

**NON-STANDARD IMPORTED VEHICLES  
NOT SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE PLATE APPROVAL**

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Motor Vehicles Standards Act 1989* (the Act) makes it an offence to import a road vehicle which does not comply with the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) (a non-standard vehicle) or have a compliance plate except in certain circumstances. This Circular addresses those circumstances where the Administrator will issue an authorisation to import a non-standard vehicle. It does not apply to vehicles for which the importer holds a current compliance plate approval which will be used to bring the vehicles into compliance and affix compliance plates before first registration.

- 1.1 Persons intending to import vehicles which are eligible for an exemption from compliance with the ADRs but which are intended for limited use on public roads should determine the situation in the State or Territory where they will operate such vehicles for any particular requirements for registration.

2. VEHICLES NOT REQUIRING AN AUTHORISATION

The Act applies to road vehicles which are intended to be used on public roads. These are defined in the ADRs as various types of passenger or goods carrying vehicles such as cars, buses, trucks and trailers. The following vehicles are not subject to compliance with the ADRs and are therefore not subject to import restrictions under the Act.

2.1 Vehicles Not Designed Primarily for Road Operation

Such vehicles are agricultural equipment, earth moving, road making and maintenance plant, mobile cranes, forklift trucks, straddle trucks and similar equipment, provided the basis of such vehicles is not a conventional truck chassis.

Customs will unconditionally release such vehicles in regard to compliance with the Act and an authorisation from the Administrator will not be required.

If the importer is uncertain whether the vehicle falls into this category or that Customs will grant an unconditional release, the matter should be referred to the Administrator for decision and issue of an authorisation if appropriate.

### 3. VEHICLES REQUIRING AN IMPORT AUTHORITY

All vehicles listed below will be subject to customs release on condition that the importer obtains an import authorisation.

#### 3.1 Vehicles *More Than 15 Years Old*

Vehicles *more than 15 years old, as at the date of import*, are not subject to the requirements of the Act.

The importer must apply to the Administrator for an authorisation.

States and Territories, as a condition of registration, may require vehicles more than 15 years old to which ADRs apply (such as passenger cars built after 1 January 1969) to comply with the intent of the applicable ADRs.

#### 3.2 Competition Vehicles

3.2.1 Competition cars not designed to be used on public roads (such as grand prix cars) are not subject to the Act.

The importer must apply to the Administrator for an authorisation.

3.2.2 Competition cars intended for closed circuit racing, such as sedan car races, but of a type that could be used on public roads are subject to import restrictions.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation on condition that the importer undertakes that the vehicle will not be used on public roads.

3.2.3 Rally cars are subject to import restrictions.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation on condition that the importer undertakes that the vehicle will only be used in the course of competition, ie. a recognised rally, practice associated with competition and transport to and from a rally point.

#### 3.3 Competition Support Vehicles

Competition support vehicles are those special purpose vehicles intended to be used in support of vehicles entered in competition (such as a rally). They would be maintenance and repair, spare parts, crew, TV and publicity vehicles. Such vehicles are subject to the Act and hence subject to import restrictions.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation on condition that the importer gives an undertaking that such vehicles will only be used in relation to a recognised competition and will be re-exported on completion of the specified competition.

Generally such vehicles will be subject to import restrictions.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation conditional on the importer giving an undertaking that the vehicle will not be used on public roads nor presented for registration.

A vehicle for display includes a vehicle which is to be used for publicity purposes which may include restricted use on public roads, eg. for street parades. In this case an authorisation will be conditional on such use being restricted to that stated in the application.

### 3.5 Farm Vehicles

These are vehicles, such as agricultural motorcycles and three and four-wheel buggies, which are conditionally registered for use on public roads but are intended primarily for use on farms.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation for such vehicles.

### 3.6 Mining Company Vehicles

Mining companies and similar organisations may wish to import road vehicles, such as four-wheel drives, which will not be used on public roads.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation for such vehicles on condition that the importer gives an undertaking that they will not be sold in Australia. The vehicles may be disposed of by way of re-export, scrapping or breaking up for spare parts.

### 3.7 Vehicles Intended for Spare Parts

Generally such vehicles will be of a type, such as a passenger car, that is subject to the Act.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation on condition that the importer undertakes that such vehicles will be broken up for parts and not sold as complete vehicles.

### 3.8 Vehicles Intended for Evaluation

The conditions for registering vehicles intended for engineering or market evaluation are contained in Circular 0-4-8.

The Administrator will issue an authorisation for such vehicles subject to the conditions specified in Circular 0-4-8 relating to eventual disposal.

It should be noted that a vehicle imported in the program for a compliance plate approval is considered an engineering evaluation vehicle. It is expected such a vehicle would be brought into compliance and fitted with a compliance plate before being presented for unrestricted registration. An example would be the import of a secondhand US car which is to be the basis for a low volume CPA application. The vehicle would be used for the purpose of modification and inspection.

### 3.9 Other Vehicles

The Administrator may grant an import authorisation for a non-standard vehicle intended for road operation even though the vehicle cannot be brought to standard. An example would be an over-dimension vehicle intended to be operated under permit granted by a State or Territory authority.

A person contemplating importing such a vehicle should check with the Administrator as to whether it would be given an import authorisation and allowed to be supplied for use in transport. Generally, a condition of import for such vehicles will be that before being supplied for use in transport they will be required to comply with those ADRs for which it is practicable to comply and be fitted with an appropriate compliance plate.

## 4. APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORISATION

Where an authorisation is required the application must be made on the application form illustrated at Attachment 1. These forms are available from the Administrator and may be copied.

## 5. VIN RECORDS OF VEHICLES NOT TO BE REGISTERED

For those vehicles **less than 15 years old** which are a road vehicle of a type subject to the Act (referred to in paras 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.4, 3.6 and 3.7) the VINs will be entered on the VIN register as not to be registered.

