

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 It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Light PSVs > Vehicle structure

3 Vehicle structure

3-1 Structure

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory equipment

1. An open-bodied vehicle that entered service as a PSV in New Zealand on or after 1 January 2001:
 - a) has side walls that are less than 450mm above the highest point of the uncompressed seat cushion on the open-bodied part of the vehicle, or
 - b) does not have a permanent framework in addition to the side walls to provide reasonable protection for the occupants in the case of the vehicle rolling over, or
 - c) on any upper deck does not have any drains to prevent water from collecting on it or draining into the body of the vehicle.

Condition

2. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).
3. The structural strength of a PSV has been reduced so that it does not provide reasonable protection for the occupants in the event of roof or wall deformation resulting from the vehicle rolling over, eg:
 - a) structural parts of the superstructure have been removed or substituted with parts that are of insufficient strength or not fit for purpose.
4. A body to chassis attachment, such as a weld, or fastener is:
 - a) missing, or
 - b) loose, or
 - c) cracked, or
 - d) broken, or
 - e) significantly corroded, or
 - f) otherwise in poor condition.

Modification

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

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Passenger Service Vehicles 1999](#).

Mandatory equipment

1. An open-bodied vehicle that entered service as a PSV in New Zealand on or after 1 January 2001 must:
 - a) on the open-bodied part of the vehicle have side walls that extend at least 450 mm above the highest point of the uncompressed seat cushion, and
 - b) have a permanent framework to provide reasonable protection for the occupants in the case of the vehicle rolling over, and
 - c) on any upper deck have drains to prevent water from collecting on it or draining into the body of the vehicle.

Condition

2. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).
3. The structural strength must be maintained throughout the service life of the PSV.
4. The superstructure must be of robust design, and made of materials fit for the purpose.
5. The body of a PSV must be fit for its purpose and securely fixed to the chassis.
6. The structural strength of a PSV must be sufficient to provide reasonable protection for the occupants in the event of roof or wall deformation resulting from the vehicle rolling over.

Modification

7. Refer to [general vehicle pages](#).
8. A modification that affects the vehicle structure must be inspected and certified by an LVV specialist certifier.

3-2 Stability

Reasons for rejection

Modification

1. A modification from 1 July 2000 affects the vehicle stability and:
 - a) is not excluded from the requirements for LVV certification (Table 3-2-1), or
 - b) is not for the purpose of law enforcement or the provision of emergency services, or
 - c) is missing proof of LVV certification, that is the vehicle is not fitted with a valid low volume vehicle certification plate, **or**
 - d) is missing proof of certification from an accepted overseas system as described in [Technical bulletin 13](#).

Table 3-2-1. Requirements for LVV certification

LVV certification is required	LVV certification is not required
1. Fitting of components to the roof, eg an air conditioning unit. 2. Changes in floor height or geometry, eg due to changes to suspension, wheel or tyre size.	1. Fitting of a roof rack 2. Any 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).

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Passenger Service Vehicles 1999](#)
- [Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002.](#)

Modification

1. A modification, on or after 1 July 2000, that affects the stability of a light PSV must be inspected and certified by an LVV specialist certifier, unless the vehicle:

- a) is excluded from the requirements for LVV specialist certification (Table 3-2-1), 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](#)).