

MINO-0433 CoF booking fee and LED headlamps

4 August 2022

Provide a view on the appropriateness of the CoF booking fee introduced by VTNZ Porirua, and information on any previous considerations about the risk of bright LED headlights travelling on rising or bumpy sections of road.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

VTNZ CoF booking fee

CoF booking systems are not regulated by Waka Kotahi and are optional for VTNZ certificate of fitness (CoF) customers to use should they wish to book a specific time and not have to wait in a queue.

Waka Kotahi understands that VTNZ trialled a booking system and applicable fee during the 2021 COVID-19 lockdown to help give industry certainty for CoF bookings. Some transporters had raised concerns about long waiting times and had approached CoF providers to introduce an out of hours service with an additional fee to cover overtime. Some transporters also queried how they could skip the queue at testing stations. A booking system with a fee was introduced as a result of responding to the demand.

Waka Kotahi understands that the trial ended in April 2022 and VTNZ is now offering a booking system at certain sites. While a fee to book a CoF has not been introduced permanently following the trial, VTNZ may apply a fee to those who do not show up for their booking. The following wording is found on the VTNZ website information for their Porirua branch:

Please note, a no-show fee for COF B and VCA bookings of \$100 + GST will apply if you do not contact VTNZ with 24 hours advance notice to cancel or reschedule. The booking contact addresses (0800 868 008 and booking.admin@vtnz.co.nz) are monitored Mon-Fri, 8am to 4:30pm. For booking requests outside of these hours, please leave a message and we will respond the next business day.

LED headlights

While the constituent has identified LED headlights as causing issues when vehicles travel on rising or bumpy sections of road, the majority of dazzling headlights on the road at present can be from any headlight type that is poorly adjusted. Light adjustment is checked during a warrant of fitness (WoF) or CoF to ensure it is safe. When lights dazzle on the road, this becomes an on-road enforcement issue.

In terms of LED headlights, fully compliant LED headlights are available and are starting to be used on new cars. LED conversion kits for other vehicles can cause issues with light from LED bulbs being scattered by lenses that are not designed for them. This is primarily why Waka Kotahi does not allow LED conversion kits. They can produce poor beam patterns and light that is too bright to be safe. Vehicle and headlamp manufacturers do not permit this modification, nor can they be Low Volume Vehicle certified. However, it is permitted to replace a complete headlamp unit with a complete HID (High Intensity Discharge) or LED headlamp unit, providing the replacement unit meets an approved safety standard for headlamps.