



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Policy Proposal Consultation Paper

Reform of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*

Eligibility Criteria Thresholds

The Register of Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicles

On 10 February 2016, the Australian Government announced reforms to the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (the Act) which included changes to the processes for determining eligibility for concessional importation of specialist and enthusiast vehicles - with the intent to more closely align eligible vehicles with genuine specialist and enthusiast demand.

The Register of Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicles (SEV Register) is and will continue to be the means of identifying vehicles that are of specialist or enthusiast interest and otherwise not available in the Australian market. By limiting the types of vehicles that are available, compliance concessions can be given without compromising the broader intent of the regulatory framework.

The Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for concessional supply as a specialist and enthusiast vehicle, the vehicle type (make, model or variant) must not be available in Australia under a (full volume) type approval. If the vehicle type passes this initial filter, it will subsequently be eligible for assessment against one of the following Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicle criteria:

Performance Vehicles – high performance vehicles with engine performance specifications significantly superior to mainstream vehicles in Australia;

Environmental Performance Vehicles – vehicles that offer environmental performance significantly superior to mainstream vehicles in Australia;

Mobility Vehicles – vehicles originally manufactured with special features to assist people with a disability;

Rare vehicles – vehicles of which only small quantities have been produced; or

Left hand drive vehicles – vehicles originally manufactured as left-hand drive, of which right hand drive versions are not available in another country.

Proposed Thresholds

The Australian Government is now considering the thresholds in which a vehicle type would be assessed against under each of the Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicle eligibility criteria. After considering input from a number of stakeholders following the February announcement, the Australian Government is proposing the following objective thresholds:

Performance Vehicles:

Noting the steady increase in reported vehicle power over time, it is proposed that a vehicle is required to satisfy a graduated threshold formula, based on vehicle age and a corresponding power to weight ratio – measured in Kilowatts per Tonne (kW/T).

- For vehicles manufactured in 1992 (base year of manufacture), the proposed power to weight ratio is 120kW/T.
- For each year of manufacture post 1992, the power to weight ratio increases by 1 kW/T.
- This can be simply calculated as:
 - year of manufacture **minus** base year of manufacture **plus** base performance threshold

Environmental Performance Vehicles:

It is proposed that a simple, objective vehicle technology based threshold be satisfied:

- Eligible vehicles will be those originally designed and manufactured to use an alternate means of propulsion to internal combustion of gas or oil (not including human or animal power) either exclusively, or in addition to an internal combustion engine.

Mobility Vehicles:

It is proposed that a general objective threshold for any vehicle originally manufactured or fitted from the factory with substantive specialist mobility features be eligible. Such features could include but would not be limited to:

- Built in ramps for wheelchair access; or
- Seating specifically designed to lift a person from an accessible position outside the vehicle into a standard seating position ('lift up and out' seat(s)); or
- One or more portable wheelchair car seats.

Rare Vehicles:


It is proposed that one of the following volume thresholds be satisfied:

- Total worldwide production of the vehicle '*Make*', and total production by the '*Manufacturer*' of the vehicle is less than 1500 units per year (averaged over the production period for the subject model); or
- Total worldwide production of the vehicle '*Model*' is less than 500 units per year (averaged over the production period for the model); or
- Total worldwide production of the vehicle '*Variant*' is less than 50 vehicles per year worldwide (averaged over the production period for the variant).

Left-hand drive vehicles

It is proposed that a simple objective production threshold be satisfied:

- Vehicle types must have been originally manufactured in left-hand drive configuration; and not be available in right hand drive configuration (excluding conversion of left-hand drive vehicles) in another world market.
- Restricted to MA and MC (passenger vehicles) and NA and NB (light and medium commercial) categories; and

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- Left-hand drive vehicles intended for supply through the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme must be converted to right-hand drive before being added to the Register of Approved Vehicles.