



Road Vehicle Standards Bill 2017

Light and Heavy Trailers

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 *Road Vehicle Standards Act* (RVSA) introduces a new pathway for type approval of light and heavy trailers, whether imported or locally manufactured.

Light trailers

Under the MVSA, trailer manufacturers are able to self-certify a trailer as compliant with the guidance contained in the Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (VSB1). The declaration of this compliance is on the identification plate affixed to the trailer, with no notification provided to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the Department).

Under the RVSA, trailer manufacturers supplying more than four vehicles to the Australian market in a 12 month period will need to register with the Department and obtain a type approval for that model of trailer. This type approval will essentially be a self-declaration by the manufacturer that the trailer under that type approval complies with the applicable standards. This approval will be subject to the same conditions as any other vehicle type approval (i.e. requirement to be able to provide access to manufacturing and design facilities).

Heavy trailers

Under the RVSA, heavy trailer manufacturers will be able to utilise a Model Report (MR) approach in order to gain a type approval. This will allow for the single assessment by the Department, and

subsequent sharing of design, test evidence and modification procedures for multiple trailers and businesses manufacturing to that design.

The more general type approval changes under the RVSA, applicable to light and heavy trailers, include the following:

- Require all type approval holders to control all stages of design, componentry, and manufacturing processes to ensure continuing compliance with the national road vehicle standards.
- Approvals for vehicles / components / tests facilities for a period of 5 years, encouraging approval holders to maintain their compliance.
- Component type approvals for eligible components or sub-assemblies used in the manufacture of new trailers.

Four trailers a year or less

Manufacturers or importers who provide four trailers or less to the Australian market in a 12 month period do not need to obtain a type approval. These vehicles will be entered onto the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) via the concessional approval RAV entry pathway on a vehicle by vehicle basis.

Transitional arrangements

- The RVSA will commence 12 months after the bill is passed by the Parliament.
- Type approvals under the MVSA can continue to be used for a further 12 month transitional period after commencement of RVSA.
- MVSA full volume type approval holders for heavy trailers will be able to opt-in to the RVSA provided they meet the conditions for type approval in RVSA. Approval holders can opt-in during the first six months of the transitional period.
- Manufacturers or importers of new light trailers will be able to continue to supply those vehicles in accordance with VSB1 until the end of the transitional period.
- From commencement of the RVSA, the Department will begin to issue approvals under the RVSA which will be valid for 5 years. MVSA approvals will lapse at the end of the transitional period.
- Where:

- a Component Registration Number (CRN) or a Sub-Assembly Registration Number (SARN) has been used in evidence for an MVSA Identification Plate Approval, or
- evidence has been prepared using a Road Vehicle Certification System (RVCS) testing facility,

the CRN, SARN or RVCS evidence will be acceptable for opt-in to RVSA type approvals during the first 6 months of the transitional period. Outside of this period and for all new type approvals, evidence prepared at RVSA approved testing facilities or component type approvals issued under the RVSA will be required.

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) systems, including the Road Vehicle Certification System (RVCS) will be progressed over the next 2-3 years.

Relevant information sheets

More information on:

- Model Reports can be found at information sheet 3
- Concessional imports can be found at information sheet 5
- Full volume type approvals can be found at information sheet 6
- Second Stage Manufacturers can be found at information sheet 8

For further information

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