

# Weigh Right Programme: heavy vehicle screening for weight

## 1. What is the Weigh Right Programme?

At the NZ Transport Agency, we're aiming for a road system free of death and serious injury.

We also want to enable a productive land transport system, which supports a level playing field for the heavy vehicle industry.

The Weigh Right Programme is one way in which we are delivering this. The programme will install roadside technology and develop intelligent software to direct potentially overloaded vehicles into 12 commercial vehicle safety centres throughout New Zealand.

Moving forward, we'll be increasing the number of locations and enhancing the technology to screen across multiple areas of vehicle and driver compliance.

It's all about safer roads, a level playing field for industry and smarter regulation.

## 2. What is a commercial vehicle safety centre (CVSC)?

Commercial vehicle safety centres were formerly known as weigh stations. A commercial vehicle safety centre (CVSC) is a site where enforcement officers undertake checks including, but not limited to, weight, road user charges (RUC), certificate of fitness (CoF), logbook, and alcohol and drugs.



## 3. What is vehicle screening technology for weight and how does it work?

Vehicle screening technology for weight is the name given to describe technology that works together to assess whether a heavy vehicle is potentially overweight. It includes weigh-in-motion or in-road scales, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras, electronic signs and a vehicle screening system. By screening, we mean to test or assess if a heavy vehicle is potentially overloaded.

When it comes to weight compliance, heavy vehicles that aren't screened as potentially overloaded can continue their journey. Heavy vehicles screened as potentially overloaded will be directed into a CVSC to have their official weight checked on the weigh bridge.

## 4. What can I expect when a CVSC is using vehicle screening technology?

- You will see a static sign to alert you when you are approaching a CVSC.



- The combined heavy vehicle information from the weigh-in-motion (in-road) scales and the ANPR camera will be assessed by the vehicle screening system to see if a vehicle complies with its allowable weight, including permits. Vehicle screening technology will be operating in all approaches to a CVSC.
- If the system identifies that the heavy vehicle is potentially overweight, either on gross vehicle mass or by axle weight distribution, its front number plate will be displayed on an electronic sign along with a message to stop at the CVSC.



- At the commercial vehicle safety centre, the NZ Police Commercial Vehicle Safety Team (CVST) officers will ask the driver to travel over the weigh bridge. The weigh bridge scales are calibrated and certified for enforcement of weight compliance by NZ Police.
- CVST officers may also wish to undertake further compliance checks, including RUC, while a vehicle is at the CVSC, in the same way they do currently.

## 5. Why is it important to know my number plate?

When a heavy vehicle is screened as potentially overloaded, the vehicle's front number plate will be displayed on an electronic sign along with a message to stop at the CVSC. It is important that you can recognise your number plate should it be displayed on an electronic sign.

You are required by law to pull in to the CVSC if your vehicle has been identified to do so.

## 6. What will help me remember my vehicle's front number plate?

- Before starting your journey, make a note of the first three numbers or letters of your vehicle's front number plate.
- Ask your operator to place a copy of the number plate in the cab, in a legal place where you can safely refer to it.
- Be mindful that when you are approaching a commercial vehicle safety centre, your number plate may be displayed on an upcoming electronic sign.

## 7. Are there any changes to CVSCs using vehicle screening technology that I need to know?

The key change is that you will need to know the number plate of the heavy vehicle you are driving. This is so you can recognise your number plate if it is displayed on an electronic sign and pull into a CVSC. Failure to pull into a CVSC when directed to do so is an offence.

## 8. What are some of the other reasons that I could be pulled into a CVSC?

As well as being pulled in because the system has detected a potential loading issue, CVST may choose to operate the sites to pull in samples of vehicles as they do now. This allows for checks of safety and compliance issues that cannot currently be detected by the weigh-in-motion scales. Drivers will see the sign 'All heavy vehicles stop 500m'.



## 9. When weighing my heavy vehicle, does the vehicle screening technology take into account my permits for that location?

Yes, but we screen on the permit with the lowest gross combination weight. This is to enable enforcement officers to check that the correct RUC has been paid for the actual load that is being carried.

For example, if your load is 52 tonne and you have a 50MAX permit and a high productivity motor vehicle (HPMV) permit for 54 tonne, you will be signalled to pull in to the CVSC. This is because your load (52t) is greater than the maximum gross

combination weight on the permits that are valid for the prime mover (50t for the 50MAX and 54t for the HPMV).

## 10. Why is it important to distribute weight to axle capacity correctly?

The vehicle screening system is sensitive to correct axle weight distribution. This means if a heavy vehicle is within its mass limits, being overweight on an axle, axle set or axle group, will result in the system requesting that vehicle being pulled into a CVSC for further investigation.

This is why it is important to ensure your loaders accurately load according to Vehicle Dimension and Mass (VDaM) Rule guidelines. The Vehicle Dimension and Mass Rule (2016) can be found on our website.

## 11. How accurate are the weigh-in-motion scales?

The weigh-in-motion scales in the road comply with international standards and are accurate for screening purposes.

## 12. Will the vehicle screening system be collecting information even when the CVSC isn't open?

Yes. The vehicle screening technology will continue to collect data even when CVSCs are not open. The information collected will be done so in accordance with all privacy considerations. The information collected will be used to improve the targeting of vehicles that are not compliant. The information will also add to the Transport Agency's understanding of traffic on the network.

## 13. What happens if a driver tries to avoid the weigh-in-motion plates, or drives with the intent of misleading them?

The system is configured to signal a driver to pull into the CVSC if it detects unusual behaviour while the vehicle is passing over the weigh-in-motion scales.

## 14. Will all CVSCs be using vehicle screening technology?

There will be 12 CVSCs using vehicle screening technology. They are Marsden in the Upper North Island, three locations in the Auckland region (North Shore, Stanley St and Bombay), Sulphur Point Port in Tauranga, Taupō, Napier, Paengaroa (Bay of Plenty), Ohakea (Manawatū) and Mackays Crossing (Wellington). In the South Island there will be sites at Rakaia and Glasnevin (Canterbury).

## 15. Why are you putting the vehicle screening technology at some CVSCs and not others?

The plan is to implement vehicle screening technology to additional routes in the future. The focus for phase 1 of the Weigh Right Programme is to deliver 12 national sites, ensuring about 46% of all freight kilometres are covered.