

V19 – Inspection types

Information Bulletin

Purpose

The purpose of this information bulletin is to outline the vehicle inspection regime in the Northern Territory. In addition to the inspection regimes listed in this information bulletin, an approved person is authorised to inspect or direct a vehicle for examination or inspection at any time for any purpose under sections 127 and section 128 of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949 (the Act)*.

An **approved person** to perform an inspection under *the Act* may be either be a:

- Northern Territory Transport Inspector;
- Police Officer; or
- Authorised Inspector.

Each of the above approved persons perform different types of inspections under *the Act*.

Authorisation

[Motor Vehicles Act 1949](#) - Sections 8(b), 15, 127, 128 and 128A

I, Cindy-Lee McDonald, Registrar of Motor Vehicles (the Registrar), under section 15 of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, direct a vehicle to be produced for examination or inspection by an approved person in accordance with Appendix A, upon application to establish or renew the registration of a motor vehicle in the Northern Territory.

Vehicle Inspection Types

Roadworthy Inspection

A roadworthy inspection is an inspection of a motor vehicle undertaken by an approved person for ensuring compliance with roadworthy and safety standards for registration.

Light vehicle roadworthy inspections are required from when a vehicle is 7 years old and when:

- Transferring ownership (can be completed by seller or buyer).
- Re-establishing registration after a lapse of more than 12 months.
- First registering in the Northern Territory (prior to a compliance check for interstate transfers).

All heavy vehicles are subject to annual roadworthy inspections, unless the vehicle is exempt under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).

Periodic roadworthy inspections are determined by the vehicle type and vehicle category as outlined in **Appendix A** – “Schedule of Vehicle Inspections”.

Note: A modified vehicle, regardless of age, may be subject to periodic inspections as determined by the Registrar. Examples of modified vehicles include Street rods and Individually Constructed Vehicles

(ICVs). In remote regional areas, special inspection arrangements for modified vehicles may be considered by Transport Inspectors.

Roadworthy inspection fees are prescribed. Current inspection fees can be viewed at <https://nt.gov.au/driving/fees/registration-fees>

Compliance Inspection

A compliance inspection is an inspection to validate vehicle identifiers and confirm they are not missing or altered in any way and to ensure:

- that the vehicle corresponds with the registration application details and/or information contained on the registration authority's data base; and
- compliance with applicable roadworthy and safety standards prior to establishing registration in the Northern Territory.

Compliance inspections are required on all vehicles:

- when establishing first registration in the Northern Territory; or
- when validation of vehicle identification or vehicle description is required.

Compliance inspections are outlined in **Appendix A** – “Schedule of Vehicle Inspections”.

Only approved persons may carry out compliance inspections, for example:

- Approved Authorised Inspectors may carry out compliance inspections on factory new vehicles.
- Approved Authorised Inspectors employed by a Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer (LMVD) may carry out compliance inspections on interstate transfers providing the vehicle is to be registered in an LMVD's name.
- In remote regional areas, special inspection arrangements are made for compliance inspections by Transport Inspectors.
- In remote regional areas, special inspection arrangements are made for compliance inspections by Police Officers.
- There is no fee for a compliance inspection.
- There is no expiry on a compliance inspection.

Defect Inspection

A defect inspection is an inspection to clear a vehicle of faults outlined in a defect notice. Defect notices are issued by Transport Inspectors or Police Officers.

Defect notices can only be cleared by Transport Inspectors following a full roadworthy inspection of the vehicle.

Defect inspection fees are prescribed. Current inspection fees can be viewed at <https://nt.gov.au/driving/fees/registration-fees>

Note: The prescribed fee is the same as a roadworthy inspection, and payment must be prior to inspection.

If a defect clearing inspection is conducted in conjunction with a roadworthy inspection at a Northern Territory Government vehicle inspection facility, this will only attract a single inspection fee.

Call-in Inspection

A call-in inspection is required to clear a vehicle that has been issued a call-in notice.

A call-in notice is issued to the owner of the vehicle when faults are suspected, and verification of the vehicle condition is required.

Call-in notices can only be issued by the Registrar or a delegate of the Registrar and may only be cleared by Transport Inspectors following a full roadworthy inspection of the vehicle.

If faults are detected during the call-in inspection, the vehicle may be defected. In this case, a defect inspection fee will apply when the vehicle is re-presented for a defect clearing inspection.

There is no prescribed fee for a call-in inspection.

There is no expiry on a call-in inspection.

