

Changing the GVM of goods vehicles with alternative identification plates

Purpose and scope

This Vehicle Standards Information (VSI) No. 48 provides advice on the procedures for changing the gross vehicle mass of goods vehicles that are supplied to the market with different load ratings. It only applies to unmodified vehicles supplied by *full volume manufacturers**

*A *full volume manufacturer* is one that holds approval to place identification plates on new vehicles supplied to the Australian market in unlimited numbers.

This VSI No. 48 does not apply to modified vehicles, including those subject to second stage of manufacture.

Introduction

The manufacturers of goods vehicles specify the maximum load the vehicle and its constituent components are designed to carry safely. This is known as its *gross vehicle mass* (GVM), and is made up of the self-weight of the vehicle and a predetermined payload comprising a specified number of occupants and material it can carry. The applicable GVM is stated on the identification plate fitted to the goods vehicle, and can also be obtained from a number of other sources, including its Road Vehicle Descriptor maintained by the [Commonwealth] Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, its user's manual or from the manufacturer.

The GVM assigned to a goods vehicle is permanently marked on its identification plate by the manufacturer, and must never be altered. Some manufacturers produce models of goods vehicle that, while physically identical, are supplied to the market with different GVMs. This makes a particular model available for registration with different GVMs and in different categories eg as a light vehicle (GVM of 4.5 tonnes or less), or as a heavy vehicle (GVM more than 4.5 tonnes). As a consequence, a dealer can be supplied with a goods vehicle that has a GVM not suited to a customer's requirements for its intended use or their licence category, and the GVM needs to be changed to the alternative value.

Requirements

NEW GOODS VEHICLE

For new goods vehicles, the GVM may be revised providing the vehicle's manufacturer issues a letter confirming the revised GVM applies to that specific vehicle. The letter must be on the full volume manufacturer's letterhead, identifying the vehicle by its unique vehicle identification number (VIN), and be signed by the manufacturer's certifying or homologation engineer. A letter showing a range of VINs incorporating the subject vehicle's VIN will not meet this requirement, nor will a letter from a dealer or a distributor.

USED GOODS VEHICLE

If a used goods vehicle's GVM is to be changed, a letter as described above must first be obtained from the vehicle's manufacturer.

In addition to the vehicle manufacturer's letter, evidence must be provided certifying that the vehicle has been examined and found to be unmodified from its original configuration in a manner that affects its GVM rating.

Acceptable evidence may be an appropriately endorsed:

- Letter from the dealer or distributor and a vehicle inspection report, or
- A compliance certificate issued by a licensed certifier under the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS) administered by Roads and Maritime Services.

If evidence is obtained by a letter from the dealer or distributor, the vehicle and associated documents must be presented for examination by an authorised examiner at an appropriate Authorised Inspection Station (AIS) to obtain a vehicle inspection report (ie a 'blue slip' for a light vehicle or a 'brown slip' for a heavy vehicle). The documents must then be presented at a motor registry or Service NSW centre to conduct a change of records.

If a VSCCS compliance certificate has been issued for the vehicle, the owner must attend a motor registry or Service NSW centre to update the vehicle's registration records as this process does not occur automatically when the compliance certificate is issued.

Summary of requirements –goods vehicles with different GVMs

The following documents must be provided for Roads and Maritime to consider allowing an unmodified goods vehicle to be registered with a changed GVM:

New goods vehicle:

- A letter from the vehicle's manufacturer.

Used goods vehicle:

- A letter from the vehicle's manufacturer, and
- Either –
 - a letter issued by the dealer or distributor, and an appropriate vehicle inspection report issued by an authorised examiner, or
 - a VSCCS compliance certificate issued by a licensed certifier.

CHANGE OF VEHICLE'S CLASSIFICATION

If a vehicle's GVM is altered so that its classification changes from a *light* vehicle to a *heavy* vehicle (ie its GVM becomes greater than 4.5 tonnes), it becomes subject to the provisions of the National Heavy Legislation as adopted in NSW.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Roads and Maritime Services

www.rms.nsw.gov.au | T 13 22 13

- VSCCS Bulletin No. 1 'Licensed certifiers'
- Roads and Maritime Form No. 1021 'Adjustment of records'

Roads and Maritime Technical Enquiries

PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

T 1300 137 302 | F (02) 8837 0037 | E tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au

- Vehicle construction and registration requirements in NSW

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Vehicle Safety Standards

GPO Box 594 Canberra ACT 2601

www.infrastructure.gov.au | T 1800 815 272 | F (02) 6274 6013

- VSB No. 14 'National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification'
- Road Vehicle Descriptors: http://rvcs-prodweb.dot.gov.au/pls/wwws/pubrvcs.Notify_Search

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

PO Box 492 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au> | T 1300 696 487 | F (07) 3309 8777 | E info@nhvr.gov.au

- Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012:
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HeavyVehNLA12.pdf>