

WoF*news*

Modified exhaust

For those of you who haven't seen this before, this is a picture of an exhaust system that has been modified. It is possible that the original cast bend that comes out from the engine has been replaced with another one that has provision for fitting a valve. The valve is linked by a cable to a switch that the driver can operate to make the exhaust either noisy or quiet.



This setup doesn't meet the requirement that the exhaust system and silencer must be constructed so they cannot be readily interfered with. This vehicle must be failed for WoF.

Child restraints

When a car is presented for a WoF inspection with a child restraint held in place by a seatbelt, the restraint may need to be removed so that the seatbelt can be inspected.

If you do not feel competent to remove and return the restraint, then you may refuse to inspect the vehicle.

If, for example, the child restraint has been removed and you are not sure that it is put back properly, then you are obliged to advise the owner that it may not be correctly installed. Otherwise you would be negligent. Bear in mind that the person collecting the car may not know how to replace the restraint correctly, either.

WoF expiration

We have heard that some warrants of fitness are not being filled in completely. Please make sure that you enter the full expiry date on the warrant before you fix it to the vehicle.

Modified vehicles

Please note that a vehicle that has completed low volume vehicle (LVV) inspection is NOT certified until the LVV plate has been attached by the certifier. The presence of an FS001 may indicate that the modifications are acceptable but it alone is not enough to allow you to certify the vehicle.

There have been a number of occasions when the plate has not been able to find the vehicle it belongs to within two months. At that time the validity of the FS001 expires and the vehicle will need to be LVV certified again. The VCU is very likely to uphold the owner's complaint about this.

AVI applications

Authorisations for vehicle inspectors are given through the Transport Registry Centre in Palmerston North. To put in an application please do not contact a reviewer.

Instead, phone the inspection helpdesk – 0800 587 287, then press 3.

Business sold?

Notify us so we can turn off your authority; it can't be passed on to the new owner without our approval.

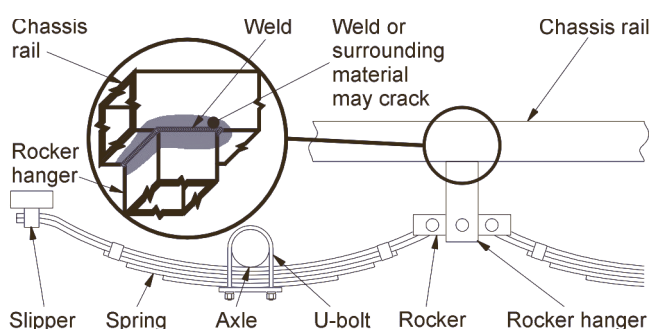
Inspection helpdesk 0800 587 287

This number has been set up for queries from vehicle inspectors. Please do not give this number out to the general public. The line is not staffed to cope with general enquiries.

Trailer axle attachment

The LTSA has been notified of an incident where a tandem axle light trailer lost both of its axles.

The axle mounting method shown below is not uncommon. Due to fatigue damage to the chassis rail at the welded mounting point, the rocker box pulled away from the chassis allowing the two axles to detach from the trailer.



Please pay attention to the chassis in the area of the rocker box mounting (shaded) at WoF inspections to guard against further such failures.

Complaints

The VCU handles complaints about certification issues. The results of complaints handled between July and December 2003 are:

Complaints	Results
187	No further action
80	Corrective action
32	Written warning
16	Suspension
3	Revocation
318	Total

No further action is the result given where we cannot determine the condition of the vehicle when inspected, because a significant amount of time has elapsed, or the vehicle has travelled a considerable distance, or it has been repaired in the intervening period. It also applies to complaints about issues that are outside WoF certification.

Your choice

What sort of items would you like to see in the WoF news? Please give us your feedback.

WoF online help

XTRA — phone 0800 000 533
(for problems with accessing WoF online)

TRC — phone 0800 804 580/fax 06 354 6931
(for problems after you have accessed WoF online)

UNISYS — phone 0800 243 687
(for problems with user access codes and passwords)

TRC — phone 0800 108 809
(for phone inquiries from members of the public)

VCU — phone 0800 587 287
(for technical assistance and reporting staff movements)

feedback...?

We welcome your feedback. Please send any comments to:
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