



New light entry certification appointments

Consultation on proposed changes

24 November 2025

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More information

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
November 2025

If you have further queries, contact us at borderandentry@nzta.govt.nz

This document is available on NZTA's website at nzta.govt.nz/public-consultation-hub

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to consult with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) appointed new entry certifiers on proposed changes to the New Light Entry Certification appointment process.

We want to ensure we consider the views of, and impacts on, people affected by these changes before we decide on the final process.

Introduction

As part of our commitment to improve consistency, transparency, and safety across the certification process, NZTA recently reviewed our new light entry inspection and certification appointment process. As a result, we're proposing to update it to align to sections 2 and 6 of the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002 (the Rule), and to align with appointment periods and performance reviews in other certification categories.

After our internal review and engagement with the Motor Industry Association (MIA), we're proposing to:

1. appoint an inspecting organisation (IO) who will have a vehicle compliance inspector (VCI). This would replace the current new entry certifier appointment.
2. extend the appointment period to 10 years.
3. move performance review from the current Performance Review System (PRS) to the Quality Management System (QMS).

These changes would align with the Rule and other certification categories, and ensure the IO takes greater responsibility for overseeing the certification process and verifying that vehicles meet New Zealand standards.

Proposals

Proposal 1: Appointment of inspecting organisation (IO)

We propose to appoint an inspecting organisation (IO) who will have a vehicle compliance inspector (VCI). VCI is a new name for new entry certifier.

The IO would take responsibility for overseeing the certification process and the VCI to ensure vehicles meet safety and compliance standards accepted in New Zealand before they are registered to be used on our roads.

Other than the move from PRS to QMS, the responsibilities of the VCI and compliance requirements would remain largely unchanged and require an ongoing commitment to maintain the appointment status. The requirements are outlined in the proposed changes to the performance review process below (proposal 3).

Proposed appointment process

To be appointed as an IO, you would be required to go through a reappointment process. There would be no cost for this process. You would be asked to:

1. Submit your application with supporting documentation to vehicleinspections@nzta.govt.nz

2. Complete an application form.
3. Submit a completed FP01 (Fit and Proper Person) declaration and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) check dated within the last 30 days

This would apply to:

- The IO seeking appointment
- Company directors
- The person in control listed on the application (if different from the VCI)

Applications would open on 2 February 2026, so that the appointment process can be completed by 27 March 2026.

NZTA will assess your application and, if appointed, you would be sent a Notice of Appointment before 27 March 2026.

All current appointments would expire on 28 March 2026.

Proposal 2: Extending the appointment period to 10 years

Instead of the current 5 years for new entry certifiers, we propose to appoint IOs for 10 years.

Proposal 3: Changing the performance review process from PRS to QMS

As part of the IO performance review process, we propose to assess VCIs to determine how well they're meeting these responsibilities using the Quality Management System (QMS).

QMS rates performance as compliant and non-compliant, with varying levels of non-compliance.

QMS is similar to PRS but more intuitive and user-friendly for IOs and VCIs to use, and the results shown are clearer, ultimately contributing to better safety outcomes.

IOs and VCIs would be provided with a guide outlining what the QMS requirements would be.

The guide will set out NZTA's QMS requirements, which will include what is expected of IOs and VCIs and the way NZTA will assess IOs and/or VCIs performance against these expectations.

VCIs will be required to demonstrate their understanding and approach to key aspects of New Light Entry Certification, including:

- **Vehicle standards:** how they ensure vehicles meet New Zealand's accepted standards.
- **Statements of Compliance (SOCs):** a review of SOC's for vehicle models introduced since the last review or appointment, and how readily available homologation documents are.
- **Roles and responsibilities:** who in the organisation (if not the VCI) is responsible for:
 - Producing SOC's
 - VIN decoding
 - Determining vehicle class
 - Entering VINs into MIAMI
 - Training
 - Managing vehicle safety recalls
- **Dealer oversight:** How the VCI supports their authorised dealer network with:

- Technical information
 - Recall alerts
 - Up-to-date PDI checksheets and instructions
 - Ensuring they have up to date equipment records
 - Ongoing support
- **Evidence requirements at performance review visit:**
 - Completed dealer visit sheets (or an equivalent online system) and a schedule for dealer visits for the next 12 months
 - QMS VCI self-assessments
 - Demonstrations of any online systems used
 - Delegation records
 - **Operational issues:**
 - Any findings from our dealer visits that require your action
 - Late PDI entries

This information would be available through a new QMS in the Vehicle Inspections Portal.

Important information

If you do not have an appointed VCI, your access to load VINs into MIAMI would be suspended until a VCI is appointed. You would be required to notify us immediately if your VCI leaves your organisation.

How to provide feedback

If you would like to provide feedback on the proposals outlined in this document, please email borderandentry@nzta.govt.nz by 8 December 2025.

Once consultation closes, we'll review your feedback and consider the changes we need to make. We will send you an email advising you of the outcome of this consultation and our decision, which will also be available on our website.

Timeline	
Consultation opens	24 November 2025
Consultation closes	8 December 2025
Feedback analysed and considered	8 December 2025 to 30 January 2026
Final decision	Monday 2 February 2026

Privacy policy

About the information you share with us

The information you share with us in the online form will be used by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to help inform our consultation about the *New light entry certification appointment*. NZTA may publish in part or in full the information you submit, for example in a

consultation report, but we won't include any information that could be used to identify an individual person. If you indicate you're an authorised representative of an organisation, we may publish your organisation's name. Please clearly indicate if your comments contain commercially sensitive information or, if for some other reason, they shouldn't be disclosed.

If you'd like to request official information from us, please don't include that in your submission. Instead, please send a separate request to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

You can find more about how we hold and protect your information, and our obligations under the Official Information Act 1982, on our website.

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