

ROADWORTHINESS INSPECTION

1. What is Roadworthiness inspection?

A roadworthiness inspection refers to as the technical examination of vehicles to confirm compliance with road safety requirements and environmental performance before registration, licensing, or continued operation, particularly for commercial, public service, and imported vehicles. It focuses on ensuring that vehicles are mechanically sound and safe for use on Kenyan roads.

It is non-intrusive and does not guarantee against future breakdowns and hidden defects but rather assess the vehicle roadworthiness at the time of inspection. It is carried out as per the requirements provided for in KS 1515: 2000. The objective of the roadworthiness inspection is to examine the vehicle and determine its conformity with specified road safety, technical, and environmental requirements.

2. What does a roadworthiness inspection under KS 1515:2000 entail?

It is an examination of the vehicle for safety, technical, and environmental requirements as specified in KS 1515: 2000, Road Vehicles—Inspection of Road Vehicles—Code of Practice and it covers:

- Steering components and controls, including the steering column, track/tie rods, and wheel bearings, checked for excessive play, fractures, or insecure fittings.
- Tyres and wheels.
- Braking and hydraulic systems.
- Windscreen, windows, and seating.
- Suspension system, including suspension units and shock absorbers.
- Lighting and signalling devices, including battery condition, wiring insulation, and all lighting components.
- Seat belts and occupant-safety systems.
- Structural integrity, including evidence of accident damage, water damage, or structural alterations.
- Exhaust emissions and environmental compliance.
- Radiation checks, where applicable.
- Overall mechanical condition affecting safe road use.

Further details on these compliance requirements are provided in **KS 1515:2000**.

3. What are some of the key test equipment for roadworthiness inspection?

S/N	Equipment	Function
1.	Inspection pit or vehicle lift	Undercarriage inspection

2.	Roller brake tester	Brake efficiency testing
3.	Side slip Tester	Wheel alignment testing
4.	Headlight Tester	Lighting inspection
5.	Exhaust gas analyzer/ CO/HC	Petrol emission testing-(Exhaust Gas Tester for petrol engines)
6.	Diesel opacity meter/ Smoke Measurement Tester	Exhaust gas tester for Diesel Engines)- Opacimeter
7.	Sound level meter/ Proximity Noise tester	Noise testing of a vehicle
8.	Tyre tread depth gauge	Tyre inspection
9.	Tyre pressure gauge	Tyre condition inspection
10.	Multimeter /Battery tester	Electrical system inspection
11.	Tape measure	Dimensional checks

4. What is the outcome of roadworthiness inspection?

Vehicles that pass are issued a Certificate of Roadworthiness (COR); those that fail receive a Non-Conformity Report (NCR).

Note: Under **KS 1515:2000, Road Vehicles—Inspection of Road Vehicles—Code of Practice**, a roadworthiness inspection determines whether a vehicle is safe, technically compliant, and environmentally acceptable for use on public roads.