



## Approval holder obligations – Design change control

# FACTSHEET

### Conformity of Production

A new vehicle Identification Plate Approval (IPA) holder, either in full volume (unlimited numbers) or low volume (limited numbers) can place identification plates on new vehicles supplied to the Australian market.

It is a condition of IPAs that IPA holders are required to ensure that all the vehicles they supply to the market abide by the Australian Design Rules (ADR). IPA holders must use a quality management system to demonstrate they have effective control of Conformity of Production and only place Identification Plates on vehicles of the type approval they hold.

### Quality Assurance Systems

IPA holders should have a quality assurance system established upon the principles of international standard ISO 9001:2015 or similar. The ISO 9001 series provides the quality assurance framework for the design and manufacturing processes within an organisation to operate effectively and ensure that all vehicles are manufactured as per the Summary of Evidence and other information supplied with the IPA.

One important facet is design change control. This is the process of ensuring that any change to a vehicle design is identified and assessed as to whether it affects ADR compliance. Generally, the less association between the IPA holder and production process, the more difficult it is to maintain effective design change control.

In all circumstances, the IPA holder is responsible for the conformity of the vehicles against the ADRs and the type approval issued. Their responsibility also covers vehicle systems and components manufactured by the IPA holder or other parties the IPA Holder uses as part of their manufacturing processes.

In order to provide assurance of Conformity of Production, the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (the department) undertakes audits of the IPA holders' quality management systems. This includes their design, test and manufacturing systems. At the request of the department, an IPA holder must present the results of any tests and inspections that demonstrate all vehicles are consistent with the ADRs and type approval.

## Compliance obligations

The department monitors and enforces compliance with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (the Act) by encouraging voluntary compliance, undertaking informed risk-based activities and applying proportionate enforcement responses when non-compliance is detected.

Supplying a non-compliant vehicle may be an offence under the Act and may be a breach of conditions of approval. Where non-compliance is identified, appropriate enforcement responses will be applied.

Suppliers of vehicles that do not comply with an ADR in force at the time of supply are encouraged to voluntarily take action and recall those vehicles.

If you are the owner, operator or IPA holder of vehicle(s) that may not meet the Australian Design Rules, please contact the department via the vehicle reporting page at:

<https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/reporting/index.aspx>

## Further information

Information about the relevant vehicle safety regulation in Australia is available on the department's website at <https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/standards/index.aspx>

If you have any questions about this fact sheet, please contact the Vehicle Safety Standards Branch by emailing [vcs.roads@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:vcs.roads@infrastructure.gov.au).