

Response to the 2014 Review of the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989

Via email: MVSAreview@infrastructure.gov.au

Summary:

The Motor Vehicle Standards Act must mandate sound cyber security practices to ensure safety in modern Internet connected vehicles

The most significant change in Vehicle technology is the addition of Internet connectivity. The GSM Association predicts “Over 50% of global vehicles sales in 2015 to be connected (either by embedded tethered or smart phone integration)”¹. This provides considerable implications for vehicle safety on Australian roads.

Vehicles with Internet connectivity may be exposed to additional cyber security threats. Researchers² have shown that not only the current generation of vehicles can be hacked, but hacked in a manner that puts safety at risk by compromising systems such as steering and brakes.

There is no provision in the current Act to address this potential safety threat that will arise from hacking. It is probable that vehicle hacking techniques will become more sophisticated and more prevalent in the short to medium term.

It is vital this safety issue be addressed in the 2014 Review of the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Wade Alcorn
Wade.Alcorn@nccgroup.com
APAC General Manager
NCC Group

1. <http://www.gsma.com/connectedliving/mautomotive/gsma-connected-car-forum/>
2. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2013/07/24/hackers-reveal-nasty-new-car-attacks-with-me-behind-the-wheel-video/>