

**VTNZ Press Release**

Monday 1st December 2008

**Improved heavy vehicle brake test starts today**

New brake testing procedures for heavy vehicles will be rolled out this week with the aim of increasing safety for all road users by improving the performance of heavy vehicle brakes and reducing crashes.

Brake defects are a leading contributing factor in heavy vehicle crashes involving vehicle faults.

The Heavy-Vehicle Brake Rule introduces improved brake testing procedures to ensure that heavy vehicles and heavy vehicle combinations can brake safely in all conditions of loading. Vehicles will be tested in a semi-laden (partially loaded) condition, or with 'tie down' straps used to simulate loads. The improved brake testing procedure is being phased in regionally, with the first region starting on 1st December 2008.

VTNZ, the largest independent vehicle testing provider in New Zealand, has a network of more than 50 heavy vehicle testing stations as well as many more rural outwork locations. This minimises customer downtime, as our heavy vehicle operators don't have to travel far for their vehicle's mandatory Certificate of Fitness safety inspection.

VTNZ has invested heavily in new equipment, training and processes to provide the fastest, safest and most efficient brake test possible which minimises both the cost to industry and any customer downtime. As such, although we have had to increase our price, VTNZ has managed to hold the associated price increase to a minimum (between \$8 and \$18 per axle).

**The Heavy-Vehicle Brake Rule regional rollout**

Region 1, December 2008: Wellington, Manawatu, Horowhenua & Hawke's Bay (excluding Gisborne)

Region 2, February 2009: Far North, Wairarapa, Tasman, Canterbury, Otago

Region 3, April 2009: Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty

Region 4, June 2009: West Coast, Southland, Taranaki

Following implementation in Region 4, the new laden brake test will be rolled out to all offsites (sites where Certificate of Fitness safety inspections are carried out that are not a testing station).

**More information**

- In September 2008, the NZ Transport Agency issued a "how to prepare your vehicle" factsheet which was mailed directly to operators. VTNZ customers can pick this up at any VTNZ heavy vehicle testing station or an online version can be found at [www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/hvbr](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/hvbr)
- Further information regarding the new laden brake test can be found at [www.vtnz.co.nz/HVBR](http://www.vtnz.co.nz/HVBR)

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