

Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule and its implementation



The Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule (HVBR) applies to all heavy vehicles.

>> Heavy vehicles are vehicles with a gross vehicle mass over 3500 kg.

The HVBR covers two implementation issues:

- >> Standards compliance
- >> In-service brake testing.

For more information on standards compliance and in-service brake testing, please refer to the February factsheet.

Implementation of the new brake testing method

The new in-service brake testing will be rolled out progressively around the country as per the map below. The map shows the indicative regions where the new testing regime will be available from December 2008. Given the introduction of the operator rating system (ORS) and its implication relating to CoF compliance as well as NZ Police roadside enforcement, Land Transport NZ encourages operators to apply the new testing regime as soon as the process is available.

Please refer to the map below to see when you should have your vehicle ready for the new brakes testing method.

How consistency of testing is being addressed

Background

Land Transport NZ is aware of the common issues with the consistency of application of brake tests during CoF inspections and has found the following areas need to be addressed:

- >> Lack of load weighing and report print out capability.
- >> Training of the Roller Brake Machine (RBM) operator.
This will be addressed with a new national standard of training for RBM operators. This standard will cover RBM operators' base knowledge of braking systems and operation of the specific RBM to ensure that a practical and consistent brake test is applied to each axle set.
- >> Calibration and set up of the RBM – independent calibration of all functions will be required at least annually.
- >> Accurate calculation of test weight to be applied to the axle set.
Land Transport NZ have commissioned a project to make changes to the vehicle data base (LANDATA) that will allow the test weight to be calculated automatically and be printed on the CoF check sheet.

RBM testing

An extensive series of trials were conducted recently by Land Transport NZ in association with industry service providers and Transport Service Delivery Agents (TSDAs). We would like to thank Roadlife Trucks, Southpac Trucks, VTNZ, VINZ and NZ Police CVIU for their assistance.

The trials were to assess the various relationships between:

- >> brake efficiency and applied load
- >> effect of equipment calibration settings
- >> testing of brake efficiency in the wet versus dry
- >> comparison of results obtained on different brands of RBMs

Results

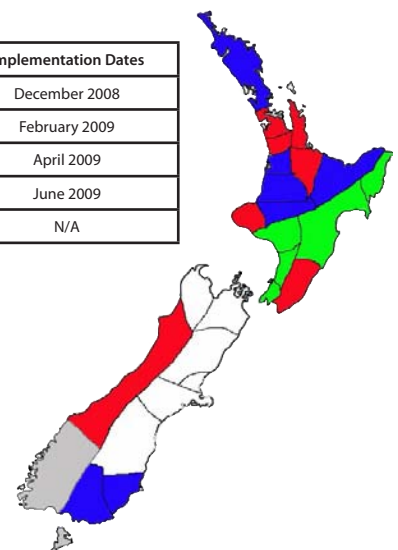
The results of these trials are invaluable to Land Transport NZ and are allowing us to establish the necessary operator training and RBM settings and calibration requirements. This will also mitigate any inconsistencies once the regime is introduced from December 2008. More information on these results will be available in April on www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/hvbr

KEY FACTS

- 79 truck crashes between 2002 and 2007 due to brake problems
- 23% inspection failure due to brakes at CoF testing in 2007
- 21% failure due to brakes at Police CVIU roadside checks in 2007
- 13% of heavy vehicles ordered off the road in 2007 were due to lack of maintenance on vehicles

Implementation of the new brake testing method

KEY	Implementation Dates
Green	December 2008
White	February 2009
Blue	April 2009
Red	June 2009
Grey	N/A



Land Transport NZ inspection organisation audits

A Performance Review System (PRS) is in place for each appointed agent of Land Transport NZ. The PRS is designed to assess the on-going compliance of the appointed agent to comply with various Rules and Regulations.

The PRS is carried out by a team of 17 Land Transport NZ Reviewers located throughout NZ. The Reviewer visits the agent and assesses their systems, processes and equipment against an agreed standard. On completion the Reviewer allocates a numerical score ranging from 0 to 3 with 0 being poor and 3 excellent.

