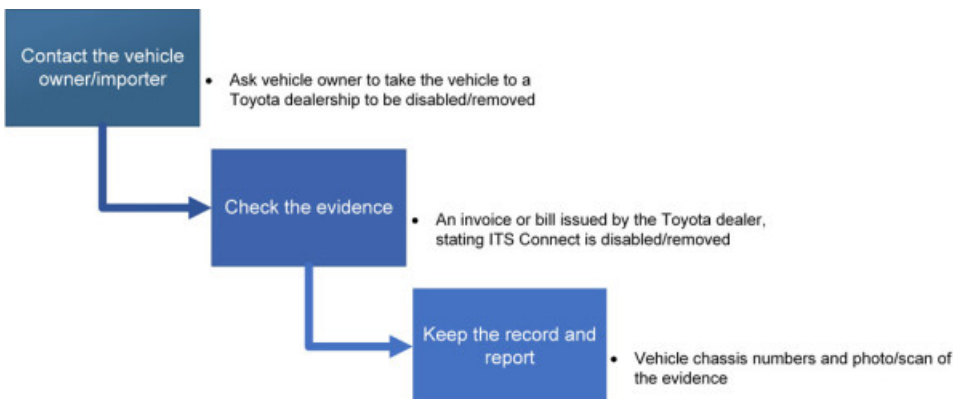
## The process for BIOs to follow

From **1 April 2021** BIOs must check if vehicles they inspect (that are on the defined make and model list) are fitted with an ITS Connect system.

### Vehicles coming to New Zealand from Japan



### Process for ITS Connect fitted vehicle



## Vehicles that must be inspected for ITS Connect

Make	Model	Year	Model code
Lexus	ES300h	10/2018+	6AA-AXZH10
		08/2020+	6AA-AXZH11
Lexus	LBX	11/2023+	6AA-MAYH10 6AA-MAYH15
		08/2024+	4BA-GAYA16
Lexus	LC500	06/2023+	5BA-URZ100
	LC500 convertible	06/2023+	5BA-URZ100
	LC500h	06/2023+	6AA-GWZ100
Lexus	LM500h	12/2023+	5AA-TAWH15W
Lexus	LS500	10/2017+	DBA-VXFA50 DBA-VXFA55
		11/2020+	3BA-VXFA50 3BA-VXFA55
	LS500h	10/2017+	DAA-GVF50 DAA-GVF55
		10/2019+	6AA-GVF50 6AA-GVF55
Lexus	LX600	01/2022+	3BA-VJA301W
Lexus	NX300	08/2018+	DBA-AGZ10 DBA-AGZ15
		07/2020+	3BA-AGZ10 3BA-AGZ15

Make	Model	Year	Model code
NX250	10/2021+	5BA- AAZA20  5BA- AAZA25	
NX350	10/2021+	5BA- TAZA25	
NX300h	08/2018+	DAA- AYZ10  DAA- AYZ15  6AA- AYZ10  6AA- AYZ15	
NX350h	10/2021+	6AA- AAZH20  6AA- AAZH25	
NX450h	10/2021+	6LA- AAZH26	
Lexus	RX200t/RX300	10/2015+	DBA-AGL20W  DBA-AGL25W
	RX300	07/2020+	3BA-AGL20W  3BA-AGL25W
	RX350	11/2022+	5BA-TALA10  5BA-TALA15
	RX450h	10/2015+	DAA-GYL20W  DAA-GYL25W

Make	Model	Year	Model code
07/2020-	6AA-GYL20W 6AA-GYL25W		
RX450h	12/2017+	DAA-GYL26W	
	07/2020+	6AA-GYL26W	
RX500h	11/2022+	5AA-TALH17	
RX350h	07/2023+	6AA-AALH10	
		6AA-AALH15	
RX450h	11/2022+	6LA-AALH16	
Lexus	RZ300e	11/2023+	ZAA-XEBM10
	RZ450e	03/2023+	ZAA-XEBM15
Lexus	UX200	11/2018+	6BA-MZAA10
	UX250h	11/2018+	6AA-MZAH10
			6AA-MZAH15
	UX300e	10/2020+	ZAA-KMA10
UX300h	01/2024+	6AA-MZAH11	
		6AA-MZAH16	
Toyota	Alphard	01/2018+	DBA-AGH30W
			DBA-AGH35W
			DBA-GGH30W
			DBA-GGH35W

