

# Vehicle records

1-1 Finding vehicle records

1-2 Selecting a vehicle record



When a vehicle is presented for pre-registration, the vehicle must be inspected and the chassis or frame number, or vehicle identification number (VIN), must be located on the vehicle (**Table 4-1** describes permitted VIN locations).

The TSD agent must then check to see if a record of the vehicle already exists in the LANDATA computer system. If a vehicle record does exist, the TSD agent must ensure that the record is correct. If no record exists, the TSD agent must create a record for that vehicle.

If assistance is required in determining which is the correct record to use, or if a record cannot be found when there should be one, contact the Transport Registry Centre (TRC) on 0800 804 580, or fax the Vehicle Certifiers Registers team on 06 953 6282.

**Note 1** Vehicles registered in New Zealand prior to 1996 or vehicles that have undergone a border inspection only will often be recorded with a vehicle identifier that does not match the vehicle. In such cases, care must be taken to use the search procedures to find these vehicle records.

**Note 2** Always ensure that the correct VIN, chassis or frame number has been keyed.

## 1 VIN, chassis and frame numbers

To have a vehicle record, a vehicle must have a vehicle identifier. This will be a vehicle identification number (VIN), or a chassis or frame number.

A VIN is a series of digits and letters structured so that every vehicle has a unique identifying number, according to an international standard (ISO 3779). The VIN always contains exactly 17 characters and never contains the letters O, Q or I.

### 1.1 Recording vehicle identifiers

Spaces should never be keyed for VIN, chassis or frame numbers. Some may exist in historical records; these should be corrected wherever possible.

A VIN may physically have punctuation characters but these must never be recorded or keyed.

A dash may be recorded in a frame or chassis number.

### 1.2 Vehicles with two identifiers

Occasionally, a vehicle may be presented with two vehicle identifiers (ie two VINs, or a VIN and a chassis number).

**For example:**

A European vehicle sourced from the United States of America (US) may have two VINs assigned if the original European VIN does not meet US standards.

A vehicle previously registered in Japan may have a Japanese chassis number assigned in addition to the original manufacturer's identifier.

In such cases, a TSD agent must note what the identifiers are and, if possible, explain why there are two identifiers in the Notes screen.

#### 1.2.1 Recording a vehicle with a VIN and a chassis number

Enter:

- the VIN in the VIN field, and
- the chassis number in the chassis number field.

**IMPORTANT:** The chassis number can only be keyed after all the attributes have been recorded using the VIN number as the identifier.

### 1.2.2 Recording a vehicle with two legally affixed VINs

Record:

- the VIN from the previous registration record in the VIN field, and
- the other VIN in the chassis number field.

**Note 3** In cases where this may cause confusion (eg the previous registration record VIN is not as visible as the other VIN, or would not be used in a manufacturer's recall), the opposite may be recorded if approval is given by the Vehicle Certifiers Registers team.

### 1.3 VIN, chassis or frame number removed or damaged during repair

For a used, imported vehicle or a vehicle undergoing re-registration, if the VIN, chassis or frame number has been damaged or removed during repair, a TSD agent must:

1. complete a 'VIN approval' form (Reference material 53), attach specific information relating to the repairs, and forward it to:

*Vehicles Unit  
NZ Transport Agency  
PO Box 5084  
Wellington 6145  
Fax: 04 894 5011*

2. verify the VIN or chassis number from other sources (eg the original parts, registration papers, purchase receipts, insurance documentation), and key all details in LANDATA using this number
3. verify that any vehicle identifiers on discarded parts have been erased/destroyed
4. **always** record an explanation in the notes screen.

