

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- Traffic Regulations 1976, Reg. 83
- Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002: Section 7.4

Mandatory equipment

1. A towbar, if fitted to a vehicle, must have provision for securing the safety chain or cable from a trailer coupling, except if the vehicle is likely to tow any of the following trailers:
 - a) a trailer designed for armament purposes by the Armed Forces
 - b) a trailer pump for fire-fighting purposes.

Condition

2. A trailer must be securely attached to the towing vehicle by an adequate coupling.
3. A vehicle must:
 - a) be safe to be operated, and
 - b) have been constructed using components and materials that are fit for the purpose, and
 - c) be within safe tolerance of its state when manufactured or modified.

Reasons for rejection

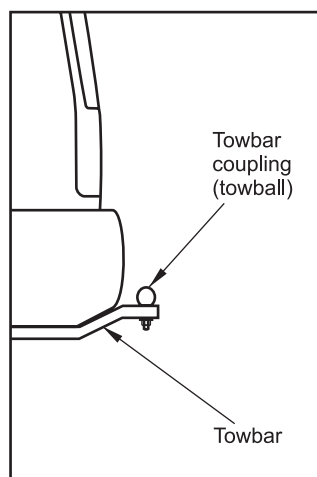
Mandatory equipment

1. A towbar fitted to a vehicle does not have provision for securely fitting the safety chain from a trailer coupling, except for:
 - a) New Zealand Armed Forces vehicles
 - b) Fire-fighting vehicles.

Condition

2. The towbar or towbar mounting:
 - a) is not securely attached, or
 - b) has a bolt or nut that is missing or significantly corroded, or
 - c) has corrosion damage (**Note 1**) within 150 mm of the mounting points, or
 - d) is cracked or distorted.
3. The towbar coupling (towball):
 - a) is not securely attached, or
 - b) is worn beyond manufacturers specifications, or
 - c) is significantly corroded, distorted or cracked, or
 - d) has a nut that is missing or significantly corroded.

Note 1 Corrosion damage is where the metal has been eaten away, which is evident by pitting. The outward signs of such corrosion damage is typically displayed by the lifting or bubbling of paint. In extreme cases, the area affected by the corrosion damage will fall out and leave a hole.



12-1-1. Towbar and towbar coupling