
Low Volume Vehicle (LVV) Review

Exempting approved imported modified vehicles from LVV certification

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What changes are being proposed?

The proposed change would allow vehicles that have been modified overseas to be exempt from the LVV certification requirement for entry into New Zealand, if there is evidence that the vehicle has met comparable standards overseas.

Under the proposal, a step will be added to the entry certification process to verify any overseas approval of modifications, before deciding if the vehicle needs to be LVV certified.

If there is evidence that the vehicle's modifications have met comparable standards overseas, the vehicle will not be referred for LVV certification, and an LVV plate will not be attached to the vehicle.

Why are these changes being proposed?

Many technical standards from overseas jurisdictions are already accepted under New Zealand law for production vehicles. In order to more clearly match entry process requirements to need, we have identified that modified vehicles that have been proven to meet these standards should no longer require LVV certification.

We believe that removing this requirement will make it easier and more cost effective for modified vehicles of a high standard to be imported into New Zealand, increasing accessibility to special vehicles required by businesses and private citizens.

What vehicle types do the proposed changes apply to?

The LVV certification system applies only to light vehicles (those with a gross vehicle mass [GVM] of less than 3500 kg). Therefore the proposed changes apply to the importation of light vehicles such as light campervans, hearses and wheelchair-accessible vehicles. They do not apply to heavy vehicles, including campervans with a GVM of 3500 kg or greater.

Which countries or jurisdictions are you considering exempting from LVV certification?

The first overseas approval we propose accepting is European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA). We are also researching the Japanese approval system to identify opportunities to apply the proposed new process to vehicles imported from Japan.

Over time we will also consider other jurisdictions such as Australia, the United States, and individual countries from within Europe, and approve them if appropriate.

How will you decide if an overseas jurisdiction's approval is acceptable?

We will research and consider both the vehicle standards required by law in the country or jurisdiction, and the process by which approvals are issued. We will consider the overseas approval to be acceptable if we are satisfied that:

- a) the legal vehicle standards are comparable to New Zealand's, or are already accepted in New Zealand, and
- b) the process by which the vehicle is inspected, tested and approved is consistent and well-documented.

What if all modifications on the vehicle aren't covered by the overseas approval?

In some cases, there may be requirements in the New Zealand LVV system that are not explicitly covered by the overseas approval. In these cases, we may require additional documentation as evidence of compliance.

For example, the LVV system contains requirements for the safety of wheelchair hoists and ramps. There are no corresponding requirements in the ECWVTA, but there is a separate requirement for machinery, including wheelchair hoists fitted to vehicles. We may therefore require an additional Declaration of Conformity for the wheelchair hoist in addition to the ECWVTA documentation, to fully confirm the vehicle's compliance with comparable standards.

When are these changes expected to be in place?

We expect the new process to be in place, using ECWVTA and Japanese approvals, by 31 October 2016. As we continue to research and approve other jurisdictions we will add these to the process over time.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like further information about the proposed changes, or the LVV certification review in general, please email lvreview@nzta.govt.nz, or visit the [LVV certification review](#) section of our website.