



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 1 May 2026

On 4 May 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 1 May 2026:

Out of scope

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Out of scope



LEG-26-MIN-0072

**Land Transport Rule Vehicle Standards  
Compliance Amendment 2026**  
Portfolio: Associate Transport

CONFIRMED

Out of scope



Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Land Transport Rule Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026

**Portfolio** Associate Transport

On 30 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in April 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to change Warrant of Fitness and Certificate of Fitness A requirements for light vehicles, including changes to inspection frequency and scope [ECO-26-MIN-0047];
- 2 **noted** that Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 will give effect to the decisions above;
- 3 **noted** that section 152A(2) of the Land Transport Act 1998 (the Act) requires the responsible Minister to have regard to the criteria specified in section 164(2) of the Act before recommending the making of a rule, by Order in Council, under section 152A(1) of the Act;
- 4 **noted** that the Associate Minister of Transport has been advised on, had regard to, and given such weight as he considered appropriate, to the criteria noted in paragraph 3 in recommending the proposed rule change;
- 5 **authorised** the submission of the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 (attached under LEG-26-SUB-0072) to the Executive Council;
- 6 **noted** that the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 will come into force on 1 November 2026.

Sam Moffett  
Committee Secretary

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**Attendance (see over)**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Hon Nicola Grigg  
Hon James Meager  
Hon Cameron Brewer  
Hon Mike Butterick  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Stuart Smith MP  
Todd Stephenson MP  
Jamie Arbuckle MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG

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# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Summary

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### Land Transport Rule Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Associate Transport</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	This paper seeks authorisation to submit the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 (the Amendment Rule) to the Executive Council.
<b>Previous Decisions</b>	In April 2026, ECO agreed to change Warrant of Fitness (WoF) and Certificate of Fitness A (CoF A) requirements for light vehicles, including changes to inspection frequency and scope [ECO-26-MIN-0047].
<b>Proposal</b>	<p>The Amendment Rule gives effect to the decision above, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extending the period before a new light vehicle is required to undergo its second WoF inspection from three to four years;</li> <li>• introducing a two-yearly WoF inspection interval for light vehicles less than fourteen years old (excluding motorcycles);</li> <li>• introducing yearly WoF inspection intervals for light vehicles fourteen years and older, motorcycles and for all light rental service vehicles (CoF A);</li> <li>• expanding the scope of WoF and CoF A to include certain Advanced Driver Assistance Systems features.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact Analysis</b>	A Regulatory Impact Assessment was provided when policy approval was sought.
<b>Compliance</b>	The Chief Legal Adviser, Ministry of Transport has certified the Amendment Rule as being in order for submission to Cabinet.
<b>Timing Matters</b>	The Amendment Rule will come into force on 1 November 2026.
<b>Communications</b>	NZTA will support implementation through public communications and guidance material.

**Consultation** Paper prepared by MoT. The Treasury, MoJ, Police, and MfR were consulted. DPMC was informed.

The Minister indicates that all Ministers were consulted and that discussion has occurred with all Government parties.

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**The Associate Minister of Transport recommends that the Committee:**

- 1 note that in April 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to change Warrant of Fitness and Certificate of Fitness A requirements for light vehicles, including changes to inspection frequency and scope [ECO-26-MIN-0047];
- 2 note that Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 will give effect to the decisions above;
- 3 note that section 152A(2) of the Land Transport Act 1998 (the Act) requires the responsible Minister to have regard to the criteria specified in section 164(2) of the Act before recommending the making of a rule, by Order in Council, under section 152A(1) of the Act;
- 4 note that the Associate Minister of Transport has been advised on, had regard to, and given such weight as he considered appropriate, to the criteria noted in paragraph 3 in recommending the proposed rule change;
- 5 authorise the submission of the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 (attached under LEG-26-SUB-0072) to the Executive Council;
- 6 note that the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 will come into force on 1 November 2026.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Hard-copy distribution:**  
Cabinet Legislation Committee

## IN CONFIDENCE

Office of the Associate Minister of Transport  
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

### **Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 (Warrant of Fitness and Certificate of Fitness A requirements)**

#### **Proposal**

- 1 I seek Cabinet's authorisation for submission to the Executive Council of Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 (VSC Amendment Rule).

#### **Relation to Government priorities**

- 2 VSC Amendment Rule is part of the Land Transport Rules Reform Programme (the Programme), which supports the commitments in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 and the Road Safety Objectives to review vehicle regulations for safety and efficiency and assess the vehicle inspection system to better target risk.

#### **Policy**

- 3 On 7 April 2026, Cabinet agreed to extend Warrant of Fitness (WoF) and Certificate of Fitness (CoF A) inspection intervals for light vehicles and rental vehicles, and expand the scope of inspections to include modern safety features [CAB-26-MIN-0110].
- 4 Specifically, the Cabinet Committee agreed to:
  - 4.1 Extend the period before a new light vehicle is required to undergo its second WoF inspection (from three to four years).
  - 4.2 Introduce a two-yearly WoF inspection interval for light vehicles less than fourteen years old (excluding motorcycles).
  - 4.3 Introduce yearly WoF inspection intervals for light vehicles fourteen years and older, motorcycles and for all light rental service vehicles (CoF A).
  - 4.4 Expand the scope of WoF and CoF A to include certain Advanced Driver Assistance Systems features.
- 5 These changes are expected to deliver significant cost savings for vehicle owners, more consistently align inspections with vehicle safety risk, and ensure New Zealand's inspection regime is consistent with other jurisdictions. Altogether, these changes are estimated to deliver net benefits for the public of between \$2.6 billion and \$4.1 billion over the next 30 years through reduced inspection fees, administrative time and unnecessary vehicle repairs.

