

Correct as at 17th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

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

12 Towing connections

12-1 Towing connections

Reasons for rejection

Condition

1. A towing connection component:
 - a) is not securely attached, or
 - b) is missing, or
 - c) is cracked, distorted or significantly corroded, or
 - d) is worn beyond manufacturer's specifications.
2. A coupling mechanism or safety locking device does not operate smoothly or effectively, or fasten securely.
3. A coupling pin or towing hook is:
 - a) welded or repaired, or
 - b) is worn beyond the coupling manufacturer's wear limits or, if these are not available, by more than 5% of the original dimensions.

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

Coupling means that part of a vehicle that is specifically designed to enable it to be connected to another vehicle; it does not include a structural member of the towing or towed vehicle.

Towing connection means the combination of components that enables one vehicle to tow or be towed by another vehicle, and 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 vehicle 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.