



Reform of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* Personal New Imports

The *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (the Act) provides the regulatory framework to control safety, environmental and anti-theft performance of all vehicles entering the Australian market for the first time – both new and used. The reforms will deliver modernised legislation to increase community safety, provide greater choice and protection for consumers, and remove unnecessary red tape on businesses.

From 2018, Australian citizens and permanent residents will be able to personally import a new passenger car or motorcycle from a country that has comparable vehicle standards to Australia. The scheme will only be open to individuals, rather than dealers or commercial importers.

A number of criteria will need to be satisfied to ensure that these vehicles provide comparable safety, emissions and anti-theft performance to vehicles available through mainstream Australian supply.

The criteria are:

- **Vehicle type** – Right-hand-drive light passenger vehicle or motorcycle.
- **Vehicle numbers** – One vehicle per individual in any 24-month period.
- **Vehicle age** – Less than 12 months from the date of manufacture.
- **Vehicle odometer** – No more than 500 kilometres travelled in the life of the vehicle.
- **Vehicle inspection** – Independent third-party inspection to verify identity, mileage and condition.
- **Source market** – Countries comparable standards to those applied to new vehicles in Australia (this would currently initially restrict imports to cars from the UK and Japan, however motorcycles could also be imported from USA and the EU).

Documentation will be required for each vehicle in order to show that it met the required standards for supply in that market – for example, a ‘Type Approval Certificate’ for vehicles from the European Union.

Vehicles imported under this scheme will be required to undergo inspection by a third-party vehicle inspection service. The inspection will confirm the vehicle’s identity and the validity of the reported mileage, and will identify any apparent structural damage or repairs to the vehicle. Vehicle inspection services will be appointed by the Australian Government.

Vehicles will be required to be modified to meet the requirements of the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (in-service standards administered by States and Territories) prior to use in transport in Australia. This may include installation of suitable child restraint anchorages or vehicle immobilisers.

Factory warranty and vehicle recall coverage may not apply to vehicles that are exported from their original source market. Individuals choosing to purchase a new vehicle from overseas will be supported by the provision of online information to assist in making an informed choice about an overseas vehicle purchase.



The Australian Government recommends that the owner take out insurance to cover potential warranty and recall actions for vehicles that are obtained through this scheme when it is introduced in 2018.

Comparable markets will be defined before the scheme's inception and are currently likely to initially include the UK and Japan for passenger cars and the UK, other EU countries, Japan and the United States for motorcycles.

Quadricycles (UN Category L6, L7 or similar), commercial vehicles and buses will not be eligible for personal importation to Australia under the scheme.

Details of each personally imported vehicle (make, model, Vehicle Identification Number) will be made available on a searchable public database, the 'Register of Approved Vehicles'. The Register will provide an authoritative listing of all vehicles approved to enter the Australian market, including mainstream (full volume) vehicles and vehicles supplied through the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme.