

# Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin



# 57

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## Brake tests for heavy vehicles

### Background

Changes to the heavy vehicle registration establishment process across NSW has caused a substantial increase in the number of heavy vehicles inspected at Heavy Vehicle Authorised Inspection Stations (HVAIS), particularly in the Sydney area. The majority of HVAIS use a "decelerometer" type brake tester to test heavy vehicle brakes.

Testing of heavy vehicle brakes on public roads using a decelerometer has raised unique problems, such as:

- Damage to local roads.
- Noise complaints from residents.
- Gradual brake application not always possible.
- Some decelerometers will print "fail" on the brake test print-out because the brake pedal pressure sensing device is not compatible with treadle valves.
- It can be difficult to obtain a correct reading because of the weight distribution of some heavy vehicles.
- Wet testing surfaces may make obtaining the correct reading difficult.

Many of these problems can be resolved if the speed of the brake test is varied to suit the circumstances.

Examiners should be mindful of the community when testing vehicles on the road and keep noise associated with brake testing to a minimum.

### Policy

Consequently, the following alterations to the minimum speed for brake testing are made to Rule 501.09 and Appendix B2 of the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations – Heavy Vehicles:

- Where it is not possible to obtain the correct brake test reading using a decelerometer at a testing speed of 30 km/h, it is acceptable to reduce the speed until a suitable correct brake test reading is obtained.
- When testing service brakes of heavy vehicles with a decelerometer it is not compulsory to use the brake pedal pressure sensor if the vehicle is fitted with an air brake treadle valve.

**Effective date:** Immediate

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Further information:

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Tel: 1300 137 302

Fax: (02) 9843 3821

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[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

Email: [tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au)

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RTA Technical Enquiries

PO Box 1120 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

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