MTA REPAIRER SECTOR

In association with LVVTA inc Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (inc)

CHECKING HOOD PROTRUSION LEGALITY

When a vehicle with mechanical components that protrude through the bonnet is being inspected for a WoF, it's important that AVIs confirm that the protrusion has not been changed from how it was presented for LVV Certification.

The same guidelines and measurements apply for non-OE bonnet scoops.

All vehicles LVV Certified after March 1998 will need to meet the requirements of the LVV External Projections Standard (found online at www.lvvta.org.nz).

However, a quick guide for AVIs is that in no instance should a protrusion extend above the centreline of the windscreen.

It's also essential that any exposed moving mechanical components including drive pulleys and belts must be protected by a guard or cover.

Vehicles LVV Certified after 2011 will have the height of the protrusion recorded on their certification plate, those certified prior to this will not, however, checking they meet requirements is a straightforward process.

To assess this in a fixed roof vehicle, an LVV Certifier would start by finding the centre point of the windscreen. It's from this point that a string line would be taped and run forward to a point on the ground to a distance that's dependent on the width of the protrusion/s – as outlined below. The protrusion may not extend above the string line when viewed from the side of the vehicle.

The LVV External Projections Standard states the distances the string line should extend to are:

(a) in the case of protrusions 250 mm or less in width, a point at ground level 15 metres forward of the front of the vehicle; or

(b) in the case of protrusions between 250 mm and 400 mm in width, a point at ground level 12 metres forward of the front of the vehicle; or

(c) in the case of protrusions 400 mm or more in width, a point at ground level 8 metres forward of the front of the vehicle

If the vehicle does not have a fixed roof (eg a convertible), the same measurements to the ground apply, but are measured from a point on the vehicle's longitudinal centre line 730mm above and 270mm forward of the junction of the uncompressed seat base and back, with the seat in its rearmost and lowest position.

It's worth AVIs keeping in mind that any change to the suspension height of the vehicle may influence the distance between the string line and the protrusion, so confirming the suspension height matches what has been recorded on the LVV Certification plate should always be the first step when inspecting such a vehicle.

If AVI's suspect that a vehicle has been further modified after LVV Certification, they can contact the LVVTA Technical team for advice or refer the vehicle to an LVV Certifier for inspection.