
Safety alert questions and answers: Heavy Vehicle certifications by Patrick Chu (Transport & Structure Ltd)

NZ Transport Agency
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I've had no issues with my vehicle certifications by Patrick Chu / Transport & Structure Ltd. Why do I need to inspect these now?

The NZ Transport Agency has revoked a number of certifications issued by Patrick Chu due to sub-standard work by Mr Chu. The Transport Agency is concerned that further investigation may reveal further deficiencies. While that investigation is ongoing, the NZ Transport Agency wishes to take a precautionary approach and alert heavy vehicle owners to potential issues. For this reason the Transport Agency strongly encourages heavy vehicle owners to follow the three steps in the safety alert.

How long has the Transport Agency known about the problems with certifications by Patrick Chu?

The Transport Agency suspended Mr Chu as a Heavy Vehicle Specialist Certifier (HVSC) in October 2018 for reasons including certain sub-standard certifications. Since that time, the Agency has continued to investigate Mr Chu, and as part of that investigation has identified further areas of concern with his work.

I have a drawbeam/towbar/drawbar on my truck/trailer. What do I need to do?

(i) Identify whether any component of your vehicle has been certified by Patrick Chu

If you have a towing connection certified by Patrick Chu (towbar, drawbeam, drawbar) it will be apparent from the plates on the vehicle, as Patrick Chu may be identified by his HVSC initials, ZC. See the example plate photos below.

If you cannot see a plate on your vehicle, or you are otherwise unsure whether a towing connection or chassis component on your vehicle was certified by Patrick Chu, you can find out by calling the Transport Agency contact centre, and providing your registration plate number. The contact centre has a list of all certifications issued by Patrick Chu and will be able to tell you whether one relates to your vehicle. Contact the NZ Transport Agency at 0800 108 809.

(ii) Clean and inspect your vehicle

Clean your vehicle and check for signs of cracks or other failures. If any cracks or other failures are present in any towing connections (towbar, drawbeam, drawbar) the vehicle should immediately stop being used as a combination vehicle until repaired and recertified by an appropriately qualified HVSC.

If any cracks or failures are apparent in any chassis components, the use of the vehicle should be immediately stopped until the vehicle is repaired and recertified by an appropriately qualified HVSC.

Repeat these checks daily or before each trip: cracks can appear quickly.

(iii) Get your vehicle checked

If any component of your vehicle has been certified by Patrick Chu, we recommend you take it to an appropriate workshop and get it checked. Note that if cracks or failures are present, the vehicle should not be driven to the workshop, save for where the failure concerns a towing connection and the vehicle can be driven directly to the workshop without towing any vehicle.

Note that the Transport Agency will not pay for these checks, nor any work required in order to get the vehicle to the required standard. The NZ Transport Agency reminds all drivers that it is every vehicle owner's responsibility to ensure their heavy vehicles are up to CoF standard.

Feedback regarding cracks or other failures on any components certified by Patrick Chu, and any other enquiries or questions related to this, should be directed to the Transport Agency on 0800 699 000.

I have a component (e.g. log bolster, fifth wheel, skid plate, crane mount, etc.) certified by Patrick Chu and it has cracks. What should I do?

The Transport Agency recommends that you immediately stop using the vehicle, unless the vehicle can be used without that component (i.e. if the issue is with a towbar, use the vehicle but do not tow anything).

The Transport Agency suggests you document the failure, including by way of photographs, and send the photographs together with the vehicle's registration, certification (LT400) number, date of certification, and any other relevant information to info@nzta.govt.nz. Please put Patrick Chu and your registration number in the subject line.

You should then arrange for the component to be repaired/replaced and recertified by an appropriately qualified HVSC.

A list of HVSCs is available on our website. The full list of heavy vehicle certifiers is here: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/heavy-vehicle-specialist-certifiers/docs/heavy-vehicle-specialist-certifiers-list.pdf>.

My CoF is about to expire. Will I pass a certificate of fitness (CoF) inspection if I have a drawbeam / towbar / drawbar certified by Patrick Chu on my truck/trailer?

If there are no visual faults, the certification is current, and the vehicle otherwise meets the requirements of a CoF, there is technically nothing to prevent you getting a new CoF. Nonetheless, the Transport Agency recommends that you get the component checked (step three in the safety alert).

I can't locate any damage even though Patrick Chu completed the work. Can I still use my truck and trailer?

Yes, provided your CoF is current, you can still use your truck/trailer. We nonetheless recommend that you follow the three steps in the safety alert.

What if I do nothing?

The Transport Agency highly recommends that you follow the three steps in the safety alert. Doing nothing is not advisable.

Who can I contact at the Transport Agency to discuss this further?

If you would like to discuss this further, we recommend you follow up with an email to info@nzta.govt.nz with Patrick Chu and your vehicle's registration plate number in the subject line.