

# **Land Transport Rule Vehicle Equipment**

**Preface to Consolidated Rule  
with amendments incorporated  
as at  
1 December 2016**

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**Note. The consolidation of the Rule and its amendments is intended to provide up-to-date details of the current requirements. It is not the official version of the Rule.**

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## **Preface**

The consolidated Rule brings together the requirements relating to vehicle equipment in the principal Rule and its amendments. These Rules were produced, under an agreement with the Secretary for Transport, by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) or its predecessor land transport Crown entities. They were signed into law by the Minister of Transport or his or her delegate under the *Land Transport Act 1998*.

## **The principal Rule**

**Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Equipment 2004** (the Rule), which came into force on 27 February 2005, specifies the legal requirements for items of vehicle equipment fitted to a vehicle and lists the approved vehicle standards for child restraints. Most of the equipment covered by the Rule is mandatory, but the Rule also specifies requirements for safety equipment that is voluntarily fitted.

## **Amendment 1**

Following public consultation, the Rule was amended with effect from 1 April 2006. The objective was to transfer into the Rule the requirements in the *Traffic Regulations 1976* covering equipment installation and testing of liquified petroleum gas and compressed natural gas fuel systems, as part of the programme of converting regulations and other secondary and tertiary legislation into plain language Rules, and to consolidate and simplify those requirements.

## **Amendment 2**

The Rule was amended, with effect from 1 June 2008, to reduce excessive vehicle exhaust noise by setting the maximum decibel levels for vehicle entering into service, and being operated in service, in New Zealand. The amendment Rule also extended objective noise testing to light motor vehicles at Warrant of Fitness and Certificate of Fitness in-service inspection,

## **Amendment 3**

The Rule was amended, with effect from 1 April 2010 to allow for the aftermarket fitting of satellite navigations systems operated by way of a mobile phone that is secured in a mounting that is fixed to a vehicle.

The amendment brings the Rule into line with changes to the *Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004* that allow drivers to use these systems while operating a vehicle provided that they manipulate and look at the mobile phone only infrequently and briefly .

## **Amendment 4**

Following consultation on amendment proposals in *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2010*, the Rule was amended, with effect from 1 April 2011 to:

- transfer two provisions relating to a specific component, namely alternative fuel systems, from *Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002* to the Vehicle Equipment Rule where they should be found;
- allow a vehicle with a motorsport authority card that is being used on the road for the purpose of inspection, certification and repair of the vehicle to exceed the noise levels applying to vehicles normally used on the road;
- revise the definition of ‘speedometer’ to include displaying the speed at any given moment and align it with international standards, specifically ECE 39.

## **Amendment 5**

Following consultation on amendment proposals in *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2012*, the Rule was amended, with effect from 1 November 2012.

The objective of the amendment Rule was to:

- enable medical response vehicles operated by the New Zealand Defence Force to be fitted with sirens; and
- update the definition of ‘Defence Force emergency vehicle’ in the Rule with the current name of the Force Protection Branch of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

## **Amendment 6**

Following consultation on amendment proposals in *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2014*, the Rule was amended, with effect from *1 November 2014*.

The objective of the amendment Rule was to approve a new standard relating to child restraints.

## **Amendment 7**

Following consultation on amendment proposals in *Land Transport Rule: Omnibus Amendment 2016*, the Rule was amended with effect from 1 December 2016.

The objective of the amendment Rule was to extend the definition of **defence force emergency vehicle** to include a counter-terrorism response vehicle operated by the New Zealand Defence Force.