

WoF news



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

Issue 16 February 2012

Happy New Year everyone!

This is the first WoF Newsletter that will be available in electronic format only, although you are welcome to print it off and put it on your coffee table (though you may miss out on the glorious colours!).

At the moment this newsletter lives on the NZTA website along with *previous newsletters*, although in the near future you will be able to find these more easily in the new eVIRM/online manual website portal.

Have you moved to XP/Vista/Windows 7 operating system yet?

Last chance to move to Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7

FROM MONDAY 12 MARCH 2012, those on Windows 98, ME or 2000 operating systems will no longer be able to use WoF-online.

This means that you will no longer be able to operate your WoF business. If you are one of the remaining 91 users who still operate on the old systems, you will most likely need to buy a new computer to operate XP, Vista or Windows 7. It is highly recommended that you get onto that as soon as possible to prevent disruption to your WoF business.

If you are on any of these old systems, you will also not be able to use the eVIRM to its full extent as it will only work properly on Internet Explorer 7, 8 and 9 (and other equivalent levels of web browsers such as Firefox), which generally only work on XP, Vista and Windows 7.

For more detailed information, please refer to the *previous notice*. Note that the original date of 1 October 2011 is now 12 March 2012.

eVIRM update

After frustrating delays last year in being able to contract someone to actually develop the eVIRM, the real work started in November, and we are hoping to have the in-service VIRM (both for WoF and CoF) available by the end of March or early April. A VIRM update is also due around that time, which will be in the eVIRM as well as posted out for your hardcopy manuals.

Any updates from July 2012 will no longer be provided in hardcopy.

This means that you will have at least 2-3 months, until the next update, where you can get used to the eVIRM, but still have the hardcopy manual as backup.

Assessing vehicle lamps for visible moisture - all lamps

A number of vehicle manufacturers raised concerns with NZTA about an increasing number of vehicles being failed for visible moisture in their lamps when there is nothing wrong with the lamps.

Most exterior lamps are vented to atmosphere (unsealed) to allow for changes in pressure and prevent damage to the lamp. This means that air, which contains moisture, can enter the lamp. When there is a difference in temperature between the inside and outside of the lamp, the moisture can appear as fog or fine mist inside the lamp.

Taking the above into account, the pass/fail criteria are as follows:

- PASS - light moisture in the form of fog or fine mist (small droplets) is considered normal and will usually disappear with the lamps or vehicle being used, but sometimes not during a normal vehicle inspection. This type of moisture is acceptable for WoF/CoF and must be passed. Refer to Figure 1.
- FAIL - heavier moisture in the form of large droplets, runs or puddles tends to indicate a problem with the lamp, such as a water leak. This type of moisture is NOT acceptable for WoF/CoF and must be rejected. Refer to Figure 2.

Note: The above pass/fail criteria apply to all lamps (including sealed lamps) where the VIRM currently requires you to fail a vehicle for visible moisture.

The In-service VIRM will be amended in due course to reflect this clarification.



Figure 1: Light Moisture - fog or fine mist (small droplets) - PASS



Figure 2: Heavy moisture - large droplets - FAIL

NZTA Operation Festive

In December 2011, the NZTA carried out a random re-inspection operation targeting WoF sites in Whakatane and outlying areas. The purpose was to identify levels of compliance with PRS and inspection requirements, and to pick up any unauthorised inspection activities.

A total of 23 sites (82% of total sites in the area) were visited, with the following results:

No transgressions	7 sites
Minor transgressions	11 sites
Serious transgressions	7 sites

A disappointing 30% did not have their VIRM's up-to-date which means they were not inspecting to the current VIRM requirements. It is important to read and understand the updates (and to insert them in the VIRM) to ensure that you do not incorrectly pass or fail a vehicle.

Luckily, the vehicle faults missed generally did not pose immediate safety risks, but they did include wiper blades, headlamp alignment, exhaust noise brake pedal rubber and glazing.

The operation also showed that there was a lack of commitment to the PRS. If you have difficulty meeting your PRS commitments, please discuss your concerns with your local transport officer (vehicles), attend an MTA PRS training course or get assistance from an independent PRS trainer.

Bridgestone M810 - not a winter tyre

Bridgestone NZ have advised NZTA that the above tyre has recently been failed as a winter tyre when the tyre is not actually a winter tyre, but an all-season tyre.

The tyre has the word SNOW and M+S written on the side (see pictures below), but it has neither the distinctive winter tread

Bridgestone M810 - not a winter tyre



pattern, nor is it marked with the word STUDLESS and/or the snowflake/mountain symbol. Therefore, the Bridgestone M810 tyre is NOT a winter tyre. For more guidance on winter tyres, please refer to the **VIRM: In-service**, or the **winter tyre pamphlet**, or **WoF News 14** (August 2010).

Complaint investigations

During 2011, we received a total of 285 WoF complaints. In the same year, NZTA took the following actions:

	Vehicle Inspector	Inspecting organisation
Remedial action	88	100
Suspension	24	16
Revocation	6	4

When compared with the stats for the year ending June 2010 (see **WoF News 14**), we have received slightly more complaints in 2011. Fewer have been upheld, resulting in fewer remedial actions, but a significant increase in suspensions. Two VIs were revoked because they allowed their ID to be used by an unauthorised person for the purpose of carrying out and issuing WoFs. All IOs were revoked because they allowed an unauthorised person to carry out WoF inspections.

Changes to WoF-online access

Do you use the Cisco VPN to access WoF-online?

If you do, there are some important changes you need to be aware of.

The NZTA has developed an alternative to the Cisco VPN so you no longer need to download and install software to access WoF-online. To access the alternative system and WoF-online, please follow these steps:

1. Go to our new Agent VPN website by clicking on <https://agentvpn.nzta.govt.nz>. We recommend you save this link in your Favourites to allow future easy access.
2. Sign in using your current VPN login (your MS number with the 01 on the end) and your current password.
3. Once signed in, select WoF-online Production to go to the WoF Online home page.

Note: First time users may be required to change their password when signing in. The password must contain at least one capital letter, at least one number, and be at least 7 characters long (for example, Summer12).

13+ seaters must be on CoF

This is a reminder that passenger vans with 13 or more seats must have a CoF, even if they are privately operated.

If someone presents such a vehicle to you, please refer them to the nearest VTNZ, VINZ or AA CoF testing station.

New Alternative fuel label

We have finally brought the old MoT style alt fuel label up to the current NZTA style, see below:



WoF fault statistics

In mid-April 2011 we introduced new Landata fault codes for tyres, brakes and exhaust to allow us to collect more detailed fail data. Unfortunately, we were unable to do the same for WoF-online because of IT issues.

The table below shows some interesting results. Note that the percentage of brake, exhaust and tyre faults from all WoF faults has remained steady over the last few years.

May - December 2011		
	Total number	%
Brakes (17% of all WOF faults)		
Brake performance	36115	53
Brake other	31298	47
Exhaust (4% of all WoF faults)		
Exhaust condition	18810	91
Exhaust noise	1063	5
Exhaust smoke	877	4
Tyres (12% of all WoF faults)		
Tyres tread depth	28640	29
Tyres other	70908	71



Our contact details

For general enquiries, or contact information about the NZ Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

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

UNISYS

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

NZTA Palmerston North Office

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

We welcome your feedback. Please send any comments to:

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