## 6. PENALTY

It is an offence not to comply with the conditions of the import authorisation or to supply for use in transport non-standard vehicles subject to a conditional import permit. Penalty \$12,000.

## 7. REGISTRATION

Registration of vehicles remains the responsibility of the States and Territories. They may require some of the above classes of vehicles to be registered and/or insured. Importers should consult with the registering authority in the State or Territory where they intend to sell the vehicle for any special requirements that may apply.

# Application for Vehicle Import Approval

- Read carefully the brochure **Importing Vehicles to Australia** published by the Federal Office of Road Safety before completing this application.
- You will need an Import Approval to take delivery of your vehicle from the Australian port of entry. Any delay will be costly and inconvenient.
- You should allow up to 21 days from receipt of your application and all documentation for processing and issue of an approval.
- A fee of \$50 must accompany this application. Cheques are to be in Australian dollars and payable to the "Receiver of Public Monies".

## Part 1 - Applicant Details

Is this your first application?  Yes  No

Name of owner/importer (to which approval is to be issued).  
Please complete either A or B. Print clearly.

**A - Surname**

\_\_\_\_\_

First and other given names

\_\_\_\_\_

Title

Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other (specify)

**B - Company**

\_\_\_\_\_

Company Representative Name (eg: Mr J Smith)

\_\_\_\_\_

Company Representative Title (eg: Manager)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2 - Agent Details

Address to which approval is to be sent.  
You may choose to nominate a Freight Forwarding or other Agent to act on your behalf. (If same as Part 1, write "AS ABOVE")

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 3 - Vehicle Details

Please attach a copy of registration papers or purchase document to verify the following information about your vehicle. Details of additional vehicles of the same type may be provided on an attachment.

copy attached

Year of manufacture

\_\_\_\_\_

Make

\_\_\_\_\_

Model

\_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Identification Number or Chassis No.

\_\_\_\_\_

If importer using a Customs Agent - Australia Custom Service Owner Code

\_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type - tick one of the following boxes

Car, small truck or van  Motorcycle

Go to Part 4 Go to Part 4

Trailer under 4.5t ATM  Truck over 12 tonnes GVM or Bus of more than 12 seats or Trailer of or over 4.5t ATM

Go to Part 4 Go to Part 5

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Go to Part 5

## Part 4 - Date of Manufacture

Was the vehicle manufactured:

- within the last 15 years? or
- after 30/6/88 for trailers under 4.5t ATM?

Yes  No

Go to Part 5 Go to Part 10

Please turn over for Parts 5 to 10

**Part 6 - Letter of Compliance**

Do you have a letter of compliance?

Yes

No

A "Letter of Compliance" may be issued by the holder of Australian Compliance Plate Approval (usually the Australian manufacturer) for a vehicle manufactured or modified by them.

Attach copy of Letter of Compliance.  
Go to Part 10

Go to Part 7

**Part 7 - Overseas Ownership and Use**

Do you have evidence of not less than 3 continuous months overseas ownership and use of the vehicle?  
If yes, and you are of driving age, an Australian citizen or a migrant holding permanent residency in Australia, you may be eligible under the Personal Import Scheme.

Yes

No

Go to Part 10

Go to Part 8

- Only one vehicle per person may be imported on this basis in any 12 month period.
- Visitors, temporary residents, companies and corporations are not eligible.
- Include copies of any other relevant documents to substantiate your claim for 3 months overseas ownership and use of the vehicle and your Australian citizenship or migrant status.

Date of your arrival in country where vehicle is first registered in your name

Copy of your passport pages - personal identification and visa/entry stamps  copy attached

Copy of purchase document such as an Invoice/Bill of Sale for vehicle  copy attached

Date of first overseas registration of vehicle in your name (refer part 3)

Date you stopped using the vehicle overseas

**Part 8 - Conversion to Standard**

Is the vehicle going to be converted to meet the requirements of the Australian Design Rules and a compliance plate fitted?

Yes

No

If you are an approved vehicle converter, please quote your Compliance Plate Approval (CPA) number.

Attach copy of agreement issued by approved vehicle converter.  
Go to Part 10

Go to Part 9

**Part 9 - Miscellaneous**

If you have answered no to the above questions, your vehicle may not be eligible for import approval.

- Trailers under 4.5t ATM manufactured after 30/6/88 may be imported on condition that the requirements of the National Standards outlined in the Federal Office of Road Safety's Vehicle Standards Bulletin No.1 "Building Small Trailers" are complied with.  
Does this vehicle category apply to your vehicle?  Yes - Go to Part 10  No
- Trucks over 12 tonnes GVM, buses of more than 12 seats and trailers of or over 4.5t ATM must meet the requirements of the Australian Design Rules applicable as at the date of the vehicle's importation.
- Import Approval may be granted for special classes of vehicles, such as competition, display vehicles or evaluation vehicles. Application in this case would need to be supported by a signed statement setting-out the intended use of the vehicle.
- Contact the Federal Office of Road Safety for advice on vehicles described in this section.

**Part 10 - Declaration**

I declare that the information provided is true and correct.

Signature

Date

**Warning:**  
Applicants may be penalised for the provision of false or misleading information. Import of a non-standard vehicle without approval is an offence and may incur a penalty or a fine of \$12,000.

**Note:**  
Have you included all necessary documentation in support of your application? Delays can be costly and inconvenient. Remember - a vehicle must have an import approval to allow you to take delivery of it from the port of entry.

Address applications and enquiries to:  
The Administrator  
Motor Vehicle Standards  
Federal Office of Road Safety  
GPO Box 1553  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: (06) 274 7506 (24hr service) Fax: (06) 274 6013

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