

DRAFT KENYA STANDARD

DKS1515: 2025

ICS 43.040.01

Third Edition

**Road vehicles — Inspection of road
vehicles — Code of practice**

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

The following organizations were represented on the Technical Committee:

Isuzu East Africa Ltd.
Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS)
CAR Importers Association
Kenya Association of Bus Manufacturers (KABM)
Kenya Association of Motor Repairers (KEMRA)
Kenya Auto Bazaar Association (K.A.B.A)
Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association
Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI)
RIVA
Motorwise
Matatu Owners Association of Kenya
Palo motoring Solution
Mobius (K) Ltd.
Motor Assessors Association of Kenya
National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA)
Technical University of Kenya
CFAO Mobility Kenya Limited
Kenya Bureau of Standards — Secretariat

REVISION OF KENYA STANDARDS

In order to keep abreast of progress in industry, Kenya Standards shall be regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvements to published standards, addressed to the Managing Director, Kenya Bureau of Standards, are welcome.

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KENYA STANDARD

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Road vehicles — Inspection of road vehicles — Code of practice

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DKS 1515: 2025

Foreword

This draft Kenya Standard was prepared by the Road Vehicles Technical Committee under the guidance of the Standards Projects Committee, and it is in accordance with the procedures of the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has established Technical Committees (TCs) mandated to develop Kenya Standards (KS). The Committees are composed of representatives from the public and private sector organizations in Kenya.

Kenya Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft Kenya Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the KEBS website and notifications to World Trade Organization (WTO). The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of the standards, in accordance with the Procedures for Development of Kenya Standards.

Kenya Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the Kenya Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (KS 1515:2019), which has been technically revised.

During the preparation of this standard, reference was made to the following documents:

KS ISO 6518-1, Road vehicles — Ignition systems — Part 1: Vocabulary.

KS ISO 6518-2, Road vehicles — Ignition systems — Part 2: Electrical performances and function test methods.

KS ISO 3780, Road vehicles — World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) code.

KS ISO 6597, Road vehicles — Hydraulic braking systems — Measurement of braking performance.

KS ISO-3833, Road vehicles — Types, terms and definitions.

KS EAS 358, Pneumatic tyres for passenger cars — Specification.

KS EAS 53, Rethreaded car and commercial vehicles tyres — Specification.

KS 849, Specification for apparatus for measurement of the opacity of exhaust gas from diesel engines road vehicles.

KS 848, Specification for wheel rims — Nomenclature, designation and units of measurements.

KS 664, Specification for seat belt assemblies for motor vehicles.

KS ISO 3779, Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN) — Content and structure.

The MOTC — Vehicle Inspection Manual (June/July 1999 Edition).

The MOT Inspection Manual — United Kingdom.

Acknowledgement is hereby made for the assistance derived from these sources.

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Road vehicles — Inspection of road vehicles — Code of practice

1 Scope

1.1 This Draft Kenya Standard specifies general, safety, technical and environmental requirements for road vehicles and includes inspection schedule for road vehicles.

1.2 This standard applies to all categories of road vehicles as specified in KS ISO 3833.

1.3 The standard also applies to inspection of road vehicles as per the Traffic Act, Cap. 403 of the Laws of Kenya.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

KS 372, *Road vehicles — Passenger vehicle body construction — Specification*

KS ISO 3779, *Road vehicles — Vehicle identification number (VIN)*

KS ISO 3780, *Road vehicles — World manufacturer identifier (WMI) code*

KS ISO 3833, *Road vehicles — Types, terms and definitions*

Traffic Act, Cap. 403 of the Laws of Kenya.

ARS 1357, *Vehicle test station evaluation - Code of practice*

ARS 1355-1, *Vehicle standards — Specification for vehicle roadworthiness — Part 1 Roadworthiness of vehicles already in use*

ARS 1355-2, *Vehicle standards — Specification for vehicle roadworthiness — Part 2 Roadworthiness prior to entry into service & thereafter*

ARS 1355-3, *Vehicle standards — Specification for vehicle roadworthiness — Part 3 Roadworthiness — supporting information*

ARS 1355-4, *Vehicle standards — Specification for vehicle roadworthiness — Part 4 Roadworthiness — Requirements for vehicle examiners*

ARS 1355-5, *Vehicle standards — Specification for vehicle roadworthiness — Part 5 Roadworthiness — Requirements for testing equipment*

ARS 1355-6, *Vehicle standards — Specification for vehicle roadworthiness — Part 6 Roadworthiness — Requirements for roadside assessment of vehicles*

ARS 1379, *Definitions and classifications of power-driven vehicles and trailers*

KS EAS 1047 *Air quality — Vehicular exhaust emission limits*

ARS 1595, *Vehicle homologation - All Categories Revision*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1**initial inspection**

inspection which a road vehicle receives before initial registration in the country

