

Correct as at 6th June 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Light PSVs > Vehicle interior > Frontal impact airbags

7-6 Frontal impact airbags

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory equipment

1. A deployed frontal impact airbag has not been replaced.
2. An OE airbag warning light system has been removed from a vehicle fitted with airbags.
3. A motor vehicle has a sign, light or other device that indicates the vehicle is fitted with an airbag when it is not fitted with an airbag.

Condition and performance

4. An airbag cover:
 - a) is damaged, or
 - b) has deteriorated (does not include deterioration of the dash surface due to the effects of sunlight), or
 - c) shows signs of tampering or inadequate repair.
5. Additional equipment has been fitted that may affect the proper performance of the airbag.
6. The airbag warning light:
 - a) does not operate, or
 - b) indicates a fault in the system.

Modification

7. A modification (Note 2) affects an airbag system (eg an airbag has been removed, or made inoperable, including retrofitting a switch), and:
 - a) is not excluded from the requirements for LVV specialist certification (Table 7-6-1), and
 - b) is missing proof of LVV specialist or accepted overseas certification, ie:
 - i. the vehicle is not fitted with a valid LVV certification plate, or
 - ii. the operator is not able to produce a valid modification declaration or authority card, or
 - iii. the vehicle has not been certified to an accepted overseas system as described in [Technical bulletin 13](#).
8. A motor vehicle that has had an airbag system removed or made inoperable and been certified as above does not:
 - a) have all OE signs, lights, or other devices that indicated the vehicle was fitted with an airbag removed, or
 - b) if the signs, lights, or other devices cannot be readily removed, have a label that indicates an airbag has been removed permanently attached in a prominent location where it is clearly visible to any occupant of the seating position that was previously protected by the airbag.

Note 1 Definitions

Modify means to change a vehicle from its original state by altering, substituting, adding or removing a structure, system, component or equipment, but does not include repair.

Repair means to restore a damaged or worn vehicle, its structure, systems, components or equipment to within safe tolerance of its condition when manufactured, including replacement with undamaged or new structures, systems, components or equipment.

Note 2

Some modifications are permitted, but they must always be LVV certified. The only modifications permitted are:

1. fitting a switch to render an airbag temporarily inoperable, and
2. the removal or permanent deactivation of an airbag in a vehicle that:
 - is at least 14 years old, or
 - has been adapted for a person with a disability, or
 - has been extensively modified for motorsport use.

Table 7-6-1. Modifications that do not require LVV certification

Fitting of or modification to:	LVV certification is never required:
Any modification for the purposes of law enforcement or the provision of emergency services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• in-service requirements for condition and performance must be met.

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Frontal Impact 2001](#).

Mandatory equipment

1. A frontal impact airbag and its operating system must remain operational if the vehicle was originally manufactured with a frontal impact airbag.
2. An airbag warning light system must remain operational if it was fitted by the vehicle manufacturer.
3. A motor vehicle must not have a sign, light, or other device that indicates the vehicle is fitted with an airbag if it is not fitted with an airbag.
4. A motor vehicle must not have a light or other device indicating an airbag operating system is operable if it is inoperable.

Permitted equipment

5. A switch may be installed as OE to render an airbag temporarily inoperable.

Condition and performance

6. An airbag and its operating system must be safe and in good condition.

7. An airbag warning light fitted by the manufacturer must remain operational.

Modification

8. A motor vehicle that has had an airbag removed or made inoperable must either:

a) have all OE signs lights, or other devices that indicated the vehicle was fitted with an airbag removed, or

b) if the signs, lights, or other devices cannot be readily removed, have a label that indicates an airbag has been removed permanently attached in a prominent location where it is clearly visible to any occupant of the seating position that was previously protected by the airbag.

9. A modification that affects an airbag system must be inspected and certified by an LVV specialist certifier, unless the vehicle is:

a) excluded from the requirement for LVV specialist certification (Table 7-6-1), and

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

Page amended **1 December 2016** (see [amendment details](#)).