



Roads and Traffic
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Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin

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For: • RTA Inspectors Vehicle Regulation • Engineering Signatories • RTA Registry Service Managers
• HVAIS Proprietors & Examiners

Failure of Semi Trailer Skid Plates due to Corrosion

Background

A number of heavy vehicle accidents have occurred that have been directly attributed to the failure of the semi trailer's skid plate. These failures have been caused by excessive corrosion of the skid plate upper surface. The failures are generally occurring on older semi trailers where no method of drainage has been provided for water or other liquids from the upper surface of the skid plate. Once trapped the water can cause corrosion and ultimately lead to failure of the plate.



Note: Trailers built to comply with Australian Design Rule (ADR) 62.01 (Light trailer TA/TB from 1 January 1998; Medium & Heavy trailers from 1 July 1998), requires that "Skid Plates must be designed so that provision is made for draining water from the space above the skid plate"



Inspection

When inspecting a semi trailer, especially those manufactured prior to ADR 62 or 1998, particular care should be taken to inspect the skid plate for advanced or extensive corrosion and/or cracks which could adversely affect the skid plate's strength.

Rules 530.06 of the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations "Heavy Vehicles" and Rule 182.01 of the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations provide the inspection criteria and reasons for rejection for skid plates.

Action

Where a semi trailer is detected that does not comply with the RTA's inspection criteria or associated publications, inspectors must:

For IVRs:

- Advanced corrosion:
Issue a minor defect notice instructing owner to have area treated and/or repaired.
- Extensive corrosion:
Issue a major defect notice and affix a defect label to the vehicle.
- Cracks in non structural areas:
Issue a minor defect notice instructing owner to have cracking repaired.
- Cracks in structural area:
Issue a major defect notice and affix a defect label to the vehicle.

For HVAIS:

- Advanced & extensive corrosion:
Issue a White Slip in accordance with the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations.
- Cracks in structural or non structural areas:
Issue a White Slip in accordance with the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations.

Effective Date: Immediately

Further Information - RTA Technical Enquiries:

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