3.2**new vehicle**

road vehicle which has never been owned except by a manufacturer, distributor or dealer and has never been registered

3.3**type-approval**

confirmation that production samples of a type of vehicle, vehicle systems, components, or separate technical unit will meet specified performance standards

3.4**periodic inspection**

inspection which a road vehicle receives when it is to be operated continually after the term of validity of the road vehicle inspection certificate has expired

3.5**modification inspection**

inspection, which a road vehicle receives when there are changes in the length, height, width, maximum payload and other major specifications

3.6**on-roads random inspection**

inspection, which a road vehicle receives when it is picked up randomly on the road

3.7**EV (Electric Vehicle)**

road vehicle that is purely powered by electric energy for propulsion. A vehicle with a hydrogen fuel cell is considered an electric vehicle

3.8**HEV (Hybrid Electric Vehicle)**

vehicle powered by a power train that consists of both an internal combustion engine and an electrical energy/power storage device

3.9**vehicle category**

class or division of a vehicle regarded as having particular shared characteristics (see Annex A)

3.10**monocoque**

vehicle structure in which the chassis is integral with the body

4 General requirements**4.1 Inspection before importation**

All imported road vehicles shall be subjected to inspection.

4.2 Inspection before registration

All road vehicles shall be subjected to inspection before registration.

4.3 Certificate of roadworthiness

After inspection, all road vehicles conforming with inspection requirements shall be issued with a certificate of roadworthiness.

4.4 Inspection

Road vehicles shall be inspected in inspection centres approved by relevant government authority.

4.5 Inspection centre equipment and personnel

4.5.1 Equipment used in inspection centres shall be calibrated and certified by an authorized and accredited body.

4.5.2 Equipment used in inspection centres shall comply with the requirements of ARS 1355-5.

4.5.3 The vehicle inspection personnel shall be authorized inspectors and meeting the requirements specified in ARS 1355-4.

4.6 Vehicle type of drive

Only right hand vehicle shall be allowed in the country.

4.7 Age limit

4.7.1 All passenger vehicles except as stated in 4.7.2, which are more than eight years old from the year of first registration shall not be allowed for importation. The difference between the year of first registration and the year of manufacture shall not be more than one year.

4.7.2 All passenger vehicles as defined in KS 372, except for class I vehicles with monocoque structures which are more than zero (0) years old from the year of first registration shall not be allowed for importation. The difference between the year of first registration and the year of manufacture shall not be more than one year.

4.7.3 All rigid trucks with Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) equal to or greater than 3.5 tons and up to and including 30 tons, which are more than zero (0) years old from the year of first registration, shall not be allowed for importation. The difference between the year of first registration and the year of manufacture shall not be more than one year.

4.7.4 All tractor heads or prime movers shall be Zero (0) age. The difference between the year of first registration and the year of manufacture shall not be more than one year.

4.8 Radio frequency range

All road vehicles, if fitted with radios, shall comply with frequencies range of 87.5 to 108 MHz.

5 Safety requirements

5.1 Road vehicles already in use shall be inspected for safety requirements in accordance with ARS 1355-1.

5.2 Used road vehicles prior to the date of entry into service and thereafter when operating on a public road shall be inspected for safety requirements in accordance with ARS 1355-2.

6 Environmental and technical requirements

6.1 New vehicles

All new diesel powered, and petrol (gasoline) powered vehicles shall be type-approved to meet the requirements of Euro IV/4 and above in accordance with ARS 1595.

6.2 Vehicles already in use

6.2.1 Vehicles already in use shall meet the technical requirement in accordance with ARS 1355-1.

6.2.2 Used road vehicles prior to entry into service shall meet the requirement of ARS 1355-2 except for emission requirement which shall be in accordance with KS EAS 1047.

6.2.3 All used electrical vehicles installed batteries shall have a battery life of not less than 80% .

7 Inspection, tests and test equipment

7.1 An inspection centre shall meet all the requirements of ARS 1357 and test equipment shall meet the requirement of ARS 1355-5.

7.2 The inspection schedule shall be in accordance with Table 4.

Table 4 — Inspection schedule

Category	Initial inspection	Periodic inspection (frequency)	Modification inspection	Inspection at transfer of ownership <i>NB: This is Optional</i>	Inspection of vehicles involved In accidents	On-roads Random Inspection
Heavy duty trucks	All	12 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Safety emission
Buses	All	12 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Safety emission
Light-duty vehicles including passenger cars	All	12 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Safety emission
Taxis	All	12 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Safety emission
Motorized tricycles	All	12 months	Yes	Yes	Yes	Safety emission

9 Marking

Each road vehicle shall conform to KS ISO 3780 and KS ISO 3779.

