



CI-124A

Vehicle Safety and Standards Circular to Industry

Front Position Lamps

This circular explains forthcoming changes in Department of Transport (DoT) requirements for *front position lamps*, also known as *front position (side) lamps*, on light trailers and caravans.

Vehicle Standard Bulletin 1 - Building Small Trailers (VSB1) is a national standard that summarises design, construction and testing requirements for light trailers (i.e. trailers that do not exceed 4.5 tonnes aggregate trailer mass). VSB1 requirements are consistent with the requirements in the *Australian Design Rules for Motor Vehicles and Trailers* (the ADRs). VSB1 can be downloaded at the following web address:

http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/vsb1/index.aspx

Until now, it has been the policy of DoT not to require compliance with VSB1 requirements for front position lamps. However, in recent years, changes have been made to the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* that have elevated the status of VSB1 from a set of guidelines to a mandatory technical standard. In addition, new product recall regulations were made in 2011, under the *Australian Consumer Law*, strengthening the obligation for trailer manufacturers to recall non-compliant trailers. Together, these changes to legislation at a national level have removed DoT's discretion to exercise a policy of licensing trailers which do not comply with VSB1 in relation to front position lamps.

In response to these national changes, DoT will adopt a revised policy under which all light trailers and caravans will be required to fully conform to the lighting standards in VSB1. This policy change will help assure uniformity of vehicle standards throughout Australia. An introduction date of 1 May 2012 was set for the revised policy in order to allow manufacturers adequate time to revise their procedures to ensure that all trailers and caravans they manufacture are compliant.

All light trailers and caravans presented for first licensing on or after 1 May 2012 will be required to meet VSB1 requirements for front position lamps. This policy will not be applied to light trailers and caravans first licensed before 1 May 2012.

Correspondence and enquiries

Vehicle Safety and Standards

Department of Transport
34 Gillam Drive
Kelmescott WA 6111

For enquiries contact DoT
on 13 11 56