### 1.4 VIN, chassis or frame number not found, or modified/tampered with

For a used, imported vehicle or a vehicle undergoing re-registration, if the VIN, chassis or frame number cannot be located or the identifier that has been located appears to have been modified, removed, tampered with, or appears to be a reproduction, a TSD agent must:

1. complete a 'Vehicle report' form (Reference material 54) and forward it to the nearest Police Car Squad Officer in Charge (see section 3 of the Introduction in this manual for contact details), and
2. complete a 'VIN approval' form (Reference material 53) and forward to:

*Vehicles Unit  
NZ Transport Agency  
PO Box 5084  
Wellington 6145  
Fax: 04 894 5011*

3. attempt to find a VIN or chassis number from other sources (eg registration papers, purchase receipts, insurance documentation), and key all details in LANDATA using this number
4. if an identifier still cannot be found, access the VIN screen without entering an identifier. A blank screen

will display. All details are to be keyed and a record created for the vehicle

5. **always** record an explanation in the notes screen
6. **do not** approve the vehicle for registration until approval is given by the NZTA.

**Note 4** Used vehicles imported from Japan with a vehicle identifier that has been partially or totally removed cannot be processed for entry into New Zealand unless the vehicle has been re-identified by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) and issued with an authentic export certificate that lists the new identifiers.

## 1.5 Vehicle matched on the vehicle of interest database

When a vehicle identifier is specified in the LANDATA system, the system also searches against the 'vehicle of interest' (VOI) system on the enforcement database to determine whether a vehicle with the same identifier has been reported stolen.

If a match is found on the VIN screen, the following warning message will display, along with the details of the vehicle(s) found: '**Vehicle identifier matched on external system**'.

This message may be displayed even if the vehicle details are not available on the LANDATA database. The warning message is deliberately vague, so it does not raise any suspicion if the vehicle owner or dealer happens to see the message.

### 1.5.1 What to do if a match is found

If the warning message is displayed, or if there are any doubts regarding a vehicle's identity, proceed with the VIN allocation without arousing suspicion.

If a 'Vehicle report' form has not already been submitted for the vehicle, one should be completed and faxed to the nearest Police Car Squad Officer in Charge immediately. If you are unable to fax the report immediately, do it as soon as possible. If, for any reason, you are unable to complete a 'Vehicle report' form or forward it to the Police, contact the NZTA and/or the local Police as soon as possible to report the event. Try to note all details that may help identify the vehicle and any person(s) associated with it. **Do not place yourself or your colleagues at risk.** You should continue with all phases of the certification process, except approving the vehicle for registration and printing the MR2A registration form. In such cases, approval for registration can only be carried out if the vehicle match is removed, or approval is granted by the NZTA.



## Vehicle records 1-2 Selecting a vehicle record

When accessing the VIN screen, LANDATA checks for all records recorded against a VIN, chassis or frame number. This captures multiple vehicles with the same chassis or frame number, and vehicles with multiple records.

If there are multiple records available for a vehicle identifier, the 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen will display with a list of records found for the specified identifier (see **Figure 1-1**).

**SELECT:** When you have identified the correct record, type an 'X' in the select column next to the record you require and transmit. This will take you to the VIN screen for that record.

**PLATE:** Indicates the vehicle is currently registered.

**SCROLL:** If there are more than four examples, you can view the full listing using >NEX< or >BAC< commands in the scroll field to display more records.

SELECT	PLATE	Make	Model	Year	Colours
>	<	TRAILER	LOCAL	1974	WHITE
>	<	TRAILER	BURNETT	1971	GREY
>	<	HOMEBUILT	LIGHT	1987	GREY
>	<	LANDROVER	STATION WAGON	1948	BROWN/BLACK

Owner name: JOE BLOGGS  
Chassis: 12345

31/10/2006 MENUMAIN INSPECTORG 013966

**Figure 1-1. Example 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen**

### Spaces in chassis or frame numbers

When transmitting from the escape field, the system will only read as far as the next space (eg if 'VIN GC5 123456' is keyed, LANDATA will only read 'VIN GC5'. The correct record will not display).

Some older records have a space in the chassis or frame number. For these vehicles:

1. type >VIN< in the escape field and **transmit**
2. a blank VSPCV screen will display
3. enter the chassis or frame number *with the space* in the VIN/chassis field and **transmit**
4. LANDATA will recognise the complete number as it will read the whole number between the delimiters (> <).

