

Information on the Self-containment Certification of Rental Vehicles

(With information on waterless toilets)



www.nzlifestylecamping.com

This 'plain english' information sheet is in reference to the self-containment of rental vehicles by NZ Lifestyle Camping approved vehicle inspectors.

- NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd is approved by the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board as a NZ wide Certifying Authority for self-containment of motor vehicles (green warrants).
- As from 07 December 2024 for any rental vehicle to be approved for freedom camping, as defined in the Freedom Camping Act 2011, is required to be certified for self-containment with a 'green' PGDB regulated warrant.

NZ Lifestyle Camping is committed to supporting the rental vehicle industry to enable the majority of vehicles to be recertified by the 7 December deadline. Due to extremely high demand for certification in October and November we expect delays in the issue of documentation.

The vehicle inspector will check the vehicle in accordance with the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, Self-contained Vehicle Regulations and the gazetted testing requirements.

In general the following factors should be considered in ensuring the suitability of a rental vehicle for self containment.

Freshwater and wastewater.

- The fresh water and waste water capacities should be sufficient to meet the occupants needs for a 3 day period. There are no minimum requirements but storage capacities should be reasonable. It is recognised that many travellers use bottled water for drinking.
- For both freshwater and wastewater systems the system must function properly and have no leaks with all fittings and connections well sealed. Taps and pumps where fitted must work.
- All installations and components should be installed to a high standard, to last at least 4 years. E.g. a floppy waste hose from the sink to the storage container that droops would not be considered to be installed to a high standard and may not operate properly.
- If portable fresh water and waste water tanks are installed these should be easy to remove and install without spillage. Portable tanks must be sealed when moved.
- All waste holding tanks must have a suitably sized vent that rises above the tank and exits the vehicle. The vent may be teed off the tank or waste pipe below the water seal and must have some protection e.g mesh / grill to protect from the entry of vermin etc. A small vent may not need such a barrier.

Toilets in Rental vehicles

- The base of the toilet must be 'rigidly mounted', permanently secured on a suitable, hygienic surface (including surrounding area) and does not require removal for emptying. This reduces the risk of any contamination of surrounding surfaces and allows for easy cleaning.
- The term applied is 'rigidly mounted'. This does not mean totally immovable (e.g hinged fittings are rigidly mounted) and allows a degree of movement but should be firm and not loose. Mounting the toilet on industrial slides is acceptable.
- The base of the toilet is not the removable cassette when the body / bowl of the toilet is otherwise supported.
- A removable toilet cassette is deemed to be a blackwater/wastewater holding tank and is separate from the toilet body/bowl.
- The toilet must be accessible within the vehicle, adequately supported and permanently secured to the vehicle.
- There are several designs and modifications available that convert a smaller portable toilet into a permanently fixed toilet.
- The waste capacity (solids and liquids), of the toilet must be adequate to meet the occupants needs for a 3 day period. Such capacity may include secondary (sealed) storage.
- There must be a method or device to limit any foul air escaping into the vehicle. In most cases this will be a sealed slide valve; although chemicals, natural materials and forced air ventilation or extraction fans are acceptable. Just closing a seat lid would not be acceptable and budget bucket or box toilets are unlikely to be approved by a vehicle inspector.
- Due to current regulations the toilet waste container must be externally vented as with all waste water holding tanks. (This requirement is expected to be removed by October 2024.)

Waterless or composting toilets are considered acceptable where all conditions are met (may include bagged systems). These toilets are not recommended for rental vehicles unless the users are properly educated in the care, storage and disposal of waste. There must be adequate storage facilities for solid waste.

Waterless composting toilets.

NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd will support and approve waterless composting toilets in motor vehicles where the following conditions are met:

- 1) The waterless composting toilet is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's or distributor's instructions.
- 2) The base of the toilet is rigidly mounted on a suitable, hygienic surface (including surrounding area) and does not require removal for emptying. This reduces the risk of any contamination of surrounding surfaces and allows for easy cleaning.
- 3) The waste capacity (solids and liquids) is adequate to meet the occupants needs for a 3 day period. Such capacity may include secondary (sealed) storage.
- 4) The toilet waste is held in a suitable removable container or bag that can be easily emptied and replaced without spillage.
- 5) In accordance with the current regulations there are safe and secure facilities for storing and offloading waste.
- 6) The operation of the waterless composting toilet includes a method or system for limiting the release of foul odours to the vehicle interior. Such methods may include forced air ventilation or extraction and the use of natural or chemical additives.
- 7) In accordance with current regulations the waste container is suitably and directly vented to the exterior of the vehicle. Any such vent shall be protected from the entry of birds and vermin.

Arranging a vehicle inspection, timelines etc.

NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd operates a NZ wide network of Self-containment vehicle inspectors (testing officers), plus provides support and guidance to vehicle owners and operators throughout NZ. Not all NZLC vehicle inspectors will be available to certify vehicles at any given time.

To find contact details for an NZ Lifestyle Camping vehicle inspector visit the NZLC website at www.nzlcsc.com or www.nzlifestylecamping.com . Select from the North Island or South Island pages.

Due to peak demand leading up to the 7 December deadline to recertify vehicles we expect a backlog of certifications to be processed in November and early December. We are required to have a quality checking program in place by PGDB and cannot rush through documents and issues. Christmas mail delays start from late November and accordingly we recommend getting your self-containment recertification for a 'green' warrant done as soon as possible.

NZ Lifestyle Camping charges a processing and issue fee of \$63.00 to cover costs plus collects the \$120.00 PGDB levy. Payment should be made when documents are sent through for processing or the issue will be delayed. For fleet operators a discount rate may apply. The Vehicle inspection fee will be in addition to NZLC charges.

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