



HEAVY VEHICLE SERVICING

INFORMATION

February 2018

SAFETY ALERT

TOWING CONNECTIONS CERTIFIED BY PETER WASTNEY ENGINEERING LIMITED

This safety alert has been issued by the NZ Transport Agency following the identification of failures in towing connections involving drawbeams and drawbars certified by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd.

Several recent failures have been identified in both drawbeams and drawbars certified by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd. Independent reviews of those drawbeams and drawbars have identified that they were not adequately designed for the loads to which they had been certified.

The Transport Agency is urgently requiring all operators with drawbeams, drawbars, or towbars certified by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd to have them cleaned and inspected for signs of cracks or other failures. If any signs are found, the vehicles' use as a combination vehicle must be discontinued immediately.

Cracks and other failures generally develop from cyclic loading and they may not present themselves until after the vehicle has been in service for several hundred thousand kilometres. However, in some designs cracks may develop in a much shorter timeframe.

The Transport Agency will require that all towing connections certified to NZS5446/NZS5467 by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd, whether signs of failure are present or not, be assessed and new certification issued within a reasonable time by a heavy vehicle specialist certifier (HVSC) with the HVET category.

Further information is being sent directly to affected vehicle owners.



After several months in service, cracks developed where the main body of the drawbeam attached to its side plates, resulting in the trailer's detachment from the towing vehicle.



Crack identified on trailer's drawbar after approximately 2 years in service.

While the focus of this alert is primarily on towing connections, an inspection of all certifications (eg log bolsters, crane attachments, load anchors, chassis modifications, etc.) by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd is also recommended in addition to the usual walk-around inspection. If any failures are identified, please contact the Transport Agency (see green box below).

Action required

- Review your fleet and determine if Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd was the company that provided certification of any drawbeams, drawbars, or towbars.
- If so, it is essential that these towing connections are thoroughly cleaned and carefully inspected for signs of cracks or failure, paying particular attention around any welded or bolted areas.
- If any signs of cracks or other failure are present on the towing connections, the vehicles' use as a combination vehicle must be discontinued until the components have been replaced with certified components.
- Do not attempt to repair any cracks, as this won't address the root cause of the failure.
- Even if no cracks or failures are evident, all certifications to NZS5446/NZS5467 (drawbeams, drawbars, or towbars) by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd must be reassessed by a specialist certifier within a reasonable timeframe.
- Feedback regarding cracks or other failures on towing connections or any other components certified by Peter Wastney Engineering Ltd and all other enquiries or questions related to this should be directed to the Transport Agency on 0800 699 000.