

Safety Alert

Equipment Change

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Contact for further Info:

Brett Coradine – HSE & FT Manager

Email: bcoradine@powernet.co.nz

Mobile: 027 300 9893

Security Class: PowerNet Employees & External (with NDA's)

Toyota Hilux Extra Cab Ute

Over the last two to three years, we have added Toyota Hilux 4x4 Extra Cab Utes to our Company fleet. Whilst similar in many ways to our Single Cab and Double Cab Utes in driving and performance, they do come without an important safety feature – Downhill Assist Control (DAC)



Toyota Hilux 4x4 Double Cab – fitted with Downhill Assist Control (DAC)



Toyota Hilux Extra Cab – no DAC

Downhill Assist Control (DAC) – is a system designed to help maintain a low, constant speed when descending steep or slippery slopes. In the absence of DAC, drivers must rely on manual techniques to ensure safe vehicle control.

Recommended Safe Descent Procedures:

1. **Engage 4WD Low (L4):**
Activate low-range four-wheel drive **before** descending. This setting maximises traction and engine braking, especially on steep or loose surfaces.
2. **Use Manual Braking:**
Apply brakes steadily and consistently. Avoid sudden or harsh braking to maintain control and prevent skidding.
3. **Select Low Gear:**
Choose a lower gear (e.g. 1st or 2nd) to utilise engine braking. This helps control speed and reduces reliance on the brake pedal.
4. **Maintain Vehicle Control:**
If a rear wheel begins spinning, engage the **rear differential lock** to evenly distribute power to both rear wheels.
5. **Utilise Hill-Start Assist Control (HAC) where fitted:**
HAC can prevent rollback when starting on an incline by temporarily holding the brakes.

Important Considerations:

- On extremely steep or slippery terrain, even with 4WD Low, the vehicle may still slip. **Manual speed control is essential.**
- DAC is a **driver aid** – not a substitute for proper driving techniques.
- If DAC is disabled or malfunctions, the vehicle will not automatically manage descent speed.
- All personnel driving vehicles off-road must first be trained in 4WD driving techniques, and familiar with the vehicle's safety features.

HSE Team have provided all identified external and internal interested parties with this Safety Alert.

NOTE: HSE Team are the only authority to release and circulate this Safety Alert.