Make	Model	Year	Model code
01/2020-	3BA-AGH30W		
	3BA-AGH35W		
	3BA-GGH30W		
	3BA-GGH35W		
06/2023-	3BA-AGH40W		
	3BA-AGH45W		
Alphard Hybrid	01/2018+	DAA-AYH30W	
	01/2020+	6AA-AYH30W	
	06/2023+	6AA-AAHH40W 6AA-AAHH45W	
Toyota	Camry	08/2018+	DAA-AXVH70*
		08/2020+	6AA-AXVH70*
		10/2019+	6AA-AXVH75*
Toyota	Century	09/2023+	6LA-GRG75
Toyota	C-HR	05/2018+	DBA-NGX10* DBA-NGX50* 3BA-NGX10* 3BA-NGX50* DAA-ZYX10* 6AA-ZYX11 N/A
Toyota	Corolla Sport	06/2018+	3BA-NRE210H* 3BA-NRE214H*

Make	Model	Year	Model code
06/2020-	6AA-ZWE211H* 6AA-ZWE213H*		
10/2022-	6AA-ZWE219H N/A 6BA-MZEA12H N/A		
Toyota	Crown	08/2016+	DBA-ARS210 DBA-GRS210 DBA-GRS211 DBA-GRS214
		06/2018+	3BA-ARS220
	Crown FCEV	11/2023+	ZBA-KZSM30
	Crown Hybrid	10/2015+	DAA-AWS210 DAA-AWS211
		06/2018+	6AA-AZSH20 6AA-AZSH21 6AA-GWS224
		11/2023+	6AA-AZSH32
	Crown Majesta	09/2015+	DAA-AWS215 DAA-GWS214
	Crown Crossover	07/2022+	5AA-TZSH35 6AA-AZSH35
	Crown Sport	10/2023+	6AA-AZSH36W
	Crown Sport HEV	12/2023+	6LA-AZSH37W

Make	Model	Year	Model code
Toyota	Esquire	07/2017+	DBA-ZRR80G* DBA-ZRR85G*
		04/2020+	3BA-ZRR80G* 3BA-ZRR85G*
	Esquire Hybrid	07/2017+	DAA-ZWR80G*
		04/2020+	6AA-ZWR80G*
Toyota	Harrier	06/2017+	DBA-ZSU60W* DBA-ZSU65W* DBA-ASU60W* DBA-ASU65W*
		06/2020+	6BA-MXUA80 6BA-MXUA85
	Harrier Hybrid	06/2017+	DAA-AVU65W*
		06/2020+	6AA-AXUH80 6AA-AXUH85
	Harrier PHEV	09/2022+	6LA-AXUP85 N/A
	Toyota	Land Cruiser	08/2021+
04/2024+			3DA-GDJ250W
Toyota	Mirai	12/2020+	ZBA-JPD20
Toyota	Noah	07/2017+	DBA-ZRR80G* DBA-ZRR80W* DBA-ZRR85G* DBA-ZRR85W*

Make	Model	Year	Model code
04/2020-	3BA-ZRR80G* 3BA-ZRR80W* 3BA-ZRR85G* 3BA-ZRR85W*		
01/2022-	6BA-MZRA90W 6BA-MZRA95W		
Noah Hybrid	07/2017+	DAA-ZWR80G* DAA-ZWR80W*	
	04/2020+	6AA-ZWR80G* 6AA-ZWR80W*	
	01/2022+	6AA-ZWR90W 6AA-ZWR95W	
Toyota	Prius	12/2015+	DAA-ZVW50 DAA-ZVW51 DAA-ZVW55
		07/2020+	6AA-ZVW51 6AA-ZVW55
		01/2023+	6AA-MXWH60 6AA-MXWH65 6AA-ZVW60 6AA-ZVW65

Make	Model	Year	Model code	
Prius PHV	10/2016+	DLA- ZVW52		
	07/2020+	6LA- ZVW52		
	03/2023+	6LA- MXWH61		
Toyota	Vellfire	01/2018+	DBA-AGH30W  DBA-AGH35W  DBA-GGH30W  DBA-GGH35W	
		01/2020+	3BA-AGH30W  3BA-AGH35W  3BA-GGH30W  3BA-GGH35W	
		06/2023+	5BA-TAHA40W  5BA-TAHA45W	
		Vellfire Hybrid	01/2018+	DAA-AYH30W
			01/2020+	6AA-AYH30W
			06/2023+	6AA-AAHH40W  6AA-AAHH45W
	Toyota	Voxy	07/2017+	DBA-ZRR80G*  DBA-ZRR80W*  DBA-ZRR85G*  DBA-ZRR85W*

Make	Model	Year	Model code
04/2020-	3BA-ZRR80G* 3BA-ZRR80W* 3BA-ZRR85G* 3BA-ZRR85W*		
01/2022-	6BA-MZRA90W 6BA-MZRA95W		
Voxy Hybrid	04/2020+	DAA-ZWR80W* 6AA-ZWR80W*	
	01/2022+	6AA-ZWR90W 6AA-ZWR95W	

\* indicates ITS is a dealer's option for this model.

