

WoF news

DRIVER AND VEHICLE CERTIFICATION UNIT

July 2008 Issue 12

DVCU is on the move

DVCU National Office moved to new premises on June 30. Our new contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

Our fax and direct dial telephone numbers will be changing. But don't worry if you fax or call our old numbers for now as they will be diverted to the new numbers for a couple of months.

High-mounted stop lamps

A friendly reminder: when inspecting vehicles, don't forget that class MA vehicles first registered in NZ on or after 1 January 1990 must be fitted with a working high-mounted stop lamp before they can pass a WoF inspection.

Affixing duplicate WoFs

Recently, a duplicate WoF was issued to the owner of a car who then gave the duplicate to a friend with a similar vehicle who put it on *his* car.

Obviously, this should never have happened. The requirements in the VIRM for affixing WoF labels apply to all WoF labels, including duplicates.

Therefore, please make sure that the vehicle inspector or a delegated employee are the only persons who affix WoF labels. It would also help to make sure that the vehicle the label is to be attached to is the correct one!

VIRM amendments

If you are a holder of the *VIRM: In-service certification (WoF)* or *(WoF and CoF)*, please make sure you have the following amendments since version 3 of the manual was issued:

- Amendment 1 (March 2007) – vehicle structure
- Amendment 2 (November 2007) – tyre tread depth
- Amendment 2.1 (December 2007) – CoF requirements (issued to CoF organisations only)
- Amendment 3 (June 2008) – exhaust noise.

If you are missing any amendments, please contact Jackie Hartley on (04) 910 8166 or jackie.hartley@landtransport.govt.nz.

Please make sure your VIRMs have been updated to include these amendments – rather than leaving them sitting in that pile on the desk.

The WoF mystery shopper

DVCU has recently completed a trial of the new mystery shopper operation. WoF inspectors were visited incognito and asked to inspect a vehicle that had been carefully prepared with several faults.

This type of audit will give information about the actual practice of vehicle inspectors that cannot be obtained from scheduled reviews.

DVCU also hopes it will also encourage inspectors to maintain high standards at all times.

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 the seatbelt can be inspected. If this is the case, then you need to make sure the driver of the vehicle is aware that the seat belt has been undone.

We suggest that you make it obvious that the child restraint seat is not properly secured either by turning it upside down or by placing a prominent notice in the driver's position. You may also show what you have done on the checksheet.

Whilst it is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child is properly restrained, it is easy not to realise from the outside of the car if the seatbelt has been released and not re-fastened, as it is not in sight.



Changed your details?

Relocation of premises

There are a lot of WoF sites that are not informing DVCU that they are relocating, or are telling DVCU after they have moved.

Any sites that relocate without contacting DVCU and completing a site relocation pack will not be able to issue WoFs until the new premises have been authorised. The relocation pack needs to be sent in to allow enough time for a reviewer to come and check the new site before relocating.

Sale of business

Please notify us so we can turn off your authority – it can't be passed on to the new owner without DVCU approval.

Staff leaving

This is a reminder to inspecting organisations that when staff leave for any reason, DVCU is to be notified so that their system authority can be changed. This restricts the possibility of fraudulent use of the authority.

WoF ban flag on safety recalls

Land Transport NZ has set a ban flag on 300 vehicles in LANDATA. This is a trial to assess how and if we can assist the industry to clear up vehicles with safety recalls.

The first batch is approximately 200 Mitsubishi Diamantes; a used import recall for the park brake pedal from August 2005. The second batch is approximately 100 Mitsubishi Trucks (Heavy CoF vehicles); a Cab hook recall from September 2004.

Mitsubishi Motors of NZ has been writing to the registered owners notifying them that Land Transport NZ will be blocking any WoFs or CoFs until the vehicle safety recall is complete. They have sent letters previously to the owners. There is no charge to the owner for any of the work done by Mitsubishi.

The setting of the ban flag is a last resort. It will be removed when Mitsubishi Motors of NZ advise the safety recall is completed. It will not be removed on advice from the dealer, the inspector or the owner.

Vehicle inspectors should call the TRC 0800 804 580 if they inspect one of these vehicles.

Vehicle owners can call Mitsubishi on 0800 545 352 for contact details of their nearest dealer.

To rock the wheel or ... ?

by Pat Towers – Reviewer

I had a call the other day from a garage owner wanting me to take a look at a vehicle with a chassis crack. When I arrived at the garage – what greeted me was one of the best reasons anyone could need to carry out a loaded steering test.

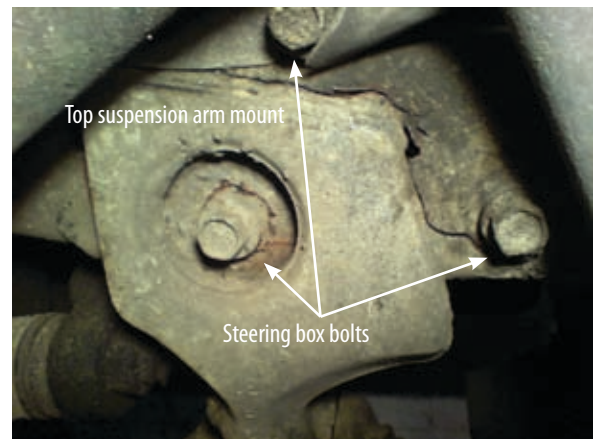
The vehicle was a 1994 Isuzu Bighorn that had done 400 000 km. I was told that the chassis had cracked somewhere about the right front corner ... "Now see if you can find it."

The photo doesn't show how challenging locating this kind of fault can be. I mean look at it, it has almost sectioned the chassis – how hard could it be right? I found the cracking about the suspension mount but when one of the lads rocked the steering wheel – holy cow, the front of the chassis was waving at me!

I had been told the crack was there but I still had to hunt to find it, and even then I only found a part of it. What if I didn't know about the chassis crack? What if I hadn't had someone rock the steering wheel for me? What's the chance I may have missed this?

The part that sent chills through me though was when I was told that the owner of the vehicle had taken it into the garage on the off chance that they may have time to carry out a WoF and service before he and his family went to Auckland for the weekend.

Well done Doug and the team at Doug Roberts Motors in Fordell (for those not in the know that's just south of Wanganui).



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've 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)

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

Feedback?

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

Please send any comments to:

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