The frequency of the PRS is dependant of the level of compliance of the agent and the score achieved at audit time affects the frequency of further audits.

Internal audits and investigations can occur as a result of the PRS. This system provides Land Transport NZ with assurance that the inspecting organisation is capable of inspecting vehicles to the approved standard.

TSDA site upgrade activity

Vehicle Testing New Zealand Ltd (VTNZ)

VTNZ has started upgrading their extensive network of stations with installation of new equipment. The VTNZ site upgrades are on schedule and ten lanes have been upgraded from Auckland to Dunedin.

For full information about the Rule as it affects the CoF inspection go to www.vtnz.co.nz/HVBR

On Road New Zealand Ltd (On Road)

Although only three of On Road's 15 testing stations carry out CoF inspections on heavy vehicles, they are committed to being ready to test to the new brake testing regime when it comes in from late 2008 onwards. On Road will communicate directly with their customers prior to any station upgrades, and well in advance of the new testing procedure. For further information go to www.onroad.co.nz

Automobile Association (AA)

For more information on the new testing equipment and procedures for the two AA testing sites go to www.aa.co.nz

Vehicle Inspection New Zealand (VINZ)

VINZ has equipment capable of meeting the requirements of the Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule installed and operating in most centres where CoF B sites are located. Planning for upgrades of other sites is underway. Contact your local station for further information.

NZ Police enforcement activity

The CVIU Mobile Brake Test Machines have now been fully operational for just over a year. During this time 2,944 vehicle tests have been conducted.

Approximately 21% of all vehicles and combinations tested during the period indicated a fault in the braking system with 13% of these vehicles being put out of service for serious issues. The equipment is also capable of checking compatibility of the tractor to trailer to determine if there is any drag from the brakes which could lead to premature wear or increased fuel consumption.

The majority of all CVIU brake tests are done with the vehicle in a laden state as presented at the roadside.

Look out for upcoming factsheets, which will detail:

- >> Specific applications of the CoF testing regime for special vehicles
- >> Staged implementation of testing
- >> HVBR Road Shows
- >> Changes to Brakes Testings
- >> Offsite locations

Missed something? The February factsheet covered:

- >> Standards Compliance
- >> In-Service Brake Testing changes
- >> Brake testing method
- >> Load Simulation
- >> Actual load testing and restrictions
- >> TSDA Site upgrade activity
- >> NZ Police enforcement activity

Previous factsheets are available on www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/hvbr

COMING SOON... The HVBR Road Show

Heard about the Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule, but not sure what you have to do?

From mid April to early May, Land Transport NZ is holding a series of free presentations around the country to provide you with information. The presentations will start at 6.00pm.

- >>Whangarei 21 April – Forum North
- >>Auckland 22 April – Ellerslie Event Centre
- >>Rotorua 23 April – Rydges Hotel
- >>Napier 29 April – War Memorial Centre
- >>Palmerston North 30 April - Novotel
- >>New Plymouth 1 May – Yarrow Stadium
- >>Nelson 5 May – Monaco Resort
- >>Christchurch 6 May – Rydges
- >>Dunedin 7 May – Larnach Castle
- >>Queenstown 8 May – Heritage Hotel
- >>Hamilton 12 May – Novotel
- >>Wellington 13 May – Westpac Stadium

To register your attendance go to:

www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/hvbr
or email: HVBR@landtransport.govt.nz

To find out more...

For further information on the Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule, visit www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/hvbr search Heavy Vehicle Brakes Rule, or email: HVBR@landtransport.govt.nz

Or visit your testing station web sites www.vtnz.co.nz – www.onroad.co.nz – www.aa.co.nz

Or contact your representative
Bus and Coach Association (BCA)
Phone: 04 499 7334 – email: info@busandcoach.co.nz

Road Transport Forum (RTF)
Phone: 04 472 3877 – email: forum@rtfnz.co.nz