



LVV certification processes



Here are a few examples of the many processes within the LVV certification system, and some common questions we are asked about them.

LVV electronic data plates (EDPs) are now in use, but the engraved LVV certification plates previously fitted to modified vehicles still remain, so there are comments relating to both types.

Why does a customer need a WoF inspection prior to an LVV certification inspection?

When a customer books an LVV inspection, they will often be asked by the LVV certifier to get a WoF inspection first. This is primarily to identify any safety issues prior to the LVV certifier road testing the vehicle.

The WoF inspection must be no more than 28 days old; a WoF inspection fail sheet must be completed and record the modified items that require LVV certification.

Are the items on the engraved LVV certification plate, or is EDP data required to match the vehicle modifications?

Generally yes, but in some circumstances this isn't necessary, as below:

- Change of number plate – this is a common occurrence, so we do not update the recorded information.
- Temporary removal of seats – the VIRM allows for a vehicle to still pass a WoF if its factory-fitted seats have been temporarily removed, so the same applies to an LVV certified vehicle, in relation to its factory-fitted or aftermarket LVV certified seats.

Where the information does not match the vehicle due to further modifications, the vehicle must be failed and sent to an appropriate LVV certifier. The LVV certifier will inspect and LVV certify the vehicle, the engraved LVV certification plate will be removed, and replaced with an EDP. The new process is more streamlined as the owner is no longer required to return with the vehicle for fitment of an engraved LVV certification plate.

This information, and more, can be found in the Introduction section of the VIRM, in 3-1 Duties and Responsibilities.

In-service certification (WoF and CoF)

Introduction

- 1 Purpose and scope
- 2 Overview of the manual
- 3 Inspection and certification process

Overview - steps in the inspection and certification process

3-1 Duties and responsibilities

Image of Introduction section of VIRM.

The Introduction section of the VIRM has plenty of useful information.

Vehicle returned to standard

It is common for LVV certified vehicles to have some or all modifications permanently removed. Some examples are disability hand controls, van seats and adjustable suspension that proves to be either too stiff, or leaking.

This would mean the engraved LVV certification plate or EDP details are no longer accurate or required and the vehicle should fail a WoF. The owner needs to contact an LVV certifier for a re-inspection. A vehicle fully returned to standard will have the engraved LVV certification plate removed (or EDP details removed) and the database updated. This can only be done by an LVV certifier – a WoF inspector must not remove an engraved LVV certification plate or EDP.

If the vehicle still retains modifications that are over threshold, the engraved LVV certification plate will be replaced with an EDP that links to the updated information. An EDP never needs to be replaced when the vehicle is further modified as new data can be linked to it.

What happens when an LVV certified vehicle is further modified but the change is under the threshold?

A common example for this is a wheel change – on an uncertified vehicle this would be under the threshold for LVV certification, as listed in the Tables and Images tab of each section of the VIRM. For an LVV certified vehicle this means the engraved LVV certification plate/EDP no longer contains the correct details. Whenever this occurs, the vehicle should be failed and referred to an LVV certifier for the correct information to be recorded.

If the under-threshold modification is not referred to on the engraved LVV certification plate/EDP then it can be dealt with as part of the WoF/CoF inspection.

Plate delegation

Previously, LVV certifiers could delegate fitment of an engraved LVV certification plate to a person of responsibility such as a WoF inspector. If for any reason the EDP could not be fitted, such as the customer did not return despite attempts to contact them, the LVV certifier should be contacted so that they can either chase the customer or cancel the LVV certification. If a WoF inspector has any unfitted engraved LVV certification plates older than two months, they must be returned to the LVV certifier or to LVVTA.

The new EDP can only be fitted by an LVV certifier so the delegation process is no longer required.

Why do some engraved LVV certification plates appear blank, as though there are no modifications?

There are only a few modifications that are not immediately apparent on an engraved LVV



Removed or unfitted engraved LVV certification plates must be sent to LVVTA for destruction.

certification plate. If a vehicle has only had a gearbox or engine change then the only indication is the description in the gearbox or engine field; the rest of the descriptive fields may be blank.

Where do I find a list of abbreviations for the engraved LVV certification plate?

It was sometimes difficult, if not impossible, to fit full descriptions of all the modifications on an engraved LVV certification plate and it was necessary to abbreviate some words and phrases. The LVVTA website has a list of common abbreviations: https://www.lvvtta.org.nz/cert_plate_abbreviations.html.

Will declarations become invalid?

This is a good question. Modification declarations were issued in the early 1990s to capture the modifications on a vehicle where the modifications were carried out prior to the requirement for LVV certification.

Many vehicles have been further modified, or have lapsed registration, in which case the declaration becomes invalid and an AVIC should fail the vehicle and refer to an LVV certifier for LVV certification prior to a WoF/CoF being issued.

For vehicles that have been continuously registered since the issue of the declaration and have no further modifications, the declaration remains valid and the vehicle can be issued with a WoF/CoF.

When can a WoF/CoF be issued to a modified vehicle?

There were always a few days between a vehicle being inspected by an LVV certifier, entering the data into LANDATA, and fitment of the engraved LVV Certification Plate. Until this was complete the vehicle could not pass a WoF/CoF.

The process with the new EDP is smoother as the EDP is fitted at time of inspection by the LVV certifier. Once the data is entered into the system on completion of the LVV certification, it will be available on the LVVTA Lookup web page, and a WoF/CoF can be issued. If no information is available on the Lookup page, the LVV certification is still being processed and a WoF/CoF cannot be issued.

For more information on any of the questions and answers in this article, consult the VIRM or contact a member of the LVVTA technical team: tech@lvvtta.org.nz

