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COF inspection waiver to cease 30 November - temporary options to alleviate COF B capacity limitations being explored

Operators who took advantage of the emergency order to release their vehicles from the obligation to undertake their regular COF inspections during the Covid-19 lockdowns are requested to get their vehicles inspected urgently. The waiver will cease on 30 November 2021 and according to Transporting New Zealand's sources, an extension is unlikely. Waka Kotahi is making the same request to industry both directly and through social media, as are the vehicle inspection agencies.

There is genuine concern many will leave the inspections until the last day possible, so the advice is: get your vehicles in early while you can. Transporting New Zealand has been working with Waka Kotahi regulatory staff and the inspection agencies to improve the delivery of inspections, particularly in those areas where the service delivery is strained due to demand.

We can report progress has been made and the inspection agents along with Waka Kotahi are working on a tangible but limited process to improve the delivery of COF B services to the commercial freight sector. The reason for this approach is to overcome the potential bow wave of inspection demand as a result of the waiver coming to an end. Secondly, there is the need to provide some relief for the BOP situation where the COF B service demand has regularly exceeded inspection capacity.

Waka Kotahi is also exploring options to support the immigration of suitability skilled and experience individuals who could be formality trained as inspectors. This is more a long-term proposition to help alleviate the present staffing situation many of the inspection agents are facing.

It is worth noting that inspections in the Covid-19 Level 3 areas have continued to be undertaken, although at lower levels than usual. The backlog is around some 20,000 vehicles and about half these maybe able to be managed under the temporary option which, from Transporting New Zealand's perspective, will help facilitate the through-put of the remaining COF B specific vehicles.

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In the meantime, make every effort to get your vehicle inspections carried out as soon as possible.

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