

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 It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: Entry certification > Pre-registration and VIN > VIN assignment

3 VIN assignment

3-1 Assigning a VIN

All vehicles first registered or re-registered in New Zealand on or after 1 April 1994 must have a vehicle identification number (VIN) assigned and affixed.

Under [Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002](#), the VIN must be assigned and affixed as soon as practicable. A VIN must be:

- assigned to a vehicle before any compliance work is carried out on the vehicle, and
- affixed to the vehicle before the initial compliance inspection is completed.

An entry certifier may assign and affix a VIN while documentation is pending, but must make a note of this on the notes screen to ensure that it is subsequently obtained and verified. In cases where a particular entry-level inspector is only carrying out the VIN assignment process, the VIN must be affixed immediately.

A vehicle may have an original VIN assigned by the manufacturer, or it may need to have an NZTA '7AT' VIN assigned to it.

When a vehicle record is retrieved from the database and the details are displayed on the screen, the entry certifier must check these details to ensure they match the vehicle presented.

Scratchbuilt vehicles with used donor parts from high volume production vehicles (eg Ford, Holden, Range Rover) should not be assigned any high volume VIN from the donor parts.

1 Determining VIN requirements

To determine whether or not the identifier located on the vehicle is a valid VIN, type the identifier into the escape field of the 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen and transmit.

1.1 Valid VIN

If the identifier entered in the escape field of the 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen is a valid VIN, the 'VIN allocation' screen will display with message 'Valid VIN entered'. The identifier will display in the VIN field.

The entry certifier must check, correct and complete all vehicle details required for the vehicle type.

If there is a substantial difference (Note 1) in any of the vehicle attributes listed below between the vehicle attributes displayed and the actual vehicle presented, complete a [VIN approval request form \(CA01\)](#).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year of manufacture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year of first registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submodel 		

Do not alter the displayed vehicle details without approval from Waka Kotahi.

Contact NZTA on 0800 804 580 and select option 4 - inspections.

1.2 17-character identifier not recognised by LANDATA

If the identifier entered in the escape field of the 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen is a 17-character identifier that LANDATA cannot decode, the 'VIN allocation' screen will display the message 'WARNING VIN does not decode – Contact TRC'.

Some invalid VINs may be difficult to identify, as they look like a VIN and have the correct vehicle year recorded as the tenth character and a valid check digit as the ninth character. However, the world manufacturer identifier (WMI) belongs to someone other than the vehicle manufacturer. This problem is not identified until the VIN decode is investigated in detail. In such cases, the Permitting Assessments team may ask the importer to provide VIN decode information, and may advise that a '7AT' VIN be issued following investigation.

Do not continue. Please refer all 17-digit numbers that do not decode to Waka Kotahi (contact 0800 804 580). If you have the manufacturer's VIN decode information available email it directly to vindecode@nzta.govt.nz

1.3 Other

If an identifier was not entered, or if the identifier entered in the escape field of the 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen is not a valid VIN, the 'VIN allocation' screen will display the message 'Chassis number entered'.

LANDATA will assign a '7AT' VIN to the vehicle.

Most Japanese imports require a new VIN to be assigned.

2 Checking vehicle details

Once a VIN has been recognised or assigned to the vehicle and the vehicle details are displayed on the 'VIN allocation' screen, the entry certifier must ensure that the vehicle details that are mandatory for the vehicle type are correct and complete. If no vehicle details are displayed, the vehicle attributes recorded on the vehicle attributes checksheet must be entered.

When all mandatory vehicle attributes are correct and complete, the entry certifier must ensure the following fields are set as explained below.

Field	Should be set to ...
Certifier ID	<p>Blank; it is not applicable to the VIN assignment process.</p> <p>Nothing should be entered in this field until the vehicle has passed the entry-level inspection and certification process and the MR2A is to be printed.</p>
Print MR2A or VALOC screen	<p>>Y< only to provide a VIN checksheet, if a VIN plate is required to be affixed to the vehicle.</p> <p>An MR2A printed at this stage must not be used as a registration document. Its sole purpose is to provide printed details of the vehicle and the VIN that has been assigned to it.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You don't have to print on an MR2A form, plain paper is acceptable. The VALOC (VIN attributes) screen can be printed and used as a VIN check sheet.
Approved for registration?	>N<. The vehicle has not been approved for registration.

3 System validation

Transmit once all fields have been completed as above.

LANDATA will validate the data entered and redisplay the 'VIN allocation' screen with the vehicle's VIN displayed in the VIN field.

The system will display an error message at the bottom of the screen if any data entry errors were made (eg an invalid country or vehicle model). Correct errors and transmit.

Note 1

Substantial difference means a variation that cannot be satisfactorily explained.

Page updated 13 July 2025 (see [details](#)).

