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# VIRM: Light vehicle repair certification amendment 7 October 2016 – water damage changes

September 2016

## Change in requirements for water damaged vehicles

The NZ Transport Agency has announced that from today, Wednesday 7 September all water damaged light vehicles will now require a full replacement of all electronic and pyrotechnic safety components such as airbags, sensors, pretensioner seatbelts and wiring.

This is a change to the previous requirement where only those items below the water line were required to be replaced.

The Transport Agency's Group Manager Access & Use, Celia Patrick, says the change is in response to concerns about the risk of poor quality repairs. "Safe repair of water damage requires all affected electronic and pyrotechnic safety components to be refitted, to guard against components failing or not functioning properly in the event of a crash.

"When water damaged vehicles are repaired properly, they are safe, and we had confidence in appointed repair certifiers to safely implement the previous requirements.

"However, determining the extent of water damage has become difficult to achieve with certainty when vehicles have been groomed prior to being presented to repair certifiers. There have been cases of people masking or misrepresenting water damage levels in order to reduce the extent and cost of refitting required.

"Not replacing water damaged safety components creates significant road safety risks."

The new requirements apply to vehicles that have been water damaged in New Zealand and require re-registration, and to imported water damaged vehicles – the main source of which is Australia.

Provision has been made for imported water damaged vehicles purchased on or before 7 September to be able to be certified under previous requirements, provided they are border checked by 7 October. This will enable vehicles en route to New Zealand to be border checked and subsequently certified according to the requirements they were purchased under.

The following pages preview the changes before they go live on 7 October 2016.

# PREVIEW

The current live page is available at: <http://vehicleinspection.nzta.govt.nz/virms/light-vehicle-repair/general-repairs/water-damage>

## 9 General repairs

### 9-1 Water damage

#### Note 1

For a vehicle purchased on or before 7 September 2016 and border checked before 7 October 2016, if there is conclusive evidence to support that the vehicle has not been fully immersed and a deviation from the requirements of **Table 9-1-1** is sought this must be presented to the Vehicles team, Technical Services at the Transport Agency and permission may be granted to deviate from the requirements listed the table.

Vehicles purchased on or after 7 September 2016 and/or border checked on or after 7 October 2016 must be treated as fully submerged and deviations will not be considered by the Transport Agency.

**Table 9-1-1. Water damaged vehicle safety related components**

| Vehicle Components               | Options   |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                                  | Component to be replaced with non-used genuine components | Component can be replaced with used components of known origin, storage and condition | The original components can be reused after being stripped, inspected and tested by the manufacturer or an approved representative |
| Seatbelt assemblies              | ✓   | x   | x  |
| Seatbelt pre-tensioners          | ✓   | x   | x  |
| Airbags <sup>1</sup>             | ✓   | x   | x  |
| SRS control module               | ✓   | x   | x  |
| SRS sensor(s)                    | ✓   | x   | x  |
| SRS wiring loom                  | ✓   | x   | x  |
| SRS relay(s)                     | ✓   | x   | x  |
| SRS clockspring                  | ✓   | x   | x  |
| ECU's (engine, suspension, etc.) | ✓   | x   | x  |
| Wiring loom                      | ✓   | ✓   | x  |
| ABS / ESC actuator               | ✓   | x   | x  |
| ABS / ESC control module         | ✓   | x   | x  |

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Brake master cylinder                              | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Brake booster system                               | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Brake calipers / drum parts                        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Line pressure valves                               | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Brake lamp switch                                  | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Ignition switch                                    | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Lamp switches                                      | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Lamp wiring and connectors                         | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Lamp relay(s)                                      | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Horn, relay and switch                             | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Collision avoidance & lane departure sensors       | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Radar/laser cruise control sensors                 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Suspension height sensors                          | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Wiper motor and switch                             | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Alternator   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Starter motor                                      | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| HVAC system  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gauge cluster (speedometer, tach.)                 | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Door locks and latches                             | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fluids (brake, steering, engine, drivetrain, etc.) | ✓ | x | x |
| Lamp assemblies                                    | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Fly by wire accelerator                            | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Throttle cable                                     | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Electronic parking brake components                | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Handbrake cable                                    | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

<sup>1</sup> Refer to [section 5-3 Airbags](#) in this manual

Reasons for rejection

Tables and images

Summary of legislation

3. For a vehicle purchased on or before 7 September 2016 and border checked before 7 October 2016, if there is evidence that the vehicle has not been fully immersed and/or the composition of the water is known and a deviation from the requirements of **Table 9-1-1** is sought, this must be presented to the Vehicles team, Technical Services of the Transport Agency and permission may be granted to deviate from the requirements listed in the table (vehicles purchased on or after 7 September 2016 and/or border checked on or after 7 October 2016 must be treated as fully submerged and deviations will not be considered by the Transport Agency).