



Freedom Camping Changes

June 2023

The Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act is now law. The following key changes now take effect:

- Changes to where you can freedom camp. In general, you can only freedom camp on local authority land if your vehicle is certified self-contained. Check in with your local authority to find out more.
- Changes around certifying self-contained vehicles. Vehicles with a portable toilet are no longer able to be certified self-contained. Further information on these changes is provided under 'Information for vehicle owners'.
- Changes to infringement fees and fines. The original infringement fee of \$200 has been increased to \$400. Many of the fees will further increase when regulations come into force.

These rules have **not** changed:

- Camping in tents.
- Camping in vehicles at commercial campsites.
- Camping in vehicles on private land.

Further information can be found on the MBIE website: mbie.govt.nz/freedomcamping

Information for vehicle owners

My vehicle is already certified self-contained with a blue warrant

- For now, you can still freedom camp even if your vehicle has a portable toilet, as you are already certified as self-contained.
- Freedom camping on local authority land is allowed (unless it is specifically prohibited) until your blue warrant expires, or 7 June 2025 (whichever happens sooner).
- After that, you must seek a new certification using one of the methods below. If you seek certification after 7 June 2024, you will only be able to get certified with a green warrant (i.e. under the new requirements).

I am seeking a new self-containment certification for my vehicle

A transition period will enable the existing self-containment certification requirements, known as a blue warrant, to be phased out and eventually replaced with the new requirements, known as a green warrant.

During this period, there will be two ways to certify your vehicle:

Certification type	When can you seek new certification?	When will it expire?	What are the requirements?
Blue warrant	Now until 7 June 2024	7 June 2025 (or 7 December 2024 for rental vehicles)	These are set out in the standard (NZS 5465:2001) and now includes a fixed toilet
Green warrant	From 7 December 2023	4 years after certification	These will be set out in regulations and will include a fixed toilet

From 7 June 2025, all vehicles will need to be certified with a green warrant to be certified self-contained under the new requirements.

It is likely that many existing vehicle inspectors will be accredited under the new self-containment system.

More information on what is needed to upgrade or certify your vehicle under the new requirements, and where to go to get certified, will become available in due course.