

Correct as at 5th June 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Heavy vehicles > Steering and suspension

## 9 Steering and suspension

### 9-1 Steering and suspension systems

#### Reasons for rejection

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##### Mandatory equipment

1. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).

##### Condition

2. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).
3. An axle-stop has been removed, or its condition is such that it may not be effective.

##### Performance

4. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).

##### Modification and repair

5. A modification or repair affects the steering and suspension system and:
  - a) is not excluded from the requirements for HVS certification (Table 9-1-2), or
  - b) the modification is not for the purpose of law enforcement or the provision of emergency services, or
  - c) is missing proof of HVS certification, ie **the vehicle has been modified or repaired, and:**
    - i. no LANDATA record has been entered, or
    - ii. the vehicle was modified or repaired since the last CoF inspection and no valid LT400 form from an HVS certifier of category HVEC or HMCD has been presented.

#### Note 1 Definitions

**Axle-stop device** means a device to control the movement of the axle in the event of suspension failure (eg a shackle stop, security strap [SAF] or catch strap [BPW]).

#### Note 2

**Steering system** means those components, parts and systems that connect the driver's controls to a vehicle's wheels or tracks by means of which the direction of motion of a vehicle is controlled.

### Note 3

**Suspension system** means a system that allows controlled and limited movement of an axle relative to the chassis or body of a vehicle; and includes a spring and damping system and any associated controls.

**Table 9-1-2. Requirements for HVS certification**

HVS certification is required	HVS certification is not required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Left- to right-hand drive or dual-steering conversion.</li><li>2. A steering or suspension system that is modified, including a replacement system that is not identical to the system fitted by the vehicle manufacturer.</li><li>3. The steering system of a vehicle to which a second steering axle is fitted to form a twin-steer axle set.</li><li>4. Any components showing successive repairs.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Any modification or repair likely to have been carried out before 1 January 1997. (Modifications and repairs before this date generally required certification but for inspection purposes no evidence of this is required.)</li><li>2. Any repair or modification not listed in the left-hand column unless the vehicle inspector considers that certification is required because the modification or repair has affected the vehicle's safety performance (a second opinion from an expert may be needed, eg the manufacturer's representative, or a reputable workshop).</li></ol>

## Summary of legislation

### Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2002](#)
- [Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004.](#)

### Mandatory equipment

1. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).

### Permitted equipment

2. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).
3. A vehicle may be fitted with an axle-stop device.
4. A vehicle may be fitted with a ballrace turntable.

### Condition

5. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).
6. The suspension system must have adequate strength for all conditions of loading and operation for which the vehicle was constructed.

7. An axle-stop device fitted to a vehicle must be within safe tolerance of its original condition.

### **Performance**

8. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).

9. The suspension system must have performance characteristics for all conditions of loading and operation for which the vehicle was constructed.

### **Modification and repair**

10. A modification or repair that affects the steering or suspension system must be inspected and certified by an HVS certifier of category HVEC or HMCD unless the vehicle:

a) is excluded from the requirement for HVS certification (Table 9-1-2), and

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

Page amended **1 April 2023** (see [amendment details](#)).