10 Packaging

Each imported vehicle shall be protected from corrosion by applying a suitable anti-corrosive agent to last for a minimum three-month period while in transit at sea.

11 Application for inspection and vehicle inspection test report

11.1 The application for inspection shall be made using Form 1.

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FORM 1: APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION

APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION		Form 1
<p>The Managing Director, Kenya Bureau of Standards, P.O. Box 54974-00200, NAIROBI.</p>		
Date:		
Name of Applicant:		Signature:
Occupation:.....		
Organization:.....		
Address:.....		
Make and Type of Motor Vehicle		
Category of Vehicle		
VIN		
Engine No.		
Chassis No.		
Test Site Desired		
Test Date Desired		
Test Item Desired for Modification		
Name & Address of the Vehicle Inspection Centre		
Remarks		

11.2 The inspection report shall be made on Form 2.

FORM 2: VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT

VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT		<i>Form 2</i>
Name of Applicant:.....		
Address:.....		
Name and Address of Vehicle Inspection Centre:.....		
Place of Inspection:.....		Date of Inspection:.....
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION		
1. Make:.....		Category:.....
Type:.....		
2. Reg. No:.....		
3. Date of First Reg:.....		Odometer Reading:..... km:.....
4. Year of Manufacture:.....		
5. VIN:.....		
6. Chassis No:.....		Engine No:.....
7. Colour:.....		
8. Sitting Capacity:.....		
9. Type of Engine: Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> ol <input type="checkbox"/>		
10. Report: If new vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> sed <input type="checkbox"/>		
INSPECTION RESULTS		
General Condition of Road Vehicle:		
IM— Immediate Prohibition <input type="checkbox"/>		D— Delayed Prohibition <input type="checkbox"/>
AD— Advisory Defects <input type="checkbox"/>		
Advisory Remarks:.....		
.....		
Name of Inspector:.....		Signature:..... Date:.....

Annex A (normative)

Vehicle categorization

Category	Description
L	Motor vehicles with less than four wheels [but does include light four-wheelers]
L1	A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine cylinder capacity in the case of a thermic engine not exceeding 50 cm ³ and whatever the means of propulsion a maximum design speed not exceeding 50 km/h.
L2	A three-wheeled vehicle of any wheel arrangement with an engine cylinder capacity in the case of a thermic engine not exceeding 50 cm ³ or 4kw and whatever the means of propulsion a maximum design speed not exceeding 50 km/h.
L3	A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine cylinder capacity in the case of a thermic engine exceeding 50 cm ³ or 4kw and whatever the means of propulsion a maximum design speed exceeding 50 km/h.
L4	A vehicle with three wheels asymmetrically arranged in relation to the longitudinal median plane with an engine cylinder capacity in the case of a thermic engine exceeding 50 cm ³ or whatever the means of propulsion a maximum design speed exceeding 50 km/h (motor cycles with sidecars).
L5	A vehicle with three wheels symmetrically arranged in relation to the longitudinal median plane with an engine cylinder capacity in the case of a thermic engine exceeding 50 cm ³ or whatever the means of propulsion a maximum design speed exceeding 50 km/h.
L6	A vehicle with four wheels whose unladen mass is not more than 350 kg, not including the mass of the batteries in case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is not more than 45 km/h, and whose engine cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm ³ for spark (positive) ignition engines, or whose maximum net power output does not exceed 4 kW in the case of other internal combustion engines, or whose maximum continuous rated power does not exceed 4 kW in the case of electric engines.
L7	A vehicle with four wheels, other than that classified for the category L6, whose unladen mass is not more than 400 kg (550 kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods), not including the mass of batteries in the case of electric vehicles and whose maximum continuous rated power does not exceed 15 kW.
M	Vehicles having at least four wheels and used for the carriage of passengers (e.g., standard car with 2, 3, 4 doors).
M1	Vehicles used for carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's = 9.
M2	Vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass not exceeding 5 tonnes (Bus).
M3	Vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass exceeding 5 tonnes (Bus).
N	Power-driven vehicles having at least four wheels and used for the carriage of goods.
N1	Vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (Pick-up Truck, Van)
N2	Vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12 tonnes (Commercial Truck).
N3	Vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass exceeding 12 tonnes (Commercial Truck).
O	Trailers (including semi-trailers)

O1	Trailers with a maximum mass not exceeding 0.75 tonnes.
O2	Trailers with a maximum mass exceeding 0.75 tonnes, but not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.
O3	Trailers with a maximum mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes, but not exceeding 10 tonnes.
O4	Trailers with a maximum mass exceeding 10 tonnes.
	Special purpose vehicle.
	Motor caravan, also Campervan, Motorhome.
	Armored car (VIP), Armored car (valuables).
	Ambulance.
	Hearse.
T	Agricultural and Forestry tractors.
	Non-road mobile machinery.
G	Off-road vehicles.

