



Freedom Camping changes

WHAT THEY MEAN FOR ISSUING AUTHORITIES

Purpose: This fact sheet seeks to show issuing authorities what the changes to freedom camping in a vehicle will look like for them. It also includes answers to some questions raised by stakeholders during public consultation.

Key changes and timing: Please note these timeframes are subject to Cabinet and Parliament processes – any deferrals to timeframes will be communicated on MBIE’s website.

SUMMER 2022/23



- › Parliament amends the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
- › Vehicle-based freedom camping on council land must now be done in a certified self-contained vehicle, unless at a site specifically designated for freedom camping in non-self-contained vehicles.
- › The voluntary standard will still be used to certify self-containment, and blue warrant cards will still be issued as evidence of self-containment.
- › Only vehicles with a fixed toilet (not portable) can be certified as self-contained from now.

WINTER 2023



- › Issuing authorities can apply to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board for approval as certification authorities, and start issuing green warrant cards.
- › Certification can be done by either existing issuing authorities (using the voluntary standard, and issuing blue warrant cards) or new certification authorities (using the technical requirements in Regulations, and issuing green warrant cards).
- › The register of self-contained vehicles is operational and certification authorities can start recording the details of certifications.

SUMMER 2023/24



- › Only certification authorities will be able to certify vehicles.
- › Only green warrant cards can be issued.
- › Blue warrant cards can no longer be issued from now but existing blue warrant cards will still be evidence of self-containment.

WINTER 2024



- › Rental vehicles used for freedom camping must now be certified with a green warrant card.
- › Blue warrant cards on rental vehicles will no longer be evidence of self-containment.

SUMMER 2024/25



- › All vehicles used for freedom camping must now have a green warrant card.
- › Blue warrant cards will no longer be evidence of self-containment.

Frequently asked questions

How will the proposed changes impact the current issuing authorities?

Current issuing authorities will need to apply to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB) for approval as certification authorities if they want to continue operating. To be approved they will need to meet approval criteria set out in Regulations.

What are the criteria likely to be?

The criteria that the PGDB will use to approve new certification authorities will go into Regulations. These Regulations will be consulted on in 2022. In order to be approved as a certification authority, the PGDB will need to be satisfied that an applicant (other than a certifying plumber) has in place, and will comply with, a system that will ensure that the certification of vehicles as self-contained is done consistently well.

The required certification system is likely to need, among other things:

- › processes to ensure that vehicle inspectors are competent and have sufficient understanding of the applicable self-containment requirements
- › processes for inspecting vehicles to ensure that they meet the applicable self-containment requirements
- › processes around recording inspection details and issuing self-containment certificates and warrant cards
- › appropriate record keeping processes
- › an internal auditing system to ensure quality and consistency of certification decisions.

Will certification authority approval need to be renewed?

It is proposed that approval will need to be renewed every five years. This will be a straightforward process – more a case of providing the PGDB with evidence that their certification system is still fit for purpose and is being complied with.

What will happen if a current issuing authority does not wish to continue?

A current issuing authority that does not wish to become an approved certification authority can continue to certify vehicles with fixed toilets under the voluntary standard and issue blue warrant cards up until summer 2023/24.

Blue warrant cards issued up to that point will remain valid until summer 2024/25, irrespective of their expiry date.

Will a certification authority be able to just certify – not inspect vehicles?

Yes. It is anticipated that some certification authorities will both inspect and certify vehicles, whereas others may just certify vehicles and outsource inspections to a third party. Those that do the latter will however be accountable for inspection decisions and so will need to have processes to assure themselves that third party inspections are being undertaken correctly.

Will the technical requirements for self-containment change from what's in the current standard?

Regulations (rather than a voluntary standard) will specify the technical requirements vehicles will need to meet going forward. These are likely to be based on existing requirements in sections 1 to 10 of NZS 5465:2001 *Self containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans*. This will also need to account for the new rule regarding fixed toilets. Consultation on the Regulations will inform the final decisions on technical requirements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the changes can be found at www.mbie.govt.nz/freedomcampingchanges