3-2 Assigning a VIN to a registered vehicle

Most vehicle types are required to have a VIN if they are registered or re-registered in New Zealand on or after 1 April 1994. Vehicles that were registered in New Zealand before this date and have their original chassis identification attached are not required to have a VIN affixed. However, a VIN may be affixed at the vehicle owner's request.

If a vehicle does not have any identifiers (ie a VIN or chassis number), it is required to have a VIN assigned and affixed before its next warrant of fitness inspection.

Most motor vehicles have had some form of chassis number assigned to them. Where chassis numbers or VINs are missing or where the LANDATA chassis number does not match the actual chassis number, the vehicle may have been stolen or involved in a major accident at some point in its life. Because of this, you are required to:

- complete a [VIN approval request form \(CA01\)](#)

2. email a copy to assessments@nzta.govt.nz

Before assigning the VIN, the entry certifier must inspect the vehicle and record its attributes on a vehicle attributes worksheet. This worksheet must be retained for a minimum of two years. The VIN must be assigned to a registered vehicle using the 'vehicle details by plate' screen.

The following process outlines how to assign a VIN to a registered vehicle.

Step	Action		
1	<p>Type >DETAILP (space) (plate number)< in the escape field and transmit.</p> <p>The 'vehicle details by plate' screen displays details for the plate number entered.</p>		
2	Is a chassis number displayed?	NO	Contact NZTA on 0800 804 580 for assistance.
		YES	Note the chassis number and continue from step 3.
3	<p>Type >VINASGN (space) (chassis number)< in the escape field and transmit.</p> <p>The system will search for vehicle records with that chassis number.</p>		
4	Is more than one vehicle record displayed?	YES	<p>The 'assign VIN to a registered vehicle' screen displays with a list of vehicles with that chassis number.</p> <p>Use scroll commands to find the correct record if required.</p> <p>Type >X< in the select field alongside the correct record and transmit.</p> <p>The 'assign VIN to registered vehicle' screen will display the vehicle details.</p> <p>Continue from step 5.</p>
		NO	The 'assign VIN to a registered vehicle' screen displays with the vehicle details.
5	Are the displayed details correct?	YES	Continue from step 6.
		NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have you entered the correct plate and/or chassis number, contact the Transport Agency on 0800 804 580. • If you have selected the wrong vehicle record, type >R< in the escape field and transmit to return to the previous screen. <p>Enter the correct chassis number and continue from step 4.</p>
6	Do you want to print an MR2A VIN checksheet?	YES	<p>Transmit.</p> <p>The message 'Vehicle has been assigned a VIN' displays at the top of the screen with a VIN in the VIN field.</p>

Step	Action
NO	<p>Type >N< in the print MR2A field and transmit.</p> <p>The message 'Vehicle has been assigned a VIN' displays at the top of the screen with a VIN in the VIN field.</p>
7	<p>Affix the VIN.</p> <p>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 4-1</p>

Page amended 1 October 2022 (see [amendment details](#)).

3-3 Assigning a VIN to a low volume vehicle

Many manufacturers who make vehicles in small quantities (ie fewer than 500 per year) do not have the authority to issue VINs. These manufacturers must obtain a VIN for each vehicle they make from an entry certifier. The entry certifier then stamps the VIN directly on to a nominated structural part of the vehicle.

However, some low volume vehicle manufacturers do have the necessary authority to assign and affix a VIN, so will not have to go through this process. These VINs will all start with '7A9', '6Y9', or '6Z9'.

1 Application for VIN assignment

A low volume vehicle manufacturer must complete a vehicle attributes worksheet, similar to the sheet used by entry certifiers. This describes the vehicle that is being (or will be) manufactured. This worksheet comprises two parts that describe the attributes required based on the vehicle type.

The vehicle attributes worksheet is submitted with an application for a VIN. If the vehicle is covered by the Low Volume Vehicle Code, the application must be endorsed by one of the organisations belonging to the Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (LVVTA), which is responsible for checking that the vehicle is built in accordance with the requirements of the Low Volume Vehicle Code.

Particular care is required for the recording of make, model and year of manufacture attributes.

The completed and endorsed application must be presented to an entry certifier for the assignment of a VIN. If the vehicle attributes worksheet is not complete in any way, the application must be rejected.

Vehicle attributes must be entered into LANDATA as described in

[Pre-registration and VIN 3-1](#) and [Pre-registration and VIN 3-2](#), with the exception of the 'print MR2A checksheet' field.

This field must be set to >Y< to print a VIN checksheet that is used to notify the vehicle manufacturer of the assigned VIN. It is not to be used as a registration document. The system will print an MR2A checksheet displaying:

- the vehicle details, and
- the VIN assigned to the vehicle, and

- the words 'Affix this VIN to vehicle with chassis number XXXXXX'.

Attach the MR2A to one copy of the vehicle attributes worksheet and send it to the vehicle manufacturer.

Retain the other copy of the vehicle attributes worksheet for future reference. The documents should be filed so that they can be easily retrieved.

Page updated **20 July 2020** (see [details](#))