



# SAFETY ALERT

Updated February 2019

## HEAVY VEHICLE CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY PATRICK CHU OF TRANSPORT & STRUCTURE LIMITED

The NZ Transport Agency has issued this safety alert due to the identification of sub-standard work in certain heavy vehicle specialist certifications (also known as 'LT400s') issued by heavy vehicle specialist certifier (HVSC) Patrick Chu.

Issues have been identified in respect of both towing connections and chassis certified by Patrick Chu. As a result, the NZ Transport Agency has revoked some certifications issued by Patrick Chu. These revocations have been for reasons including that towbars had been certified beyond their viable design life, and chassis had been certified despite being significantly over-stressed.

The NZ Transport Agency is currently analysing certain files relating to certifications issued by Patrick Chu in respect of towing connections and chassis in heavy vehicles. The NZ Transport Agency will update vehicle owners in the event further risk is identified.

At present, certifications issued by Patrick Chu that have not been revoked by the NZ Transport Agency remain technically valid, though for the reasons set out the NZ Transport Agency strongly encourages owners to be extra vigilant as regards safety where components in their vehicles have been certified by Patrick Chu, and to follow the below steps.

### What should you do

#### i) Identify whether any component of your vehicle has been certified by Patrick Chu

If you have a towing connection certified by Patrick Chu (towbar, drawbeam, drawbar) it will be apparent from the plates on the vehicle, as Patrick Chu may be identified by his HVSC initials, **ZC**. See the example plate photos below.

If you cannot see a plate on your vehicle, or you are otherwise unsure whether a towing connection or chassis component on your vehicle was certified by Patrick Chu, you can find out by calling the NZ Transport Agency contact centre, and providing your registration plate number. The contact centre has a list of

all certifications issued by Patrick Chu and will be able to tell you whether one relates to your vehicle. Contact the NZ Transport Agency contact centre at 0800 699 000.

#### ii) Clean and inspect your vehicle

Clean your vehicle and check for signs of cracks or other failures. If any cracks or other failures are present in any towing connections (towbar, drawbeam, drawbar) the vehicle should immediately stop being used as a combination vehicle until repaired and recertified by an appropriately qualified HVSC.

If any cracks or failures are apparent in any chassis components, the use of the vehicle should be immediately stopped until the vehicle is repaired and recertified by an appropriately qualified HVSC.

**Repeat these checks daily or before each trip: cracks can appear quickly.**

#### iii) Get your vehicle checked

If any component of your vehicle has been certified by Patrick Chu, we recommend you take it to an appropriate workshop and get it checked. Note that if cracks or failures are present, the vehicle should not be driven to the workshop, save for where the failure concerns a towing connection and the vehicle can be driven directly to the workshop without towing any vehicle.

**Update February 2019:** The Transport Agency has agreed to cover the cost of recertifications, and necessary repairs or replacement for vehicle owners affected by the revocation of certifications of tow bars certified by Mr Chu. It will also reimburse vehicle owners who have already paid. Although the Transport Agency isn't legally liable to do so, we've agreed to cover the cost of inspection, recertification and any necessary repairs or replacements, in order to lessen the impact of the revocations we've called for.

Feedback regarding cracks or other failures on any components certified by Patrick Chu, and any other enquiries or questions related to this, should be directed to the NZ Transport Agency on 0800 699 000.

