

**To** VTNZ, VINZ, AA, CVC, Drivesure, Auto check's NZ, NITS  
**From** Andrew Lister certification Advisor Border and Entry  
**Date** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**Subject** Vehicle Structural inspection threshold for repair – Under seal

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**Purpose**

This memo seeks to remind all Inspecting Organization's (IO), Vehicle Inspectors(VI) and 3<sup>rd</sup> party Compliance site staff off the Used light vehicle structural inspection threshold for repair, in relation to underbody underseal as detailed in the entry VIRM.

<https://vehicleinspection.nzta.govt.nz/virms/entry-certification>

**3-4 Threshold for requiring specialist repair certification.**

<https://vehicleinspection.nzta.govt.nz/virms/entry-certification/i-and-c/vehicle-structure/threshold-for-requiring-repair-certification>

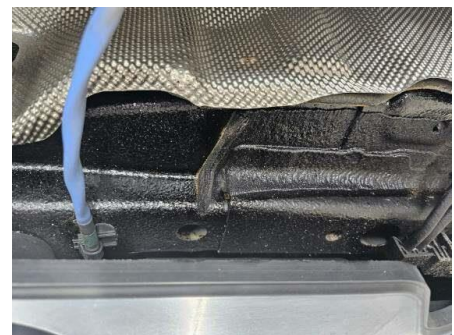
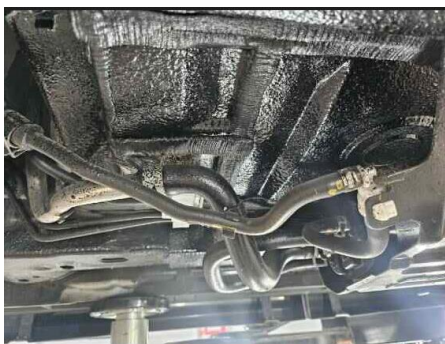
**Repaired damage**

*A vehicle must be referred to a specialist repair certifier if signs of repair, rust prevention, acid wash (see [Technical bulletin 49: Acid wash process on used imports](#)) or **under-sealing** to any part of the vehicle structure are evident (for exceptions to this requirement see [Technical bulletin 44: Rust prevention or under-sealing on late model cars from the UK](#)) (for rust heave on heavy vehicle chassis refer to [Figure 3-4-4](#)).*

The Border and Entry team have become aware that the requirement to refer a vehicle with non-OE underseal (under seal applied after vehicle manufacture) is not being applied consistently across the inspection industry.

Note: Generally the Non OE underseal will appear fresh, thick or heavy and may cover underbody components.

Recent examples of non-OE underseal:



Please ensure all Vehicle Inspectors are aware of this requirement and that vehicles identified with non-OE underseal are referred to a Repair Certifier for assessment.

Should there be evidence to support the underseal being applied as rust prevention (Non-UK vehicles) prior to vehicle sale, a request to deviate from the VIRM requirements can be made to [borderandentry@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:borderandentry@nzta.govt.nz)

The Border and Entry team appreciates your co-operation in this matter.

Andrew Lister

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Certification Advisor  
Border and Entry  
Regulatory services  
Waka Kotahi