## Inspecting the vehicle for an active ITS Connect system

To determine if ITS Connect is fitted and operational, two checks must be made to the vehicle. The first check is on the driver information display (MID, or MFD). The second check is on the navigation system.

In both cases the inspector will be looking for any indication of settings that are associated with an active ITS Connect system.

**Note:** the images below do not cover all vehicles. This page will be updated as manufacturers supply further content and advice.

# ITS Connect manufacturer option inspection

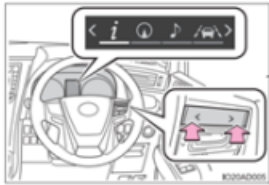
## ITS Connect ① Identifying the system equipment

- ITS Connect is not identifiable from vehicle exterior
- As below, **the system equipment can be identified by operating the multi information display**

< excerpt from instruction manual > ※ this example is taken from Alphard (2018.11~)

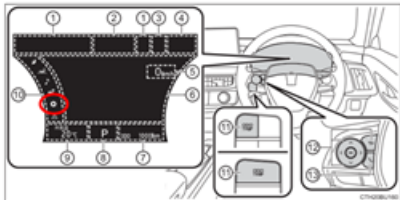
メーター操作スイッチの  
 < > を操作してアイコンを  
 選択することで、各アイコンに  
 関連付けられた情報を表示する  
 ことができます。  
 項目によっては状況に応じて自動で  
 表示されます。

Using left & right button on the display operation switch to  
 choose the icon in order to see information related to each  
 icon

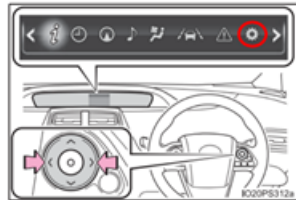


Only when ITS Connect is equipped, **'ITS Connect' setting is displayed**  
 ※ If ITS Connect is not equipped, ITS Connect setting will not be displayed

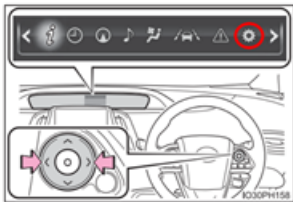
Crown: from Nov.2020 (petrol/HV)



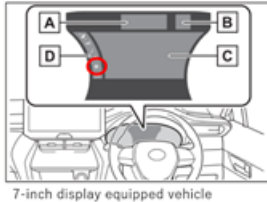
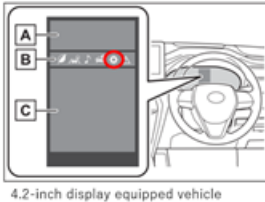
Prius: from July 2020



Prius PHV: from July 2020



Harrier: from June 2020



4.2-inch display equipped vehicle

7-inch display equipped vehicle

# ITS Connect dealer option check

## ITS Connect ① Identifying the equipment

- For vehicles with ITS Connect parts installed, equipment of the system cannot be identified from the vehicle exterior

(Although dedicated GPS antenna or dedicated film antenna are equipped, ITS Connect may not be identifiable as these parts are also widely used for navigation systems)

- from navigation, choose Menu > Set/Edit > Driving support > Safety/Comfort drive setting

**If any of these set switches, listed below, are displayed, ITS Connect is equipped:**

- Red light caution
- Right-turn collision caution
- Traffic signal status warning system
- Emergency vehicle notification



※ Navigation system may be removed but ITS Connect system unit can be left equipped for used vehicles. ITS Connect unit can be found under the floor mat of passenger seat

# Identifying ITS Connect in a Toyota Prius

## Video example

- [How to identify ITS Connect in a Toyota Prius](#)

