

Correct as at 14th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

**Extract taken from:** In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Heavy vehicles > Towing connections > Heavy tractor towing connection

## 12-4 Heavy tractor towing connection

### Reasons for rejection

#### Mandatory and permitted equipment

1. A tractor with a towing connection other than a three-point linkage does not have one or two attachment points to which safety chains from a trailer coupling can be securely attached.

#### Condition

2. A towing connection component including a safety chain attachment point is:

- a) damaged, deformed, cracked or has significantly deteriorated, or
- b) worn beyond manufacturer's specifications, or
- c) not securely attached, or
- d) missing, or
- e) not mounted in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

3. A coupling mechanism or safety locking device does not:

- a) operate smoothly or effectively, or
- b) fasten securely.

#### Note 1 Definitions

**Heavy tractor** means a motor vehicle (other than a traction engine) with a gross vehicle mass exceeding 3500 kg constructed principally for towing an agricultural trailer or powering agricultural implements. This definition applies to towing connections only.

**Towing connection** means the combination of components that enables one vehicle to tow or be towed by another vehicle; it includes a towbar, drawbar, drawbeam and coupling.

**Three-point linkage** means, for a tractor or agricultural trailer, a towing connection that has three points of attachment.

## Summary of legislation

#### Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004](#).

### **Mandatory and permitted equipment**

1. A tractor may be fitted with towing connections, including three-point agricultural linkages.
2. A tractor with a towing connection other than a three-point linkage must have one or two points for attaching trailer safety chains that each has a strength of at least twice the maximum mass of any vehicles that may be towed by the tractor by means of that towing connection.

### **Condition**

3. Towing connection components fitted to a vehicle must ensure that a secure connection can be maintained between the towing and towed vehicles under all conditions of loading and operations for which the vehicle was constructed.

Page amended **1 October 2020** (see [amendment details](#))