



Road Vehicle Standards Bill 2017

Concessional Vehicle Imports

The Road Vehicle Standards Bill 2017 is intended to replace the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (MVSA) to implement the Australian Government's announced Reforms to the regulatory framework for the safety, environmental and anti-theft performance of all road vehicles being provided to the Australian market for the first time – both new and used. The reforms will deliver modernised legislation to increase community safety and remove unnecessary processes for businesses.

The Australian Government has released an Exposure Draft of the Road Vehicle Standards Bill for public information. The Bill will need to be debated and passed by both Houses of Parliament before it becomes law. This is expected to happen in 2018. More details are below.

The Australian Government will continue to provide concessional arrangements for the import of some vehicles otherwise not available in Australia and in other special circumstances. These arrangements allow for the import and supply of vehicles that do not meet the national standards (the Australian Design Rules).

The proposed *Road Vehicle Standards Act (RVSA)* will replace the existing 12 concessional import options with two streams. These are:

1. **Road-use vehicles** – permitted for general road use and entered on the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV)
2. **Temporary/non-road-use vehicles** – not permitted for general road use, and not entered on the RAV.

Road-use vehicles

The road-use vehicle stream will continue to allow for the importation of:

- older vehicles (rolling 25 year);
- specialist and enthusiast vehicles (SEVs);
- road trailers (four trailers or less per year);
- vehicles owned and used overseas for a minimum of 12 months by migrants or returning Australians (the current Personal Import Scheme); and

- non-compliant plant and equipment where a standard vehicle cannot perform the function (such as drilling rigs, cranes, and city utility vehicles, such as fire tenders, garbage trucks and street sweepers).

Some road-use vehicles may be required to meet a minimum set of standards or be modified by a Registered Automotive Workshop (RAW).

Vehicles imported through the older vehicles stream may require modification for registration by State and Territory authorities. The Australian Government will work with State and Territory regulators to establish appropriate requirements for these vehicles.

Individuals may import a maximum of four trailers per 12 month period for use on public roads. Imported trailers, including caravans, will be required to meet applicable standards. If importing more than four trailers, the make and model will need to be certified under a Type Approval. Trailers imported under the concessional arrangements will require an individual vehicle import approval.

Temporary/non-road-use vehicles

The temporary / non-road-use vehicle stream will allow for the importation of:

- vehicles for exhibition;
- race and rally vehicles;
- test and evaluation vehicles;
- vehicles for the production of a film, video, television program or advertisement; and
- heavily modified vehicles including custom vehicles and 'hot rods'.

The use of these vehicles on a public road is at the discretion of the States & Territories, under conditions set by them.

Transitional arrangements

- Vehicle import applications submitted before the commencement of the RVSA are assessed under the MVSA.
- A vehicle granted a vehicle import approval under the MVSA can import a vehicle in accordance with that approval before the end of the transitional period (12 months from the commencement of the RVSA).

A vehicle import application submitted after commencement of the RVSA will be assessed under the new legislation and imported in accordance with that approval.

Compliance & enforcement

Compliance with, and enforcement of, *RVSA* obligations will be supported by enhanced monitoring and investigation powers, and new enforcement tools including infringement notices, civil penalties and enforceable undertakings under the *Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014*.

Information technology

As a result of the introduction of the *RVSA*, updates to the Information Technology (IT) system for concessional imports will be progressed over the next 1-2 years.

Other relevant information sheets

More information on:

- RAWS can be found at information sheet 2
- Certification changes for light and heavy trailers can be found at information Sheet 9
- Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) can be found at information sheet 10

For further information

Please visit our website https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/mv_standards_act/