



## Transport inspectors

Transport inspectors are highly trained employees of the Queensland Government and they play a major role in contributing to the safety of Queensland drivers and protecting the state's road infrastructure. Transport inspectors maximise the safety of all transport users and protect Queensland's road infrastructure by educating the public and industry to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

### What powers do transport inspectors have?

Transport inspectors have broad powers relating to intercepting and examining vehicles. They operate within strict guidelines and can issue defect notices and on-the-spot fines for a range of offences. Inspectors can also report matters for court action.

### Transport inspectors have the authority to:

- intercept all vehicles for the purposes of safety inspections, registration, CTP insurance and load restraint checks
- check heavy vehicle drivers' work diaries
- check passenger transport vehicles for drivers' authorisation and operator accreditation.

**You are legally required to assist transport inspectors in performing their duties. You may be required to provide your name and address and produce identification such as a driver's licence or a passport. Transport inspectors may also require access to your vehicle for safety checks.**

### How to recognise a transport inspector

Transport inspectors are easily recognised as they wear a transport inspector uniform and display an official badge.

### What parts of the state do transport inspectors patrol?

Transport inspectors conduct mobile patrols and set up checkpoints and inspection sites across Queensland.

### Body worn cameras

Transport inspectors use body worn cameras to capture interactions with members of the public while performing their duties. A transport inspector will identify themselves, show their identification card, explain the reason for the interaction, and advise you that the interaction is being recorded for transparency and accountability.

### Transport inspector fast facts:

Transport inspectors:

- contribute to the safety of drivers and vehicles on our roads and to protect the state's road infrastructure
- educate Queenslanders on road safety by:
  - working closely with industry to promote road safety
  - working closely with officers from Queensland Police and a number of other government agencies/ departments
  - performing a range of on-road emergency management activities, such as road closures and restrictions during natural disasters or declared emergencies
- are highly trained professionals who undergo extensive compliance training
- undertake a number of state-wide light and heavy vehicle road-side operations
- may conduct audits and investigations in relation to Approved Inspection Stations, fatigue and chain of responsibility.

# Frequently asked questions about transport inspectors

## **I've been stopped by a transport inspector and given a penalty infringement notice. What does this mean?**

Whenever you drive a vehicle on a road you are required to ensure the vehicle complies with transport law. For example, the vehicle is free from defects, currently registered, within load limits and you are licensed for that particular vehicle.

If stopped by a transport inspector and you or your vehicle does not comply, you may be given an on-the-spot fine or may be required to attend court.

## **I think the car I just bought has a suspicious safety certificate. What can I do?**

A safety certificate covers basic things that could affect the safe operation of the vehicle, such as tyres, brakes, steering, suspension, body rust, windscreen and lights. The safety certificate is designed to offer buyers better protection. A vehicle with a safety certificate has undergone a safety check before being offered for sale, so buyers can be sure the vehicle is safe to drive. This means there will be fewer unsafe vehicles on Queensland roads, reducing the likelihood of crashes caused by defective vehicles.

If you believe the used car you bought may have a suspicious safety certificate, you must act quickly. The Department of Transport and Main Roads administers the Approved Inspection Station Scheme and you should contact your nearest compliance office or phone **13 23 80**.

The longer you drive the car, the less likely it is that the Department of Transport and Main Roads will be able to help. If possible, do not have repairs completed on the vehicle as the transport inspector must see the faults.

Remember also that a complaint to the department will not get your car repaired. If the department finds that the Approved Inspection Station or approved examiner has made an error, they may be prosecuted.

## **Can I be fined for the incorrect use of a transit lane?**

Yes. Transport inspectors have the power to stop private vehicles illegally driving in bus and transit lanes. They can issue the driver with an on-the-spot fine.

## **What is the chain of responsibility?**

When a person in control of a heavy vehicle commits a mass, dimension, loading or fatigue offence, transport legislation makes all parties in the transport chain (including the owner, registered operator and any person who influenced the operation of a heavy vehicle) accountable for the offences. The legislation gives transport inspectors and police officers the power to enter places, stop, search, enter and inspect heavy vehicles and is commonly referred to as 'chain of responsibility legislation'.

## **I'm interested in becoming a transport inspector, how do I go about applying for a position?**

Recruitment for transport inspectors occurs as required. Positions are advertised on [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au). All applicants must advance through strict criminal history checks to be successful. Transport inspectors are then required to complete an intensive training program.

