

## CHANGES TO HEAVY VEHICLE BRAKE TESTING ON THE HORIZON

The Land Transport Rule: Heavy-Vehicle Brake [2006], Rule 32015 was signed by the Minister for Transport Safety in September 2006. The Rule sets out requirements to ensure that heavy vehicles and heavy vehicle combinations can brake safely, with balanced brake performance, in any road legal condition.

The Rule doesn't set out any dates for changes to in-service brake testing, however these are likely to be announced in the first half of 2007.

Brake testing requirements will change from the testing of unladen vehicles to verifying that vehicle brake systems are capable at all states of load. VTNZ is working with Land Transport NZ and Industry as part of the Implementation Project team to recommend the most suitable enhanced brake testing method(s) for Certificate of Fitness inspections.

VTNZ recently conducted brake testing trials at its dedicated training facility in Auckland. The objective of the trials was to compare the different brake testing methods on many types of heavy vehicles.

VTNZ believes that load simulation will be required to enable the testing of heavy vehicle brakes at a higher load than the vehicle's tare weight. Direct reading of the brake forces generated on the Roller Brake Machine (RBM) will continue to provide a high level of credibility to industry.



Roller brake testing of a tri-axle trailer using chassis load simulation.

Considerable capital expenditure will be required to update facilities and equipment in order to implement the new Rule. Inspection times will also increase as a direct result of implementing an enhanced brake test.