



## Fact Sheet

# Are you regularly checking your vehicle?

### Ball joints/tie rod/steering

Ball joints give the vehicle stability and control. Worn tie-rod ends cause sloppy steering and poor directional control.

### Battery strap

Insecure batteries can cause fires by shorting out on contact with metal.

### Bonnet safety catch

A faulty safety catch will allow the bonnet to fly up.

### Brake and tail lights

Good brake and tail lights prevent rear end collisions.

### Brake discs/drums

Brake discs or drums that are too thin won't withstand the heat generated by heavy braking.

### Brake master cylinder

Low fluid levels can indicate a leak in the brake system. This is also an indication that the disc pads may be worn out.

### Brake pads/shoes

Worn out brake pads and shoes reduce braking effectiveness and cause uneven braking.

### Control arms

Rubber brushes at the control arm pivots maintain suspension in alignment.

### Door handles

After a crash, broken door handles can make retrieving injured passengers difficult.

### Emission controls

Disconnected or faulty emission controls will increase pollution.

### Engine mounts

Loose or broken engine mounts can allow engine to move excessively.

### Exhaust systems

A functioning exhaust system controls noise and prevents fumes from entering the vehicle.

### Front end

Damage to the cross-member can cause misalignment and increased tyre wear.

### Fuel system

Check for fuel leaks in the fuel system, pump, lines, and carburettor or injection system.

### Globes, lenses and controls

All globes, lenses and controls must work effectively. Faded lenses reduce effectiveness.

### Headlights

Corroded reflectors cracked lenses or incorrectly aimed headlights reduce lighting effectiveness and reduce safety.

### Incorrect tyres

Check vehicles tyre placard as tyres must have the appropriate speed and load rating for the vehicle application and not be mismatched.

### Interior trim

Interior trim protects against severe cuts from sharp metal edges in a crash.

### LPG cylinder

Gas cylinders can deteriorate with age. Check the cylinder for damage (from corrosion, fire or impact). Cylinders more than 10 years old should be re-certified with a date stamp to comply with AS 2337.2.

### LPG labels

LPG labels must be affixed to the number plates of an LPG fuelled vehicle for the safety of Emergency Services personnel.

### Oil leaks

Accumulated oil from vehicles causes greasy road conditions, especially after rain.

### Panel damage

Sharp edges on bodywork can seriously injure pedestrians and cyclists.

### Panhard rod

A loose rear axle locating link will allow the differential to float and cause poor vehicle control at speed.

### Park brake

The park brake should be able to hold the car stationary on a slope.

### Pedal rubbers

Worn or missing pedal rubbers can allow feet to slip off, especially when wet.

### Rear-view mirrors

A car must have a combination of rear view mirrors which provided views to the rear on both sides of the vehicle.

### Rust

Serious rust can affect the structural integrity of the vehicle.

### Seat-belts

Frayed, worn or inoperative seat-belts will not protect the driver and passenger in a crash.

### Seat mountings

The driver's seat must be structurally sound and firmly anchored in place.

### Shock absorbers

Worn shock absorbers reduce vehicle control and excessive tyre wear.

### Speakers

Fitting of speakers to the rear parcel shelf may only be done if it maintains vehicle strength and safety. The parcel shelf incorporates the child restraint anchor points and seat belt anchor points.

### Steering shaft coupling

Failure of the steering shaft coupling can result in total loss of steering control.

### Suspension geometry

Lowering suspension can cause ground clearance and handling problems. Cutting springs alters their spring rate (stiffness) and may adversely affect handling.

### Tyres

Check for worn or damaged tyres. All tyres must have at least 1.5 mm tread depth in all principal grooves of the tyre. Principal grooves are the wide grooves that are usually positioned in the centre of the tyre. Tyres with less than 1.5 mm tread depth are illegal and must be replaced.

### Window winders

Working window winders enhance vehicle safety.

### Windscreen wipers/washers

Wipers and washers should be able to prevent dirt and moisture from obscuring visibility through the windscreen.

### Windscreen

A cracked or chipped windscreen can impair visibility. The windscreen contributes to the car's structural strength, which may be reduced if the screen is cracked.

# Pre-Vehicle Examination Check List

Ask your mechanic to check this list before you present your vehicle for inspection. This list is a **guide only**

## Drive Line

- ☐ Check Engine Mountings
- ☐ Check all 'V' Belts, hoses etc
- ☐ Clean down and check for water, oil and fluid leaks, check all levels
- ☐ Check the air cleaner is standard, fitted and secure
- ☐ Check power steering pump for leaks
- ☐ Check emission controls are intact and functioning
- ☐ Check engine operates smoothly
- ☐ Check exhaust-system for leaks, noise level and security
- ☐ Check transmission and differential for security and correct operation
- ☐ Check tail shaft and universal joints
- ☐ Check all wheel bearings for noise and excess free play
- ☐ Check for excessive engine crankcase fumes and exhaust smoke
- ☐ Check for fuel vapour leaks and that correct fuel cap is fitted

## Electrical

- ☐ Check battery, wiring looms and connectors are all secure
- ☐ Check high and low beam headlights for operation and alignment
- ☐ Check all lights (including indicators, stop, tail, number plate, reverse and clearance) for cracked, faded or damaged lenses
- ☐ Ensure rear reflectors fitted
- ☐ Check horn
- ☐ Check demisting function for the windscreen (air conditioning or hot air)
- ☐ Check windscreen wipers and washers
- ☐ Check ignition switch and automatics start only in park and neutral
- ☐ Check manufacturer's or Government approved immobiliser

## Chassis and Suspension

- ☐ Check for cracks or rust
- ☐ Check suspension components and shock absorbers for wear
- ☐ Check vehicle ground clearance

## Tyres and Rims

- ☐ Check all wheel nuts, studs and rims for damage.
- ☐ Check rims match on an axle
- ☐ Check all tyres for cuts and damage
- ☐ Ensure tread depth is at least 1.5 mm in all principal grooves of the tyre

## Body Work

- ☐ Check cab, floor pan, chassis, body mountings, door pillars and body work for rust and cracks
- ☐ Check windscreen and ensure no cracks or chips
- ☐ Check security of seats and headrests
- ☐ Check operation and condition of seatbelts including webbing and retractors
- ☐ Check all foot pedal rubbers and ensure all interior trim fitted and secure
- ☐ Check bonnet hinges, catches, mechanisms and release control
- ☐ Check all door, boot and tailgate hinges, latches, locks and handles
- ☐ Check all mechanical and electrical window controls for correct operation
- ☐ Check all mirrors and remove hanging ornaments

## Steering

- ☐ Check steering for wear, missing split pins and steering box/rack security
- ☐ Check steering free play and steering components for damage
- ☐ Check operation of steering lock

## Brakes

- ☐ Check all brake lines for deterioration. Ensure brakes are not modified
- ☐ Check park brake
- ☐ Ensure brake fail light and park brake warning lights operate correctly
- ☐ Check for brake pull or pedal pulsation
- ☐ Check for fluid leaks and the master cylinder does not bypass

## Vehicle Identification

- ☐ Clean and locate engine number
- ☐ Clean and locate chassis number or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- ☐ Check chassis number or VIN stamped on vehicle matches compliance plate
- ☐ Check engine number and chassis number/VIN against old registration papers

## Vehicle Modification

- ☐ Check that modifications meet VSB14

See the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (Licensing) website for vehicle standards publications.