

Correct as at 27th April 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Forklifts > Towing connections

12 Towing connections

12-1 Towing connections

Reasons for rejection

Condition

1. A towing connection component is:

- a) not securely attached, or
- b) missing, or
- c) cracked, distorted or significantly corroded, or
- d) worn beyond manufacturer's specifications.

2. A coupling mechanism or safety locking device does not operate smoothly or efficiently, or fasten securely.

Note 1

Corrosion damage is where the metal has been eaten away, which is evident by pitting. The outward sign of such corrosion damage is typically displayed by the lifting or bubbling of paint. In extreme cases, the area affected by the corrosion damage will fall out and leave a hole.

Note 2

Towing connection means the combination of components that enables one vehicle to tow or be towed by another vehicle; it includes a towbar, drawbar, drawbeam and coupling.

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004](#)
- [Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002](#), section 7.4.

Permitted equipment

1. A forklift may be fitted with a towing connection.

Condition

2. Towing connection components fitted to a vehicle must ensure that a secure connection can be maintained between the towing and towed vehicles under all conditions of loading and operations for which the vehicle was constructed.

3. A vehicle must:

- a) be safe to be operated, and
- b) have been constructed using components and materials that are fit for purpose, and
- c) be within safe tolerance of their state when manufactured.