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 It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: Entry certification > Introduction > Inspection premises and equipment

7 Inspection premises and equipment

Inspecting organisations must:

- have premises and equipment that comply with all applicable requirements set out in this section
- continue to comply with all applicable requirements set out in this section
- maintain their premises and equipment in a good state of repair at all times
- have brake performance testing equipment calibrated at least every 12 months, or more frequently if required by the brake performance testing equipment manufacturer.

Minimum access, exit and turning circle specifications

Specification	Vehicle class		
	LA, LB, LC, LD	**LE, MA, MB, MC, MD1, MD2, NA**	**MD3, MD4, ME, NB, NC, TC, TD**
Minimum access and exit width	2.0m (2.8m for LD)	2.8m	3.0m
Minimum access and exit height	2.0m	3.0m	4.5m
Minimum level approach to roller brake machine (measured from the centre of the rollers)	2.0m	5.0m	19m
Minimum level exit from roller brake machine (measured from the centre of the rollers)	2.0m	5.0m (Note 1)	19m
Minimum turning radius	5.0m	8.0m	12.5m (Note 2)
Marked turning circle diameter	N/A	N/A	25m (Note 3)

1.1 Inspection area specifications

Minimum dimensions

Specification	Vehicle class		
	LA, LB, LC, LD	**LE, MA, MB, MC, MD1, MD2, NA**	**MD3, MD4, ME, NB, NC, TC, TD**
Inspection area width	2.4m	4.0m	5.0m – see (c) below
Inspection area height	2.5m	3.0m	5.0m
Inspection area length	3.0m	6.0m	23.0m – see (g) overleaf

Other requirements and considerations:

a) The inspection area must be situated within a building that has a roof, sides and doors made of permanent building materials.

b) The inspection area must be clear of all structural and equipment intrusions apart from the vehicle hoist and roller brake machine.

c) The inspection area width for vehicle classes MD3, MD4, ME, NB, NC, TC and TD may overlap any adjoining inspection area for the same vehicle class up to 1m along its length.

d) The inspection area floor must be smooth concrete or tar seal.

e) The ground must be even and level. That is, all vehicle combinations must remain stationary with all brakes released.

f) There must be sufficient suitable lighting in the inspection area.

g) The minimum inspection area length for vehicle classes MD3, MD4, ME, NB, NC, TC, TD may be reduced to 16m for drive-through premises.

1.2 Minimum underbody inspection area specifications

Available options		Vehicle class		
At least one of the following as applicable		LA, LB, LC, LD	LE, MA, MB, MC, MD1, MD2, NA	MD3, MD4, ME, NB, NC, TC, TD
Trolley jack and axle stands		Suitable lifting equipment	WoF only	n/a
Vehicle hoist		n/a	✓	n/a
Inspection pit	Width	n/a	0.8 – 1.0m	0.8 - 1.0m
	Depth	n/a	1.3m	1.3m
	Length	n/a	4m	Side entry: 10m End entry: 15m

Other requirements and considerations:

a) The underbody inspection facility must be located and centrally aligned within the inspection area.

b) The pit length is measured at the base of the pit and does not include any steps that may be located at the ends.

c) There must be sufficient and suitable lighting provided for the underbody inspection. Refer to sections 7.2.2 and 7.2.5 for more details.

1.3 Equipment

Equipment	Vehicle class			
	LA, LB	LC, LD	LE, MA, MB, MC, MD1, MD2, NA	MD3, MD4, ME, NB, NC, TC, TD
Lamps				
• Graduated light board (moped and motorcycles only), or • Commercial quality optical headlamp beamsetter	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vision				
Calibrated electronic light transmission measuring device *(This must be a lightmeter; an NZTA tint sample is not acceptable for entry-level inspection)*			✓	✓
Brakes				
An approved motorcycle helmet if road testing is carried out.		✓	✓ (LE only)	
Access to level test strip (motorcycles only)	✓	✓	✓	
Approved brake machine			✓	✓
Calibrated equipment to measure disc runout		✓	✓	
Calibrated brake drum measuring device		✓	✓	
Calibrated brake disc measuring device		✓	✓	
Suitable container or equipment for sampling and checking brake fluid		✓	✓	
Air gauge (minimum 1000kPa)				✓

