

Vehicle inspectors bulletin



70

Rev. 1 / June 2006

Inspection of number plates

Introduction

Number plates play an important role in vehicle identification. That importance has been reinforced with the recent introduction of increased fines and demerit points for number plate offences. The increased focus on number plates has:

- Increased the importance of inspecting number plates during periodic inspections.
- Necessitated changes to the safety check inspection report.
- Necessitated changes to the 'reasons for rejection' for number plates in the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations (AIS) light vehicles.

Procedures

Rule 105.11 of the Rules for AIS light vehicles

The 'reasons for rejection' for Rule 105.11 of the *Rules for AIS* light vehicles have been amended and are contained in the attached pages. The changes align the 'reasons for rejection' with current regulations and are consistent with the 'reasons for rejection' in the *Rules for AIS* heavy vehicles

The attached replacement pages must be inserted in the appropriate location of the *Rules for AIS* light vehicles and the old pages removed and discarded.

Changes to safety check inspection reports

A pass/fail check box has been added to light vehicle inspection reports specifically for number plates.

For	■ RTA Inspectors Vehicle Regulation	■ Engineering Signatories	■ AIS Proprietors & Examiners
	■ RTA Registry Service Managers	■ HVAIS Proprietors & Examiners	■ AUVIS Proprietors & Examiners

First inspection

Vehicles with number plates that are a reason for rejection under Rule 105.11 of the *Rules for AIS* light vehicles or Rule 505.04 of the *Rules for AIS* heavy vehicles must be rejected and a 'repairs needed' inspection report issued. Stations using paper based inspection reports ('pink slip') must note the failure reason in the comments section of the report. Stations using the e-Safety Check internet application do not need to make this comment as the reason for rejection will automatically appear as 'reasons for failure' on the printed inspection report.

Second inspection

When a customer returns for a second inspection of number plates that require replacement, it is acceptable that either new plates are fitted or the customer produces a receipt for the number plates to be remade. If a receipt is produced for the remaking of number plates, authorised examiners must indicate in the comments section of the inspection report that a receipt was produced.

If the number plates have been replaced with a different alpha/numeric sequence:

- Stations using paper based ('pink slip') inspection reports must indicate in the comments section of the report that new number plates have been fitted and indicate what the new characters of the plate are.
- e-Safety Check stations using the internet will not need to take the above action as the number plate field on the e-Safety Check screens and the printed inspection reports will reflect the new number plate.

Replacement of faded number plates program

The 'Replacement of faded number plates program' as outlined in Vehicle inspectors bulletin 33 has been withdrawn. Hard copies of this bulletin must be discarded. VIB 33 has been removed from the RTA's web site. The withdrawal of this scheme means that faded number plates with the slogan 'NSW THE PREMIER STATE' will no longer be replaced free of charge.

Note: Faded number plates is not in itself a reason for rejection unless the plates fail to meet the requirements of Rule 105.11 of the *Rules for AIS* light vehicles or Rule 505.04 of the *Rules for AIS* heavy vehicles.

Implementation date

Immediately



For further enquiries:



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Body Condition

Rule 105

Light Vehicles

105.08 Check the operation of seats, seat belts, buckles and other restraints, and inspect webbing and metal stalks.

Reasons for rejection

- a) any seat or seat belt is not securely fastened to its mounting;
- b) any seat belt is missing or the webbing is knotted;
- c) any seat belt emergency locking retractor is inoperative;
- d) any seat belt buckle does not lock when the tongue is placed into it;
- e) the webbing, or the stitching of any webbing joint, is cut or severely deteriorated;

NOTE: Discolouring alone is not a reason for rejection.

- f) any metal stalk is missing or has broken wires
- g) in other than ADR 34 vehicles, where fitted, child restraint attachment points are loose or cracked
- h) where ADR 34 applies, child restraint attachment points are loose, cracked or missing.



Body Condition

Rule 105

Light Vehicles

105.09 Visually inspect and check the operation of the windscreen wipers.

Reasons for rejection

- a) windscreen wipers are missing, are not secured, or do not operate;
- b) windscreen wiper blades are missing, cracked, curled, frayed or torn.

105.10 Check the operation of the horn.

Reasons for rejection

- a) the horn is not working;
- b) the horn is of the following types: exhaust whistle, compression whistle, siren or alternating tone (reversing alarms are acceptable).

105.11 Visually inspect the front and rear number plates.

Reasons for rejection

- a) Any part of the number plate is more than 1300mm from the ground;
- b) The number plates are not substantially parallel to the vehicle's axles;
- c) Any number plate is obscured, for example by a towing attachment, gooseneck or tow ball;
- d) Any number plate cover is tinted, reflective, rounded or bubble like;
- e) Any number plate is not of RTA issue, is damaged or faded to the extent that the registration number is not visible;
- f) Characters on the number plate are not clearly visible from a distance of 20 metres at any point within an arc of 45 degrees from the surface of the number plate above or to either side of the vehicle.