## 1 Used vehicles

Step	Action	
1	<p>Type &gt;VIN&lt; in the escape field and transmit</p> <p>The 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen displays</p>	
2	Does the vehicle have an identifier?	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>Transmit</b></p> <p>A blank 'VIN allocation' screen displays</p> <p>Continue from Pre-registration and VIN 2 - Vehicle attributes)</p>
		<p><b>YES</b></p> <p>Type the vehicle identifier in the VIN/chassis field and <b>transmit</b></p> <p>LANDATA will search for a vehicle record for the identifier entered</p> <p><b>Note 1:</b> If the identifier has 17 characters (excluding punctuation characters) and does not contain the letters I, O or Q, it is likely to be an ISO VIN. In this case, type the identifier without punctuation characters. If the identifier does not appear to be an ISO VIN, type the punctuation characters but not spaces</p>
3	Is a vehicle found to match the identifier?	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>A blank 'VIN allocation' screen displays</p> <p>If the identifier is a valid VIN, this will display in the VIN field. If not, it will display in the chassis number field</p> <p>Used vehicles imported before 1 March 1999 were not required to undergo a border check, so there will not be a vehicle record available on LANDATA. The vehicle owner must supply a biosecurity document and New Zealand Customs entry documents to prove the date of entry into New Zealand</p> <p>Continue from step 4</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> If the vehicle had a previous plate, a query can be completed on the PHIS screen to show whether the recorded identifier is different. Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 5-3 for procedures</p>
		<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Only one vehicle is found</b></p> <p>The 'VIN allocation' screen displays with the vehicle details</p> <p>Continue from step 6</p>
		<p><b>More than one vehicle is found</b></p> <p>The 'specify vehicle' screen displays a list of vehicle records with the specified identifier</p> <p>The screen displays four records at a time</p> <p>Enter navigation commands in the scroll field to move between records as required</p> <p>Refer to <b>Table 2</b>. Navigation commands in the Introduction of this manual</p> <p>Continue from step 5</p>
4	Have you entered the correct identifier?	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p>Continue from step 7</p>
		<p><b>NO</b></p> <p>Type &gt;R&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b></p> <p>The previous screen will display</p> <p>Type the correct vehicle identifier and <b>transmit</b></p> <p>Continue from step 3</p>

Step	Action		
5	Is the correct vehicle record displayed?	YES	<p>Type &gt;X&lt; in the select field next to the correct record and <b>transmit</b></p> <p>→ The 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen displays the details of the selected vehicle</p> <p>Continue from step 6</p>
		NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have entered the correct VIN/chassis number, continue from step 10</li> <li>If an incorrect VIN/chassis number has been entered, type &gt;R&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b> to return to the previous screen</li> </ul> <p>Enter the correct VIN/chassis number and continue from step 3</p>
6	Are the displayed details correct?	YES	Continue from step 10
		NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have entered the correct VIN/chassis number, continue from step 10</li> <li>If an incorrect VIN/chassis number has been entered, type &gt;R&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b> to return to the previous screen</li> </ul> <p>Enter the correct VIN/chassis number and continue from step 3</p>
7	Is a border check date displayed?	YES	Continue from step 10
		NO	Continue from step 8
8	Was the vehicle imported into New Zealand before 1 March 1999?	YES	Continue from step 9
		NO	<p>Type &gt;VSEARCH&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b> to search for the border check record</p> <p>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 5-4 for procedures</p>
9	Is documentation proving the vehicle was imported before 1 March 1999 provided?	YES	Type the importation date in the border check field and continue from step 10
		NO	<p><b>Do not continue</b></p> <p>Advise the vehicle owner to obtain the necessary documentation</p> <p>Type &gt;C&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b> to cancel the transaction</p>
10	Are there any notes to view?	YES	<p>Type &gt;notes&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b></p> <p>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 5-1 for procedures on viewing notes</p>
		NO	<p>Enter the vehicle attributes</p> <p>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 2 - Vehicle attributes</p>
11			<p>Type &gt;VIN&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b></p> <p>→ The 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen displays</p>
12			<p><b>Do not enter</b> any details in the VIN/chassis field. <b>Transmit</b></p> <p>→ A blank 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen displays</p> <p>Enter the vehicle attributes</p> <p>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 2 - Vehicle attributes</p>