Annex B (Informative)

Preliminary inspection checklist for roadworthiness

OWNER'S NAME: ADDRESS: TEL:

MAKE OF VEHICLE: MODEL:

ENGINE CAPACITY: MILEAGE:

MANUFACTURE DATE: REGISTRATION DATE:

ENGINE No: CHASSIS No: REG: No:

TYPE OF BODY: SEATING/CARRYING CAPACITY:

EXPIRY DATE OF CURRENT ROAD
LICENCE:

INSURANCE No: EXPIRY DATE:

STAGE 1: BODY WORK (EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL)

ITEMS	Pass	Reject	Remarks
Overall appearance			
Condition of paint			
Doors			
Windows			
Sunroof			
External mirrors			
Glasses			
Wipers and washers			

Seats			
Trim			
Safety belts			
Steering wheel			
Brake pedal			
Clutch pedal			
Parking brake lever			
Headlights			
Parking lights			
Direction indicators			
Reversing light			
Courtesy light			
Rear number plate light			
Stop lights			
Front bumper			
Rear bumper			
Roof rack			
Antenna			

STAGE 2: CONDITION OF ENGINE COMPONENTS (STATIC), ENGINE COMPARTMENT AND BOOT

Items	Pass	Reject	Remarks
Bonnet			
Engine			
Battery			
Battery carrier			
Wiring harness			
Starter motor			
Alternator/Generator			
Radiator			
Radiator hoses			
Water pump			
Caburettor			
High tension cables			
A/C Condenser			
Power steering			
Brakes master cylinder			
Clutch master cylinder			

Brake steel pipes			
Fuel pipes			
Flexible brake pipes			
Windscreen washer bottle			
Boot lid			
Jack and handle			
Wheel wrench			
Tool-kit			
Life saver			

STAGE 3: ENGINE FUNCTIONING (RUNING STATE)

Items	Pass	Reject	REMARKS
Radiator water			
Engine oil			
Starting of engine			
Idle speed noises			
High speed noises			
Oil leaks			
Water leaks			
Cooling system function			

Engine oil pressure			
Charging system			
A/C operation			
Power steering operation			
Fuel pump			
Vacuum pump			
Engine stopper (diesel)			
Exhaust emission			

STAGE 4: (on pit) UNDER BODY INSPECTION

ITEMS	Pass	Reject	REMARKS
Laminated leaf springs			
U-bolts			
Spring bushes			
Spring pins			
Coil springs			
Front shock absorbers			
Rear shock absorbers			
Sub-frame mountings			
Engine mountings			

Gearbox mountings			
Stabilizer bar bushes			
Fuel tank			
Fuel lines			
Brake lines			
Exhaust system			
Transmission			
Steering box/rack			
Chassis			
Mono-block body			
Front sub-frame			
Rear sub-frame			
Front axle			
Rear axle			
2nd rear axle (where fitted)			
Wheel geometry			

TYRES

Location	Size	Wear Pattern	Tread Depth	Pass	Reject	Wheel Rims
FR LEFT						
FR RIGHT						

RR LEFT INNER						
RR LEFT OUTER						
RR RIGHT INNER						
RR RIGHT OUTER						
SPARE WHEEL						
REMARKS						

STAGE 5: (on pit) STEERING, SUSPENSIONS, FINAL DRIVE

Items	Pass	Reject	Remarks
King-pin bushes			
Ball-joints			
Steering linkages			
Brake discs			
Calipers			
Front brake pipes			
Brake pad life			
Brake drums			
Wheel cylinders			
Rear oil seals			
Rear brake pipes			

Front L.H. driving shaft			
Front R.H. driving shaft			
Front differential			
Rear differential			
Transfer case			
Front propeller shaft			
Centre bearing			
Front oil seals			
Rear L.H. drive shaft			
Rear R.H. drive shaft			
Hand brake cables			

STAGE 6: TEST DRIVE

ITEMS	Pass	Reject	REMARKS
Driving seat adjustments			
Driving performances			
Emergency brake			
Clutch performance			
Gear shift			
Steering stability			
Front suspension			

Rear suspension			
Gauges and instruments			

STAGE 6. TEST DRIVE *(continued)*

ITEMS (Functionality)	Pass	Reject	REMARKS
Odometer			
Heater			
Defroster			
Air-con			
Windscreen wipers			
Washers			
Horn			
Wheel alignment			
Parking brake			

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approved for use on Kenya Roads ☐
2. To undergo corrective repairs ☐
3. Reject ☐

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