

Members' CSC checks will still be free of charge

In the Up Front section of this issue (page 20) James Imlach, our National Manager, Property & Policy, updates members on the impact of the government's recently passed Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023.

However, there's one aspect of the new regulations that I want to ensure members fully understand – that's the \$120 charge the government will levy every four years if you want your vehicle to appear on the register of vehicles permitted to freedom camp.

In our extensive submissions on the proposed legislation this cost was one of the aspects we pushed back hardest on.

We submitted the proposed cost of \$120 was double what was reasonable. Unfortunately, our protests fell on deaf ears – and that figure stands.

So, I'm keen to ensure members understand that cost is **NOT** imposed by the NZMCA; it's a government charge that the NZMCA won't see a cent of.

Also, please be reassured, all our financial members will continue to receive their four-yearly self-containment checks at no cost – as at present.*

That applies not only to members with fixed toilets in their vehicles – as the new legislation requires – but also to those members with portable toilets.

As the new legislation specifies, eventually those members' vehicles carrying portable toilets will not be permitted to freedom camp on public land (other than in designated areas).

However, when your vehicle passes its self-containment inspection (apart from the requirement for a fixed toilet) you will be issued with a new NZMCA branded certificate and warrant card which will enable you to retain

your NZMCA membership and continue utilising our NZMCA Parks, attend NZMCA events, and, of course, visit any other sites where self-containment certification is not required.

On the other hand, members with fixed toilets onboard your vehicles will have two options to select from when your vehicle passes its self-containment inspection:

1. If you **do not** intend to freedom camp, you can choose to receive NZMCA branded certification documents (free of charge) to remain members, access our parks and attend events. But, of course, you will not be listed on the government's vehicle register as entitled to freedom camp; or
2. If you **do** intend to freedom camp, you can choose to pay the government levy (\$120) and receive the government's new certification documents that will enable you to freedom camp in areas that require this certification.

Both options will comply with the NZMCA's constitution and bylaws, ensuring your ongoing ability to enjoy all the benefits of Association membership.

** Other than for inspections carried out by a testing officer as part of their business, where a fee applies.*

National Rally 2024 acknowledges volunteers with a \$50 discount

The great service of our Association's amazing volunteers is to be recognised with a \$50 discount when they register for the 2024 National Rally.

The initiative – which received enthusiastic support from the Area and SIG chairs at our recent meeting in Wellington – is a tangible acknowledgement of the enormous value our


volunteers bring to the club.

The significant discount will be applied as follows:

- All members who are current NZMCA volunteers will not be charged a site fee when registering for the 2024 National Rally.
- This will be determined at the time you register.
- When registering online, the system will recognise those who are recorded as currently holding one of the following NZMCA roles:
 - Area and SIG life members
 - Area and SIG committee members
 - Self-containment officers
 - Park custodians
 - Complaints officer and disciplinary committee members
 - NZMCA Technical Advisors

The discount criteria will be reviewed after the 2024 National Rally and may be amended for future National Rallies.

Speaking of the upcoming National Rally, can I encourage any members heading to the South island this summer to think seriously about joining us in historic Reefton.

There's so much to see and do while you're on the West Coast and, of course, there's a swag of lead-up events and activities (see the feature on page 92 in this issue) that you can take time to enjoy. 



Bruce Lochore
NZMCA Chief Executive Officer

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New regulations and NZMCA certification programme to commence in 2024

James Imlach, the NZMCA's National Manager, Property & Policy, updates members on the impact of the government's recently passed Self-contained Vehicles Regulations 2023. He writes:

The government has released the long-awaited self-contained vehicle regulations that describe new certification requirements, along with criteria for new certification authorities and vehicle inspectors. They include:

- The technical requirements vehicles must meet to be certified self-contained under the new regime.
- The criteria NZMCA and other issuing authorities must meet to become certification authorities under the new regime.
- The competency requirements for self-containment officers to become motor vehicle inspectors under the new regime.
- The fees and levies that certification authorities and vehicle owners must pay under the new regime.

As a result, over the next two years, the NZMCA and other industry stakeholders will begin certifying vehicles under a set of new regulations.

This transition will not take place overnight and we will release further updates to members as we navigate the next 24 months together.

What happens next?

The next step is for the new Regulator (the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board) to develop guidance material and a technical note for certification authorities, vehicle inspectors and other stakeholders.

While that's taking place, the NZMCA will continue certifying members' vehicles (including those with portable toilets) over the next six months under the existing Self-containment Standard, NZS 5465:2001.

But, when the National Office processes check sheets for vehicles with portable toilets, the blue self-containment warrant card and A4 certificates will clearly note 'Certification is not for freedom camping purposes'.

This process will remain in place until the NZMCA begins certifying vehicles under the new certification programme, which we expect to transition over to in late February/March 2024.

The new programme

From March 2024, all members must certify their vehicles under the new regulations when your vehicle is due for re-inspection, every four years.

Regardless of the type of onboard toilet, the inspections carried out for financial members by the NZMCA's volunteer Self-Containment Officers will continue to remain a free member benefit (other than for inspections carried out by a testing officer as part of their business, where a fee applies).

Members' vehicles carrying portable toilets must meet the new regulations, save for the fixed toilet requirement. Subject to passing the inspection, they will be issued with a new NZMCA branded certificate and warrant card.

However, their vehicle details will not be entered into the government's vehicle register. This means their vehicle will not be certified for the purposes of freedom camping; however, it will be certified to comply with the NZMCA's constitution and bylaws.

Members with fixed toilets onboard their vehicles will have two options to select from if their vehicle passes its inspection:

Option A – Receive NZMCA branded certification documents (free of charge) to remain members, access our parks and attend events; or

Option B – Pay the levy (\$120) and receive the government's new certification documents that will enable them to freedom camp in areas that require this certification.

Both options will comply with the NZMCA's constitution and bylaws.

We expect some members with fixed toilets will proceed with Option A if they do not freedom camp but want to remain NZMCA members without paying the \$120 levy every four years. If they, or the new owner of the vehicle change their mind, the National Office will issue the government's certification documents for the remaining period of certification, on receipt of the full levy.

We anticipate most members with fixed toilets will proceed with Option B and in those cases National Office will issue an invoice after processing a member's check sheet, and require payment of the levy prior to releasing the government's certification documents*.

These approaches uphold both the Board's commitment to members with portable toilets and will also not force members with fixed toilets to pay the levy if they do not freedom camp.

Further details will be made available to members as we develop the new programme.

**Please note, as CEO Bruce Lochore makes clear in his column (see page 14 in this issue) the NZMCA does not receive any financial benefit from the government's \$120 levy. Members will still receive their four-yearly self-containment inspections at no cost.*

Next Board meeting

In keeping with its policy of holding its bi-monthly meetings around the country, so interested members are able to attend the 'Open' section of the meeting in person, the next meeting of the NZMCA Board will be held in Wellington.

It is scheduled for 9am on Saturday, October 14, at the Brentwood Hotel, 16 Kemp St, Kilbirnie, Wellington.

The meeting will start with the Open section, during which time members are invited to listen in on the Board's deliberations – but, of

course, are unable to vote when decisions are made.

The President may, from time to time, ask members present for their views on issues under discussion and the members are invited to speak during the General Business section of the Open meeting.

Once the Open section of the meeting is concluded, members are asked to leave the room while the Board continues with its consideration of In Committee items.