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## Vehicle records

### 1-2 Selecting a vehicle record

Step	Action	
13	<b>If this message displays</b>	<b>Then ...</b>
	Valid VIN entered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ The 17-character VIN is decodable</li> <li>▶ Proceed with VIN assignment</li> <li>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 3-1</li> </ul>
	Chassis number entered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ A chassis number has been entered</li> <li>▶ Proceed with VIN assignment</li> <li>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 3-1</li> </ul>
	Chassis number entered Warning: VIN does not decode - Contact TRC on 0800 804 580	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ The 17 character identifier cannot be decoded</li> <li>▶ <b>Do not proceed with the VIN allocation until the identifier is decoded.</b></li> <li>Contact TRC who will attempt to decode the VIN from their sources. If this fails, inform the vehicle owner that they are legally required to provide sufficient decode data under s 90W of the Traffic Regulations 1976</li> </ul>
Vehicle identifier matched on external system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ A match has been found on the vehicle of interest (VOI) database</li> <li>▶ Proceed with the VIN assignment without causing suspicion</li> <li>Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 3-1</li> </ul>	

## 2 Vehicles undergoing re-registration

In 1986 the motor vehicle register (MVR) was computerised. This means only paper records will exist for most vehicles registered in New Zealand prior to 1986. A record will exist in LANDATA for most vehicles on the road in New Zealand from 1986 onwards, although the chassis number is recorded incorrectly in a number of cases.

In March 1994 LANDATA was introduced. However, its use was limited to assigning VINs to vehicles and recording entry certification. Vehicles were still registered separately on the MVR system. Duplicate records still exist in LANDATA (the VIN and the MVR record), although in most cases the records have been merged. In October 1995, the MVR was copied onto LANDATA and it was fully phased out by the beginning of 1996. Therefore, whether or not a vehicle record exists on LANDATA will depend on when it was last registered. If you suspect a vehicle record should be on LANDATA but you cannot find one, fax the details to Vehicle Certifiers Registers on 06 953 6282 and request a LANDATA search.

Step	Action		
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Type &gt;VIN (vehicle identifier)&lt; in the escape field and <b>transmit</b></li> <li>▶ The 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen displays</li> </ul>		
2	Is the correct vehicle record displayed?	<b>YES</b>	Update the vehicle details Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 2 - Vehicle attributes
		<b>NO</b>	Continue from step 3
3	Are you satisfied that no record exists?	<b>YES</b>	Use a blank 'VIN authority allocation/confirmation' screen to enter the vehicle attributes Refer to Pre-registration and VIN 2 - Vehicle attributes
		<b>NO</b>	Contact the Vehicle Certifiers Registers team for assistance

### 2.1 If a vehicle record is found but the chassis field is blank

The record will not be accessible from the VIN screen.

Contact TRC on 0800 804 580 or fax Vehicle Certifiers Registers on 06 953 6282 for assistance.

### **3 New and scratch-built vehicles**

New and scratch-built vehicles may have been entered into LANDATA by another TSD agent. In this case, the existing record must be used.

If the warning message '**Warning VIN does not decode – Contact TRC 0800 804 580**' displays, **do not continue** until the VIN has been decoded.

TRC will attempt to decode the VIN from their sources. If this is not possible, the vehicle owner/importer must provide decode data.

If no record exists, a record must be created using a blank VIN screen.

A scratch-built vehicle must not be recorded using the existing record of a donor vehicle.

### **4 Permanent registration of a temporary import**

A temporarily imported vehicle that is presented to a TSD agent for permanent registration is required to go through the full certification process. In some cases this may require the applicant to apply for a border check exemption.

There is no requirement for the owner to provide a letter from Customs authorising the owner to have their vehicle permanently registered in New Zealand.

