

# Self-containment system changes and yellow warrant card

**Date: 17 June 2024**

**Attn: NZMCA Self-Containment Testing Officers**

**Cc: Area Committee Chairpersons and Secretaries**

As an invaluable volunteer and supporter of the NZMCA's self-containment programme, you are receiving this brief update regarding the ongoing systems changes and NZMCA's new yellow warrant card in advance of the full membership.

Later today, all members will receive the below update regarding self-containment in the June Board report e-newsletter.

*In the meantime, the National Office is still waiting on the government and MBIE to confirm whether it will amend Regulation 20(b) following recent submissions on its options paper. If/when this confirmation is made public, we will begin taking steps to roll out our national training programme for those testing officers interested in becoming vehicle inspectors for the NZMCA under the government's new regulations. Thank you for your ongoing patience!*

## Self-containment system changes

The NZMCA's National Manager Property and Policy, James Imlach clarified for the Board the current situation regarding the self-containment system. As from June 7, 2024 the NZMCA is no longer able to issue NZS 5465 blue self-containment warrant cards and certificates **for the purposes of freedom camping.**

However, NZS 5465 certification documents will continue to be issued for members' vehicles to use at NZMCA Parks, events, and rallies, and to satisfy the NZMCA's membership rule that requires members' vehicles to be certified self-contained.

This means, for any vehicle inspection done from and including June 7, 2024:

\* Blue warrant cards will have 'Certification is NOT for freedom camping purposes' printed on them; and

\* Self-containment certificates will have 'This certification is NOT for freedom camping purposes unless a site allows vehicles which are not self-contained to stay' printed in the remarks.

Members are reminded that any self-containment issued before June 7, 2024 can continue to be used for freedom camping purposes until it expires or June 7, 2025 (whichever date is sooner). This also applies to CSC vehicles with portable toilets that passed their inspections prior to June 7, 2023 when the new legislation was enacted. Please visit [MBIE's website](#) for further information around these timeframes.

Understanding that the government has the power to extend the June 7, 2025 deadline – although it hasn't yet – the NZMCA is lobbying for them to do so.

“Extending this date will give our volunteer vehicle inspectors, members and other industry operators more time to transition over to the new system,” said

James. Meantime, he advised the NZMCA will continue working on the assumption it will begin inspecting vehicles under the new regulations from October 2024.

He further explained that when the NZMCA begins operating as a Certification Authority later this year there will be three different warrant cards in operation which will be acceptable to the Association:

**1. Blue** warrant cards issued under NZS 5465:2001. Which will be valid at NZMCA Parks and NZMCA events until they expire; and CSC freedom camping sites until June 7, 2025 (with the exceptions relating to vehicles with portable toilets).

**2. Green** warrant cards issued under the new self-containment regulations. Which will be valid at NZMCA Parks, NZMCA events, and CSC freedom camping sites.

**3. Yellow** warrant cards issued to NZMCA members in line with the new regulations. Which will be valid at NZMCA Parks, NZMCA events, but NOT at CSC freedom camping sites.

## **Yellow warrant card reinspection period**

The Board considered a range of timing options for the yellow warrant cards and decided that they will be valid for 10 years before reinspection is required. The Board's decision is consistent with the Association's comprehensive submissions to the Select Committee on the Self-containment Bill.

Following research undertaken by the NZMCA's Senior Policy Analyst, it was noted that less than 5% of vehicles failed their re-certification. Almost all the recorded failures analysed related to imported vehicles that underwent re-certification for the first time. These vehicles failed their renewal inspections as the overseas manufacturing standards differed from NZS 5465 and the testing officer had a conservative view on what was deemed technically compliant. The vehicles assessed as part this research did not fail because its self-containment system had

deteriorated within the space of 4-years. The research showed that for most certified vehicles the 4-year re-inspection cycle was probably too short because there was no evidence of any material decline between vehicle inspections. On that basis, in its submissions to the Select Committee the NZMCA argued re-certifying a van every 4-years is unnecessary.

The Board has simply maintained this position when exercising its discretion to set the re-certification timeframes for the Association's internal yellow warrant cards. Of course, if a member modifies their vehicle before the card expires, they will need to arrange another CSC inspection regardless.

For the avoidance of doubt, green warrant cards have a 4-year inspection cycle as per the regulations.

Please email [selfcontainment@nzmca.org.nz](mailto:selfcontainment@nzmca.org.nz) with any questions.