

Recording engine numbers on inspection certificates

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Before inspecting a vehicle for an inspection certificate, an approved examiner must be satisfied about the identity of the vehicle. For vehicles manufactured before 1 January 1989, the chassis number and engine number are required to confirm the identity of the vehicle. For vehicles manufactured after this date, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and engine number are used for identification purposes.

With the introduction of the Inspection Certificates Online (ICO) system, the VIN can be used to verify a vehicle (manufactured after 1 January 1989), and the registration plate and chassis number can be used for vehicles manufactured before 1989. The engine number is not required to verify a vehicle in ICO.

However, it is still a legal requirement to record the engine number for a vehicle in ICO and on the inspection certificate. If the engine number is not recorded on the inspection certificate, the inspection certificate will not be accepted by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) for registration purposes. If the engine number is not recorded on the inspection certificate, customers will be directed to return to the Approved Inspection Station (AIS) to have the engine number recorded.

If an approved examiner is unable to locate the engine number when conducting a vehicle inspection, the inspection should be failed as the vehicle has not met the identification requirements under section 18 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*, the *Code of Practice – Vehicle Inspection Guidelines* (for light vehicles) or the *National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual* (for heavy vehicles).

Note: If the stamped engine number is not in a conspicuous position, the engine number on the vehicle's manufacturer supplementary label (if present) may be used and recorded on the inspection certificate.

If the approved examiner cannot locate the engine number (either on the engine itself or on the vehicle manufacturer's supplementary label), the approved examiner or customer may also contact the vehicle's manufacturer to obtain the engine number or its location.

If the engine number cannot be found or obtained from the vehicle's manufacturer, the approved examiner must fail the inspection for not meeting the vehicle identification requirements. The owner of the vehicle is then responsible for obtaining a surrogate engine number from their local police station. Additional information about how to obtain a surrogate engine number can be found on the Queensland Police Service website at:

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/corporatedocs/OperationalPolicies/Documents/TrafficManual/Chapter14.pdf>.

TMR is currently reviewing the vehicle identity requirements to record engine numbers on inspection certificates. Any change to this identity requirement will require amendments to current legislation. Until any changes are made, the engine number must be recorded on all inspection certificates. Approved examiners will be notified of any changes to this vehicle identification requirement.

Further information

If you require any further information about vehicle identification requirements, you may contact the Vehicle Identification Unit (VIU) by email at viunit@tmr.qld.gov.au. However, the VIU cannot release engine numbers from TMR records.

For any other queries about the AIS scheme, please contact the AIS Administrator at ais@tmr.qld.gov.au.