

INFORMATION SHEET

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LOW
VOLUME
VEHICLE
TECHNICAL
ASSOCIATION Inc



Re-issue of FS005 - Airbag Removal/Disablement

In 2001 the Formset 005 (Removal/Disablement of Airbags) was withdrawn when LTNZ decided not to continue allowing airbag removal. Once the LVV Standard 155-30(00) (Frontal Impact) came into force in June 2002, airbag removal and disablement was allowed under certain conditions. This Information Sheet is intended to provide some clarification on the basic principles for certification of these vehicles, and to re-introduce the (revised) Formset FS005, for situations where airbags are removed or disabled in accordance with LVV Standard 155-30.

Vehicles fitted with airbags may have them removed or disabled under Clauses 2.3(2), 2.3(3) and 2.3(4) of LVV Standard 155-30(00) (Frontal Impact).

- **Removal of airbag:**

Airbags can only be permanently removed if:

- (a) the vehicle has reached 14 years of age or more; or
- (b) a specific motor racing alternative frontal impact protection system is installed and a LVV Authority Card is issued for that vehicle for a specific driver. Currently, these can only be issued by MotorSport New Zealand and always incorporate a roll-cage and full harness seatbelts.

LVV Certification is always required for situation (a), whereas in the case of an LVV Authority Card that specifies Alternative Frontal Impact Protection System, LVV Full certification with a LVV Compliance Plate is not required unless other items like engine changes or suspension modifications have also taken place.

- **Temporary disablement of airbags:**

When airbags are required to be disabled for special purposes, or for the specific needs of the operator, this can be achieved using a switching system that disables the airbag and displays a warning light. The disablement must be cancelled by automatic re-arming the next time the vehicle is started, or the system can be disabled/re-armed by linking to low ratio in the case of a 4WD vehicle. Some of the typical reasons for this type of temporary disablement are: child passengers, pregnancy, or off-road work vehicles.

- **Semi-permanent disablement of airbags:**

When airbags are required to be semi-permanently disabled for a disabled driver, it must be reinstated to original condition when the vehicle is sold. This type of semi-permanent disablement may only be applied where a declaration from a health professional specifies that the process is necessary due to the medical needs of the driver.

When LVV certification for airbag removal or disablement is carried out in accordance with LVV Standard 155-30, the formset FS027 Frontal Impact, accompanied by FS005 Air Bag Removal/Disablement Request Form documenting the request from the owner for the disablement must be used.

If you have any queries or require any further clarification relating to this Information Sheet, please feel to contact Doug St George at the LVVTA office on (09) 268-9550.

Tony Johnson

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