## Visual guide to identifying ITS Connect in a Toyota Prius

Figure 1. Settings selector button



Figure 2. Setting screens

Use arrows on steering wheel control pad to move the selector

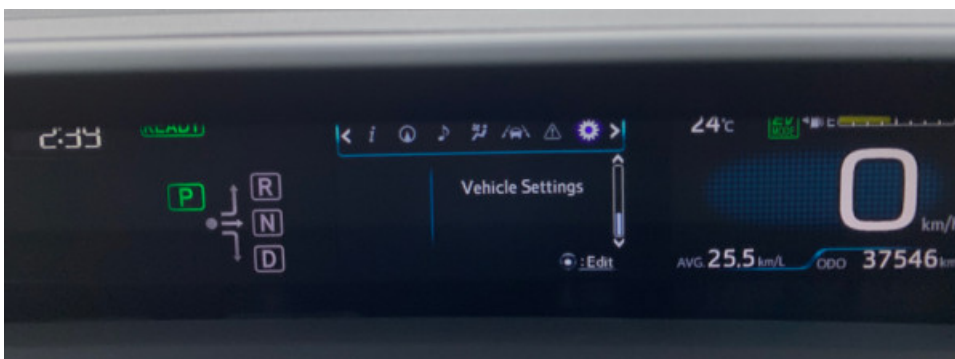


Figure 3. ITS Connect fitted as shown under vehicle settings

This vehicle would need to be damaged flagged and have the system removed.



## Identifying ITS Connect in a Toyota Vellfire

### Video example

- [How to identify ITS Connect in a Toyota Vellfire](#)

### Visual guide to identifying ITS Connect in a Toyota Vellfire

Figure 4. Vellfire MFD control buttons



Figure 6. Scroll Right to find settings



Figure 7. Select the gear icon for settings



**Figure 8. Scroll down and select 'Vehicle Settings'**



**Figure 9. Scroll down**

If ITS connect is fitted you will see the settings as below.



## **Conclusive evidence of inspection and ITS Connect system removal**

To meet the burden of proof of conclusive evidence, it must be shown that the vehicle is not fitted with an ITS Connect system.

For a vehicle that is not fitted with ITS-Connect two photos must be saved to the BIO's vehicle file that show the settings screens for both the Navigation unit and the MID. The vehicle's damage notes (in the vehicle's file) must be

updated to show that the vehicle has been inspected for ITS-Connect and ITS-Connect is not fitted, eg 'ITS-Connect not identified'. Note: damage notes cannot be added to BIS as the vehicle does not need a damage flag applied.

A vehicle that has been found to be fitted with an ITS Connect system must have a damage flag placed on the vehicle with a note stating 'ITS Connect Fitted'. Any other damage or Takata airbag recall notes must also be added if applicable. The damage flag is to remain on the vehicle even if ITS-Connect is disabled in Japan. Note: The vehicle record should not be created on BIS until the vehicle has completed its final border inspection, once a damage flag has been placed the record cannot be edited.

The vehicle owner must take the vehicle to a Toyota or Lexus franchise in Japan to have the ITS Connect system removed. An invoice or receipt from the dealer that shows the vehicles chassis number and indicates that the system has been removed is acceptable evidence that ITS Connect is no longer fitted.

After the ITS-connect is disabled a secondary check must be made on both the Navigation unit settings and the MID settings to ensure the ITS Connect associated settings are no longer visible. A copy of the invoice and photos of the displays on the second inspection must be saved in the vehicle file. A copy of the invoice should be loaded to BIS as evidence of the ITS Connect system removal. The invoice should be uploaded as a photo. PDFs cannot be uploaded unless the vehicle is water damaged. The vehicle should not be recorded as water damaged for the purpose of ITS Connect.

Page amended **22 January 2025** (see [amendment details](#))

## 4 Acid wash process on used imports

### Vehicle inspection requirements manuals reference:

- [Reference material 1: Guidelines for the detection of reportable damage on imported used vehicles \(excl. motorcycles\)](#)

### Background

Acid washing is a treatment being used to repair corrosion in vehicles, in particular the underbody structure and components.

The process involves the use of a chemical mix containing an acid base liquid, phosphoric acid is commonly used, to remove corrosion and treat the metal area. The following photos show examples of visible signs of acid wash repair.





Visible signs of an acid wash repair include:

- The area has been cleaned and a clear topcoat, or no topcoat applied.
- A white residue is noticeable in joints, seams, or coming through underseal/topcoats.
- Corrosion is still visibly active in an area that has been treated.

An area of metal that has not been acid washed correctly will continue to degrade within a short time and can be detrimental to the vehicle structure.

### **Application**

When visible signs of acid wash repair as described above are observed by an inspector at an entry compliance inspection the vehicle must be failed and referred to a Repair Certifier for assessment.

The threshold for requiring repair certification instructs 'A vehicle must be referred to a specialist repair certifier if signs of repair, rust prevention, acid wash or under-sealing to any part of the vehicle structure are evident'. The repair certifier will assess the repair and decide if it requires remedial work and a *Light vehicle repair record of certification* (LT308) issued, or if the repair is acceptable a *No repair certification required declaration – light vehicle* (LT307) issued.