



Road Vehicle Standards Bill 2017

Full Volume New Vehicle and Components

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 proposed *Road Vehicle Standards Act (RVSA)* will continue existing arrangements for the supply of the majority of vehicles to the market through vehicle type approvals. Some changes to legislated certification processes will strengthen the government's ability to regulate the industry and improve business efficiency. These changes include:

Component Type Approvals (CTA)

The current Component Registration Numbers (CRN) and the Sub-Assembly Registration Number (SARN) will combine to become the Component Type Approvals (CTA). To obtain a CTA, applicants will need to demonstrate that they have a direct link to the component manufacturer, and are able to supply documentation and access to their production and design facilities upon request. CTAs will only be issued for components to be used in the manufacture of new approved vehicles.

Requirements for control of design and manufacturing processes

The RVSA will require that type approval holders have control at all stages of design, component specification and manufacturing processes to ensure continued compliance with the proposed national RVSA.

Certification of light trailers

The RVSA will also see the removal of the concessional pathway for supply of light trailers using Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) No 1. Light trailer manufacturers can apply for type approval under the RVSA if they intend to provide more than four trailers to the Australian market.

Model Reports (MRs)

Model Reports (MRs) will streamline the supply of necessary compliance documentation for Registered Automotive Workshops and will be acceptable evidence for some type approval applications, including for heavy trailers and second stage of manufacture type approvals.

Testing facilities

Testing Facilities will now need to apply for an approval and affirm the facility has the appropriate staff, testing procedures, records management, and calibration procedures to meet the requirements of performing the tests. Testing facilities interested in applying for an approval may do so through the Department three months prior to the RVSA commencing. When the RVSA commences, approval applicants required to provide evidence from a testing facility will need to use an RVSA approved testing facility.

Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV)

The RVSA will replace identification plates with an online register of approved vehicles, providing key details about approved vehicles' compliance with the national standards. The RAV will be publically searchable, providing potential consumer information on a vehicle's entry pathway to the Australian market. Type approval holders will be able to enter approved vehicles onto the RAV.

Secure vehicle identification marking

All new vehicles will also require secure vehicle identification marking to provide a significant deterrent to motor vehicle theft for re-birthing. Trailers will retain the existing physical 'trailer plate' due to the need for visibility of load limits as well as needing to be entered on the RAV.

Please note: All approvals for vehicles / components / testing facilities last for 5 years. Further approval may be sought by lodging a new application.

Australian Design Rules (ADRs)

The RVSA will retain the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) as the mechanism for applying and mandating harmonised international standards. The Department will continue its program to:

- accelerate harmonisation of the ADRs with United Nations (UN) regulations;
- adopt the Internationally Whole Vehicle Type Approval (IWVTA) regulation when finalised by the UN. IWVTA will enable certification of light passenger vehicles at a vehicle rather than component level, with the approach to be applied to other vehicle categories over time; and
- revise business systems to streamline certification of models carrying an IWVTA.

Transitional arrangements

- The RVSA will commence 12 months after the bill is passed by the Parliament. Type approvals issued under MVSA can continue to be used for a further 12 month transitional period after commencement of the RVSA. MVSA full volume approval holders will be able to opt-in to the RVSA provided they meet the new conditions of the type approval in RVSA. The approval holders can opt-in during the first six months of the transitional period.
- From the commencement of the RVSA transitional period the Department will begin to issue RVSA approvals which will be valid for 5-years. Any remaining MVSA approvals will lapse at the end of the 12-month transitional period.
- Where a CRN or SARN has been used as evidence for an MVSA Identification Plate Approval, or evidence has been prepared using an RVCS registered testing facility, that evidence will be able to be used to opt-in to RVSA type approvals during the first 6 months of the transitional period. After this period and for all new type approvals, evidence prepared at RVSA approved testing facilities, or Component Type Approvals (CTAs) issued under the RVSA, will be required to obtain a type approval.
- MVSA approval holders who do not meet the conditions for RVSA type approvals may be able to continue to provide vehicles to the market through the concessional RAV entry pathway. The majority of MVSA Low Volume approval holders will have the option to move into the concessional RAV entry pathway through the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme (RAWS). There will be no caps on the number of vehicles entered onto the RAV using this pathway.

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

The department is currently designing new IT functionality to replace the Road Vehicle Certification System (RVCS). The new system is expected to be available in early 2020 and will enhance the application and assessment processes associated with vehicle certification. Details will be made available for stakeholder consultation to be conducted during 2018 on the design of the replacement system.

Other relevant information sheets

More information on:

- RAWs can be found at information sheet 2
- Model Reports can be found at information sheet 3
- Testing Facilities can be found at information sheet 7
- Light & 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/