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- 6 To complement these changes and mitigate the increased safety risk (a forecast increase in the number of defect-related crashes by between 0.6 and 1.3 percent over 30 years), Cabinet also agreed to increase financial penalties for non-compliance, and support increased local enforcement. This will be progressed alongside other changes to infringements in the Programme, and will be implemented by 1 November 2026.
- 7 Changes related to inspection frequency and scope will be implemented through amendments to Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance 2002 (the VSC Rule). The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has updated the VSC Rule to reflect Cabinet's policy decisions, and I seek agreement to submit the VSC Amendment Rule to the Executive Council.

### Timing and the 28-day rule

- 8 Subject to Cabinet's consideration, the VSC Amendment Rule will be made as an Order in Council when the Governor-General signs it at a meeting of the Executive Council. It will be notified in the New Zealand Gazette in accordance with the Legislation Act 2019.
- 9 The VSC Amendment Rule is intended to come into force on 1 November 2026, which will be more than 28 days after it is notified in the Gazette. This timeline is consistent with the implementation approach being developed by NZTA, including a phased and staggered rollout to smooth inspection demand.
- 10 To minimise significant swings in inspection demand between years, implementation of two-yearly WoFs will be phased: vehicles first registered after 1 November 2019 will be eligible from November 2026, and vehicles first registered after 1 November 2013 eligible from November 2027. This process is already underway with the development of an implementation plan and will conclude with a period of post-implementation support and review.

### Compliance

- 11 The VSC Amendment Rule complies with each of the following:
  - 11.1 The Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi,
  - 11.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993,
  - 11.3 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020,
  - 11.4 relevant international standards and obligations, and
  - 11.5 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.
- 12 Section 152A(2) of the Land Transport Act 1998 (the Act) requires the Minister of Transport to have regard to the criteria specified in section 164(2) of the Act before recommending that the Governor-General make a rule under

section 152A(1). The Ministry of Transport has provided advice to me covering the criteria in section 164(2) of the Act. I can confirm that I have had regard, and have given such weight as I considered appropriate, to those criteria in recommending the Governor-General make the VSC Amendment Rule.

### **Regulations Review Committee**

- 13 I have been advised that it is unlikely there are grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the VSC Amendment Rule to the attention of the House of Representatives under the Standing Orders.

### **Certification by Parliamentary Counsel**

- 14 The VSC Amendment Rule was drafted by NZTA and has been reviewed by the Ministry of Transport. The Chief Legal Adviser, Ministry of Transport, has certified the VSC Amendment Rule as being in order for submission to the Executive Council.

### **Impact analysis**

- 15 A Regulatory Impact Assessment was prepared in accordance with the Government's impact analysis requirements and was submitted at the time Cabinet approval was sought for the policy decisions relating to these amendments.
- 16 The Regulatory Impact Assessment was reviewed by an internal quality assurance panel. The panel considered that the analysis meets the Quality Assurance criteria for the purpose of informing Cabinet decisions.

### **Publicity**

- 17 I announced the inspection frequency and scope changes alongside the Minister of Transport on 16 April 2026. NZTA will support ongoing implementation through public communications and guidance material.

### **Proactive release**

- 18 This paper will be proactively released within 30 business days of the VSC Amendment Rule being signed, subject to any appropriate redactions under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Consultation**

- 19 The policy underlying the VSC Amendment Rule was developed through the Programme and informed by public consultation and agency engagement. 69 percent of submitters expressed broad support for the package of reforms. The main themes from submissions were the additional road safety risk from less frequent inspections, concerns around vehicle owners' ability to maintain their vehicles adequately, and support for a distance-based inspection threshold.

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- 20 The Ministry of Transport consulted with the Ministry for Regulation, Ministry of Justice, NZTA, New Zealand Police, and the Treasury.
- 21 The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was informed (Policy Advisory Group).

**Recommendations**

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** that on 7 April 2026 Cabinet agreed to change Warrant of Fitness and Certificate of Fitness A requirements for light vehicles, including changes to inspection frequency and scope [CAB-26-MIN-0110].
- 2 **note** that Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 will give effect to the decisions referred to in recommendation 1.
- 3 **note** that section 152A(2) of the Land Transport Act 1998 requires the responsible Minister to have regard to the criteria specified in section 164(2) of that Act before recommending the making of a rule, by Order in Council, under section 152A(1) of the Act.
- 4 **note** that the Associate Minister of Transport has been advised on, had regard, and given such weight as he considered appropriate, to the criteria noted in recommendation 3 in recommending the proposed rule change.
- 5 **authorise** the submission of Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 to the Executive Council.
- 6 **note** that Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment 2026 will come into force on 1 November 2026.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon James Meager

Associate Minister of Transport

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