



SAFETY ALERT

April 2019

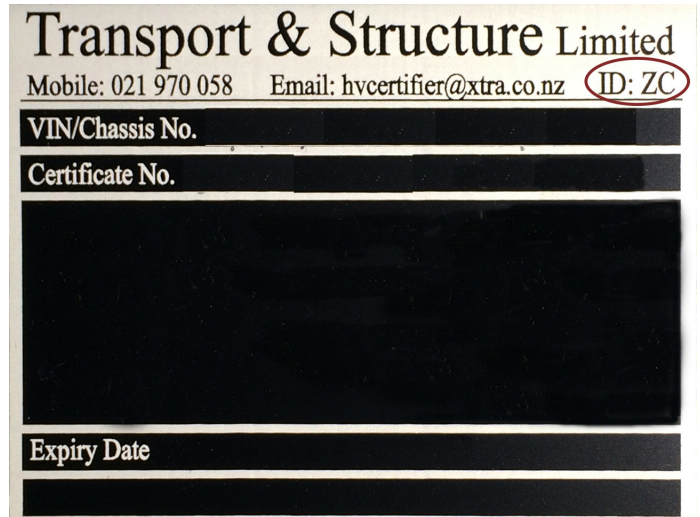
TOWING CONNECTIONS CERTIFIED BY PATRICK CHU (TRANSPORT & STRUCTURE LIMITED)

This safety alert has been issued by the NZ Transport Agency following the identification of issues during reviews of towing connections (drawbeams and drawbars) certified by Patrick Chu (ZC) of Transport & Structure Ltd.

Independent reviews have identified that some drawbars and drawbeams were not adequately designed for the loads to which they had been certified or have been recertified beyond their viable design life.

It is recommended that all owners and operators of vehicles with drawbeams or drawbars certified to NZS 5446 by Transport & Structure LTD Ltd check the certification plate for the engineer ID 'ZC' (see right image). If present, have the towing connection thoroughly water blasted or steam cleaned and inspected daily for signs of cracks or other failures. If any such signs are found, the vehicle's use as a combination vehicle must be discontinued immediately.

The Transport Agency has revoked the certifications of all drawbars and drawbeams certified by Patrick Chu. The majority of affected vehicles will receive a short exemption to allow continued use whilst awaiting recertification. A condition of these exemptions is that the vehicle is inspected daily inline with the recommendations of this safety alert.



To identify a certification by Patrick Chu, look for 'ZC' in the ID field.

While the focus of this alert is primarily on towing connections, an inspection of all certifications (eg crane attachments, load anchors, chassis modifications, etc.) by Patrick Chu (ZC) is recommended in addition to the usual walk-around inspection. If any failures are identified, please contact the Transport Agency (see green box below).

Action required

Review your fleet. If Patrick Chu (ZC) provided certification of any drawbeams or drawbars or then follow the instructions below:

1. Check for initials ZC on the component's certification plate. All 'ZC' towing connections should be thoroughly cleaned and carefully inspected daily for signs of cracks or failure, paying particular attention around any welded or bolted areas.
2. If any signs of cracks or other failure are present on the towing connections, the vehicles' use as a combination vehicle must be discontinued until the components have been repaired or replaced and recertified.
3. Repeat these inspections regularly (daily or before each trip) as cracks can appear quickly.
4. Do not attempt to repair any crack; this won't address the root cause of the failure.
5. Feedback regarding cracks or other failures on any components certified by Patrick Chu (ZC) and any other enquiries or questions related to this should be directed to the Transport Agency on 0800 699 000 or email info@nzta.govt.nz with 'Patrick Chu' in the subject line.