

Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule and its implementation



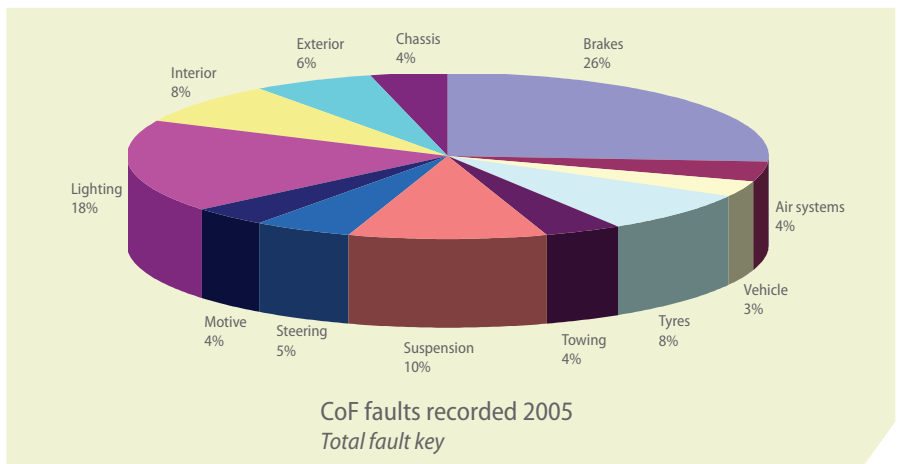
What is the Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule (HVBR)?

The Land Transport Rule: Heavy-vehicle Brakes (Rule 32015) was signed in September 2006. In March 2007, the HVBR implementation plan was released, with the aim of ensuring that heavy vehicles (and combination vehicles) brake safely in all conditions of loading. It details what will be applied to all certificate of fitness (CoF) inspections from March 2009. The rule applies to all heavy vehicles – that is, vehicles with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) exceeding 3500 kg.

Why is this change needed?

Heavy vehicle braking has been identified as a significant factor in heavy vehicle accidents.

- >> Between 1997 and 2002, there were 77 heavy vehicle crashes attributed to braking problems, resulting in four deaths, 15 serious injuries and 34 'minor' injuries.
- >> In 2005, brake faults were the most common failure item at CoF inspections (26 percent), followed by lighting (18 percent) and suspension (10 percent) faults, as shown in the chart below.
- >> During the same period, brakes made up the fourth largest category of faults found during Commercial Vehicle Inspection Unit (CVIU) roadside inspections.



Testing at CoF – what changes?

Under the regime, vehicles will be tested in a semi-laden condition to a minimum of 60 percent of the manufacturer's axle rating or the statutory axle limit (whichever is less). The 60-percent-laden condition can be achieved by either an actual load or an axle or chassis tie down to simulate a load.

Roller brake machines (RBMs)

All heavy vehicles will be tested on an approved RBM that has vehicle weighing facilities (load cells).

All CoF stations must have RBMs that:

- >> meet accepted standards and are approved by Land Transport New Zealand
- >> have clearly stated default settings
- >> provide easy-to-understand printouts
- >> are independently calibrated for brake force, load cell accuracy and co-efficient of friction of rollers at regular intervals (as required by the manufacturer, but at least annually), to ensure consistency of testing.

Land Transport NZ will introduce training and calibration requirements for RBMs and their operators to ensure in-service and roadside (CVIU) testing is consistent.

To find out more...

For further information on the Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule, visit www.landtransport.govt.nz/rules/q-and-a/heavy-brakes-2006.html, or contact your local testing station or:

- >> Paul Asquith at the Bus and Coach Association (BCA), phone 0274 969 689
- >> Mark Ngatuere at the Road Transport Forum (RTF), phone 04 471 8285.

Look out for upcoming information sheets, which will detail:

- >> what operators need to do
- >> what standards compliance is
- >> how consistency of testing is being addressed
- >> how Land Transport NZ inspection organisation audits work.