

Changes to light vehicle inspections from 1 November 2026

The Government has announced changes to light vehicle inspections, which will start to come into effect from **1 November 2026**.

These changes aim to cut down on unnecessary costs while keeping people safe on the road. They affect inspections for cars, vans, people-movers, trailers and rental vehicles. There are also changes for motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000.

This announcement follows public consultation on proposed changes to light vehicle inspections, which ran from 29 October to 17 December 2025.

We received over 5,000 submissions, with overall support indicated for the proposals.

More details are coming

This is just an overview. Leading up to the change, we'll provide more detailed information to support you, including:

- updates to the Vehicle Inspection Requirements Manual (VIRM)
- more information about Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)
- system updates to reflect the changes.

What's changing

Inspection frequency

There will be fewer inspections for light vehicles at lower risk of crashes.

Note: light vehicles between 4 and 14 years old are changing in phases, so some won't be eligible for the new warrant of fitness (WoF) frequency until 1 November 2027.

Vehicle type and age	Current frequency	New frequency	Takes effect
New light vehicles	Second WoF at 3 years	Second WoF at 4 years	From 1 November 2026
Light vehicles 4 to 14 years old	Annual WoF	WoF every 2 years	<p>Registered on or after 1 November 2019:</p> <p>From 1 November 2026</p> <p>Registered between 1 November 2013 and 31 October 2019:</p> <p>From 1 November 2027</p>
Light vehicles 14 to 26 years old	Annual WoF	Annual WoF (no change)	No change
Light vehicles over 26 years old (registered before 1 January 2000)	WoF every 6 months	Annual WoF	From 1 November 2026
Light rental vehicles	CoF every 6 months	Annual CoF	From 1 November 2026
Motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000	WoF every 6 months	Annual WoF	From 1 November 2026
Motorcycles registered on or after 1 January 2000	Annual WoF	Annual WoF (no change)	No change

Inspection scope

WoF and CoF A inspections will check that no warning or malfunction indicators are showing for Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) and Lane Keep Assist systems (where fitted).

Enforcement and public awareness

- The infringement fee for operating a vehicle with a WoF expired by more than two months will increase from \$200 to \$350.
- Penalties for non-compliant wheels and tyres will increase from \$150 to \$350 (infringement fee) and up to \$1000 (maximum court-ordered fine).
- Public education will help people understand how to maintain their vehicles between inspections.

More information

You can read more about the consultation on our website:

[Changes to light vehicle inspections](#)

[Summary of submissions analysis report](#)

This work is part of the Government's Land Transport Rules Reform Programme.

[Land Transport Rules Reform Programme \(Ministry of Transport\)](#)

The inspection changes will be implemented through amendments to the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002, as well as associated offence and infringement regulations covering inspection compliance and vehicle condition offences.