Fittings that enable the air gauge to be attached to a duomatic coupling				✓
Stop watch				✓
Seats and seatbelt anchorages				
1m straight edge	n/a	n/a	PSV entry only	
Spirit level	n/a	n/a		
Plumb bob	n/a	n/a		
Calibrated torque wrench (see **Reference material 74**)	n/a	n/a	✓	
Running gear				
a) Two-post vehicle hoist (with sufficient capacity)	Suitable lifting equipment	Suitable lifting equipment	any one of a, or b	c
b) Four-post vehicle hoist with built-in jacking mechanism (with sufficient capacity)				
c) Inspection pit and industrial quality trolley jack				
Industrial quality hand-held inspection lamp (minimum 750 lux)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leverage bar (steel or similar strength material) for steering and suspension			✓	✓
Leverage bar (steel or similar strength material) for ball-race turntables				✓
Graduated tyre tread depth gauge		✓	✓	✓
Vehicle dimensions				
3m measuring tape	✓	✓	✓	

25m measuring tape				✓
Tow connections				
40mm tow pin wear indicator gauge				✓
50mm tow pin wear indicator gauge				✓
40mm tow eye wear indicator gauge				✓
50mm tow eye wear indicator gauge				✓
Taxi meters				
Test strip, or calibrated rolling road			✓	
Meter seal kit			✓	
Stop watch			✓	
VIN				
VIN embossing machine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glass etching equipment	n/a	n/a	✓	✓
Rivet gun	✓	✓	✓	✓
An instrument for analysing exhaust emissions as prescribed in Introduction 8 (1.6) below	n/a	n/a	✓	✓
Lighting				
Right side (centre of vehicle)		500 lux	500 lux	500 lux
Left side (centre of vehicle)		500 lux	500 lux	500 lux

Front (centre of vehicle)		500 lux	500 lux	500 lux
Rear (centre of vehicle)		500 lux	500 lux	500 lux
Underbody		400 lux	400 lux	400 lux
Lighting during inspection, underbody, interior, engine and boot		750 lux	750 lux	750 lux

All measuring equipment used as part of the entry inspection and certification process must be calibrated at least once every 12 months. This must be recorded in the PRS Equipment record.

1.4 Compliance with statutory requirements

It is the inspecting organisation's responsibility to ensure that the inspection premises and equipment comply with:

- occupational safety and health requirements, and
- any other relevant acts, regulations and local bylaws.

1.5 Approved brake testing equipment

Only the brake testing equipment in the VIRM: In-service certification sections 5.5 to 5.7 (as applicable) is approved for entry inspection of brake performance.

VIRM: In-service certification sections 5.5 to 5.7

1.6 Approved vehicle exhaust emissions testing equipment

The equipment used to measure the exhaust emissions of petrol, LPG or CNG vehicles must:

1. be capable of testing carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions; and

2. comply with:

a) BAR-97 Emissions Inspection System Specifications, or

b) OIML R99/ISO 3930 Instruments for measuring vehicle exhaust emissions, Class 1 Standards, or

c) Japan Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles, Technical Standard – Machinery Equipment for Vehicle Inspection as specified by the Minister for Transport in Announcement No. 375 of 14 June 1995.

For diesel vehicles tested using filter paper equipment, the equipment prescribed in Japanese Industrial Standard JIS D 8004, Reflection Type Smokemeters for Automobile Diesel Engines, must be used for analysing exhaust emissions.

For diesel vehicles tested using an opacimeter, the equipment prescribed in International Standard ISO 11614:1999, Reciprocating internal combustion compression ignition engines – Apparatus for measurement of the opacity and determination of the light absorption coefficient of exhaust gas, must be used for analysing exhaust emissions.

The equipment used in testing must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

The emission testing equipment must be thoroughly checked, maintained and calibrated in accordance with the respective manufacturer's directions.

1.7 Other requirements and considerations

Computer systems must be available on site when the site is open for certification. The computer equipment, VIN equipment and document storage must be located and operated from a location where the public does not have access when staff are not present. All data entry must be carried out by staff. When not in use by staff, the NZTA computer system must not be accessible to any other person.

Where premises or equipment are not owned by the inspecting organisation, the times when the premises and equipment are leased for entry certification use must be specified in the contract with the leaseholder.

Inspection area lighting should conform to New Zealand standard code of practice for interior lighting design (NZS 6703:1984), or subsequent amendments. The code of practice establishes performance requirements for specific workplace lighting.

Ambient lighting (ie not hand-held spotlights) of 500 lux (initial) is required at the middle of the vehicle at all four sides and 400 lux (initial) at the centre of the underbody. Lighting must be a minimum of 750 lux during the underbody, interior, engine and boot inspections of the vehicle. Hand-held lighting can be used to provide the required lighting level. Any requirements for hand-held lighting must be noted on the site plan. In these cases, vehicle inspectors must use hand-held lighting during inspections.

The site plan submitted with an application must identify areas where structural inspections will be carried out.

Vehicle inspectors

Applications for appointment must be sponsored by an employing inspecting organisation.

Page updated **1 February 2023** (see **details**)