Commercial Passenger Vehicle (CPV) Inspection

A Commercial Passenger Vehicle (CPV) inspection is required on vehicles (except Courtesy Vehicles) that are operated for hire or reward. This involves an inspection for compliance with the relevant vehicle requirements for the CPV category.

A CPV inspection and a roadworthy inspection apply when a vehicle enters a CPV category either as a new registration or from general/private registration.

A CPV inspection and a roadworthy inspection apply when changing from one CPV category to another CPV category (i.e. tourist vehicle to minibus).

A roadworthy inspection can be conducted with a CPV inspection.

An annual roadworthy and annual CPV inspection apply to a CPV unless exempted under an approved vehicle maintenance scheme or a Courtesy Vehicle.

A roadworthy inspection for a Courtesy Vehicle is at the same frequency as a privately registered vehicle.

CPV inspections may be conducted by approved persons.

In remote locations, special inspection arrangements are made for a CPV inspection.

The CPV inspection fee is the same fee for a roadworthy inspection. This will only attract a single inspection fee when conducted in conjunction with a roadworthy inspection.

A roadworthy inspection applies when a vehicle in a CPV category returns to general/private registration.

Heavy Vehicle Rating Inspection

A heavy vehicle rating inspection is required on heavy vehicles to determine vehicle component ratings are suitable for the transport task.

Specific component ratings are required when operating in various configurations and schemes.

Rating inspections are conducted by Transport Inspectors.

There is no prescribed fee for a rating inspection.

Heavy Vehicle Livestock Loading Inspection

A heavy vehicle livestock loading inspection is required for heavy vehicles to determine if vehicle component ratings are suitable for use in the livestock loading scheme.

Livestock loading inspections are conducted by Transport Inspectors.

There is no prescribed fee for a livestock loading inspection.

Written Off Vehicle (WOV) Inspection

For details on inspecting a Written Off Vehicle (WOV) please refer to '[Information Bulletin V74 Re-registration of a Repairable Write-off](#)'.

Appendix A - Schedule of Vehicle Inspections

Northern Territory (NT) Vehicle Inspection Regime – Compliance and Roadworthy Inspections

Effective 9 February 2026

#	Vehicle Categories	Establish NT Registration		NT Registration Renewal (including previous NT Registered Vehicles)		Transfer of Ownership
		Compliance Inspection	Roadworthy Inspection	Compliance Inspection	Roadworthy Inspection	Roadworthy Inspection
a)	Light Motor Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to and including 4.5 tonne GVM • Less than 7 years old 	Yes	No	No ¹	No	No
b)	Light Motor Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to and including 4.5 tonne GVM • 7 years and older 	Yes	Yes	No ¹	No ²	Yes
c)	Light Trailer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not more than and including 750 kg ATM 	Yes	No	No ¹	No	No
d)	Light Trailer ≤4.5 tonne ATM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 750 kg and including 4.5 tonne ATM • Less than 7 years old 	Yes	No	No ¹	No	No
e)	Light Trailer ≤4.5 tonne ATM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 750 kg ATM and including 4.5 tonne ATM • 7 years and older 	Yes	Yes	No ¹	No ²	Yes
f)	Commercial Passenger Vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxis • Minibuses • Private Hire Cars • Limousines 	Yes	Yes	No ¹	Yes ³	No ⁴

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles registered as Tourist Vehicles (TV) • Passenger Buses registered as Motor Omnibus (MO) • Special Function Vehicles • Rideshare Vehicles <p>For Courtesy Vehicles refer to rows 'a' and 'b' above.</p>					
g)	Conditionally Registered Light Motor Vehicles – including Club vehicles, Rally vehicles, ride on mowers, forklifts etc ⁶	Yes	Yes	No ¹	No	Yes
h)	Modified Vehicles	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶
i)	Heavy Motor Vehicle or Heavy Trailer More than 4.5 tonne GVM / ATM	Yes	Yes ⁵	No ¹	Yes ³	No

Notes for Guidance

1	Compliance Inspection required only if vehicle details do not match.
2	Roadworthy Inspection required if the vehicle has been unregistered for greater than 12 months.
3	Roadworthy Inspection required unless exempted under an approved National Vehicle Accreditation Scheme.
4	Roadworthy Inspection required if the vehicle will be used for private use.
5	Not required when establishing first registration on a factory new rigid vehicle (greater than 4.5 tonne GVM up to and including 24.0 tonne GVM) ie the vehicle has never been previously registered.
6	Subject to the Conditions.
GVM	Gross Vehicle Mass
ATM	Aggregated Trailer Mass