

Consultation summary

Land Transport Rules Reform

Considering changes to light vehicle inspections

Note: this is a summary of proposed changes. Before providing feedback, read the discussion document on our website.

Considering changes to light vehicle inspections

Who this affects

People with light vehicles and vehicle inspecting organisations.

Light vehicles are cars, motorcycles, vans, people-movers, trailers, taxis and rideshare services (like Uber and DiDi).

What we're considering

We're consulting on making changes to light vehicle inspections — warrants of fitness (WoFs) and certificates of fitness A (CoF A). WoF checks are needed for private light vehicles and CoF A checks are for light vehicles operated commercially, like rental vehicles, taxis and rideshares.

Three proposals have been put forward that are designed to work together to help people ensure vehicles remain roadworthy and to reduce costs:

Inspection frequency: vehicles less likely to be involved in crashes where mechanical faults are a contributing factor would need fewer inspections overall:

- **New vehicles:** first WoF issued for 4 years.
- **Vehicles 4-10 years old:** WoF required every 2 years.
- **Vehicles over 10 years old:** WoF required every year.
- **Light rental vehicles under 5 years old:** CoF A required every year.

Inspection scope: WoF and CoF A inspections would require checks of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) features. Inspectors would check fault lights for important ADAS safety features like Automatic Emergency Braking and Lane Keep Assist are not showing.

Enforcement and public awareness: the possibility of higher fines or demerit points for not having a valid WoF/CoF A and other offences - like having bald or damaged tyres. Public education would help people understand how to maintain their vehicles between inspections.

Why we're considering this

New Zealand checks vehicles more often than most countries, but this doesn't always lead to better safety outcomes.

The changes proposed aim to reduce unnecessary costs for low-risk vehicles, while still maintaining safety standards for higher-risk vehicles.

Proposed WoF frequency

These frequencies were chosen because they should lower the costs of owning vehicles, while maintaining safety standards, when combined with improved enforcement and public education.

Vehicle age	Current frequency	Proposed frequency
0–4 years old	First WoF issued for 3 years	First WoF issued for 4 years
4–10 years old	Annual	Every 2 years
10–25 years old	Annual	No change
25–40 years old	Every 6 months	Annual
40+ years (classified as veteran and vintage vehicles)	Annual	No change

Proposed CoF A frequency

For rental vehicles under 5 years old, we’re proposing to change the CoF A inspection from being required every 6 months to being required once a year. Rental vehicles are usually newer, well maintained, representing a lower safety risk than other CoF A vehicle types (like taxis and rideshares). This change would help reduce costs for rental companies while still maintaining safety standards.

Vehicle age	Current frequency	Proposed frequency
0–5 year old rental vehicles	Every 6 months (default)	Every year (default)
5+ year old rental vehicles	Every 6 months	No change
Any age – other CoF A vehicles (for example, taxis and rideshare vehicles)	Every 6 months	No change

Proposed inspection scope changes

We’re proposing to keep the current list of items checked by WoF and CoF A inspections and add a new requirement. This requirement would be for vehicle inspectors to check fault malfunction lights for ADAS safety features – like Automatic Emergency Braking and Lane Keep Assist – are not on. This is an affordable way to make sure critical safety systems are working properly, and it’s in line with what other countries do.

Proposed increase to enforcement and education

If proposals to reduce inspection frequencies proceed, we’re proposing tougher penalties (like higher fines or introducing demerit points) for not having a valid WoF/CoF A or for safety issues like worn tyres. Public education would help people understand how to maintain their vehicles between inspections.

We’re proposing:

- Working with local councils to improve their vehicle safety compliance monitoring.
- Considering raising fines and/or introducing demerit points for driving or parking a vehicle without a valid WoF/CoF A and/or other vehicle condition offences such as bald tyres.
- Sharing more regular public information to help people check and maintain their vehicles and keep them safe, like how to check tyre tread, wipers, safety belts.

Tell us what you think

Read the discussion document and complete the online form at: www.nzta.govt.nz/consultations (preferred) or email: rules@nzta.govt.nz

All feedback will be considered before a decision is made by the Associate Minister of Transport. Any Rule amendments would likely be signed by the Associate Minister of Transport in mid-2026. Consultation closes on 17 December 2025.