



Policy Instrument: CEO approval of Tow Truck General Equipment Requirements

Purpose

To establish the types of general equipment approved by the DoT Chief Executive Officer (CEO), that must be attached to, or carried on a tow truck.

Every vehicle is to be inspected and approved by the DoT CEO as meeting these requirements, prior to being authorised to operate as a tow truck.

Definitions

Chisel point describes the shape of the rear of the body of a tilt tray tow truck when viewed from the side.

Clean-up equipment means equipment necessary for the removal of any broken glass, debris, oil or other matter deposited on the roadway as a result of an accident or breakdown.

Conspicuity markings means reflective markings to make the rear of a **tilt tray tow truck** more visible.

GVM means gross vehicle mass.

Rear marker plates are reflective plates fitted to the rear of a vehicle to indicate the left and right extremities of the vehicle and increase visibility of the vehicle to other road users.

Safety chains means a highly durable lashing type chain with low stretch characteristics, sometimes referred to as 'transport chain' and is not designed to be used for any lifting or unloading purpose.

Spacer bars are a means of protecting the towed vehicle from receiving contact damage from either the tow truck or securing devices.

Specific markings are explicit identifying tow truck information displayed on a specified part of the vehicle.

Tow Truck has the meaning given in Part 1 of the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014, (the Regulations).

Tilt tray tow truck has the meaning given in the Part 12 of the Regulations.

Underrun protective device means a bar fitted to a tilt tray tow truck to reduce the risk of serious injury in the event of a rear end collision.

Webbing assembly means a lightweight restraint system used throughout the transport industry, it includes a load rated webbing material with specified stitching and sewing patterns, together with end fittings, tensioning devices and a ratings tag.

VS12 means Vehicle Standard Bulletin 12: *National Code of Practice Rear Marking Plates for all motor vehicles over 12t GVM and for all trailers over 10t GVM.*

Scope

Regulation 409(4) to (8) of the Regulations prescribes the standards and requirements in respect of tow trucks that certain general equipment must be carried. The DoT CEO has delegation to approve these equipment requirements.

Policy

Securing devices - r.409(4)

To enable the driver of the tow truck to exercise efficient control over the towed vehicle while it is being towed a tow truck must be equipped, where applicable, with:

- **Safety chains** used for load restraint must comply with AS/NZS 4344: Motor vehicles – Cargo restraint systems – Transport chain and components.
- **Webbing assemblies** with either attached or in-line ratchet winches must comply with AS/NZS 4380: Motor vehicles – Cargo restraint systems – Transport webbing and components.
- **Spacer bars** designed to minimise any damage to the towed vehicle caused by the towing vehicle or its equipment.

Fire extinguisher – r.409(5)

A tow truck must be equipped with a **fire extinguisher** that is maintained in an effective condition and installed in a position where it is readily available for use complying with:

- AS 2444–2001: Portable fire extinguishers;
- has a minimum 4.5kg capacity; and
- be suitable for Class A (wood, paper, plastic etc), Class B (flammable liquids) and Class E (energized electrical equipment) fires as defined by AS 2444.

Clean-up Equipment – r.409(6)

A tow truck must be equipped with **clean-up equipment** necessary for the removal of any broken glass, debris, oil or other matter deposited on the roadway as a result of an accident or breakdown.

This must contain a broom, shovel, 20 litre spill kit; and a container (bin/receptacle) for debris.

Specific markings – r.409(7)

A tow truck must have clearly marked on a conspicuous part of the right side of the vehicle, marked in letters and numbers at least 50 mm high and 25 mm wide the:

- name and address of the owner of the vehicle;
- vehicle's unloaded mass and GVM; and
- vehicle's classification under r.414.

Underrun protective device – r.409(8)

To reduce the risk of serious injury (caused by the 'chisel point' at the rear of a tilt tray) in the event of a collision between the truck and a vehicle following behind, a tilt tray tow truck must be fitted with a rear underrun protective device that complies with the following:

An **underrun protective device** where the underrun protector bar system uses an appropriately sized standard steel section, typically a rectangular hollow section that is minimum dimensions 75 mm x 50 mm x 3mm, appropriately secured to the truck chassis. The section shall not exceed 100 mm and must be flush with the rear of the tray.

OR

An **underrun protector light bar & wheel lift** system that incorporates either:

- an appropriate under run protector light bar positioned just above the wheel lift; or
- an under protector light bar that pivots as the tilt tray is lowered to the ground, and it has a wheel lift attachment fitted.

AND

- Tilt Tray Tow trucks with a GVM of 12 tonnes or over must be fitted with **rear marker plates** that comply with the requirements of VSB12;
- OR
- Tilt tray tow trucks under 12 tonnes GVM, may be fitted with **rear marker plates** that comply with the requirements of VSB12. Alternatively, **conspicuity markings**, at least 100mm high, made from Class 1A material that complies with AS/NZS1906.3:2017 must be fitted where practicable. Other forms of either conspicuity strips or under run protection devices that are deemed equally effective may also be acceptable to DoT.

Please note: All other tilt trays not licenced as a tilt tray tow truck will be required to comply with the requirements of the *DoT Vehicle Safety and Standards Circular to Industry – Tilt Tray Vehicles (CI-117B)*.

Relevant legislation

Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014

Approval



Linley Crackel

Executive Director, Driver and Vehicles

7 July 2023