



Information Bulletin IB-102S

Automotive Consultants

Summary

- Automotive consultants are individuals or businesses that have been recognised by the Department of Transport (DoT) as being able to produce engineering evidence and/or reports.
- Automotive consultants must inspect modified vehicles and ensure that any construction or modification of a vehicle complies with the requirements, before issuing a comprehensive engineering report.
- The vehicle constructor (the owner or his agent) must establish the consultant's experience for the proposed scope of work and clarify their fee arrangements before work is commenced.

Background

All vehicles using Western Australian roads must comply with the Australian Design Rules (ADR) and/or the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

Regulation 235 (2) relates to the 'Alteration of Vehicles':

A person must not, without the approval of the CEO, alter a motor vehicle or trailer from:

- the manufacturer's specifications; or
- the motor vehicle or trailers form when it was first licensed, in regard to any part of its construction; equipment or fittings that was effected, manufactured or constructed in accordance with an ADR by making an alteration referred to in the table to this sub regulation.

To assist with the administration of this law, DoT utilises the National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Modifications (VSB14 Ver.2) to ensure that common modifications are performed in a manner which will make them acceptable in all Australian jurisdictions. The code sets out technical requirements and checklists to assist owners and modifiers to perform safe, legal, and nationally acceptable modifications.

Purpose of this bulletin

This bulletin provides a list of persons recognised by DoT as being able to produce engineering evidence and/or reports. Owners and modifiers must also certify whether modified vehicles have been modified by themselves or under their personal supervision. Although consultants have been included in these lists because they have already demonstrated experience in an aspect of vehicle construction and modification in Western Australia, DoT does not take responsibility for their work.

All consultants may charge a fee for advice provided to owners or their agents, as they may need to provide instruction to vehicle constructors, undertake technical assessments, obtain test reports or provide checklists as required by VSB14 or as requested by Vehicle Safety and Standards (VSS).

It is the responsibility of the vehicle constructor (i.e. the owner or his agent) who engages the services of an automotive consultant, to establish the consultants experience for the proposed scope of work and for their fee arrangements before work is commenced. It may also be advisable to determine whether the consultant carries Professional Indemnity Insurance.

An automotive consultant who certifies a motor vehicle with respect to its construction or modification must:

- personally inspect the vehicle;
- ensure that any construction or modification of a vehicle complies with the requirements of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* and where applicable, the appropriate Australian Design Rules; and
- issue a comprehensive engineering report, which satisfactorily addresses any concerns raised by officers from VSS.

Automotive consultants recognised by DoT will generally have demonstrable experience in the automotive industry and are members of one of the following engineering organisations:

- Engineers Australia (formerly called the Institution of Engineers Australia); or
- The Society of Automotive Engineers, Australasia (SAE-A) - Automotive Signatory Group.

This determines what work that they are eligible to perform.

Membership of Engineers Australia is not the only criterion used to ascertain an individual's suitability to be an automotive consultant, and people who have extensive experience in their specific areas of work may appear on this list.

Not all automotive consultants can offer consultation services for all aspects of automotive design. The customer must be satisfied that an automotive consultant is qualified and experienced in the specific area required before commissioning them.

Professional engineers who are members of Engineers Australia are bound by a code of ethics limiting them to only giving advice in areas where they are qualified to do so.

Officers from VSS may use their discretion on whether to accept an applicant or to debar an existing automotive consultant, based on a lack of relevant experience or an unfavourable record.

Automotive consultants recognised by other State or Territory registration authorities are also recognised by VSS. Upon request, VSS may provide a list of automotive consultants from other States or Territories.

The table in Appendix 1 contain automotive consultants who provide services to assist either with the engineering and/or the performing of the actual vehicle modifications. Vehicle owners or modifiers must engage appropriate automotive consultants for the modification proposed.

This list is not all-encompassing. Other mechanical engineers or approved persons may also submit acceptable reports provided they are suitably qualified and experienced, but they will be asked for evidence of their qualifications and experience. Customers should check with VSS to confirm that their reports will be acceptable to our jurisdiction before they are commissioned.

Related Documents and Links

- Australian Design Rules are available on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website www.infrastructure.gov.au
- Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Modifications: Vehicle Safety Bulletin (VSB) 14 is available on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website www.infrastructure.gov.au
- *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* www.legislation.wa.gov.au
- Institution of Engineers, Australia www.engineersaustralia.org.au
- Society of Automotive Engineers, Australasia www.saea.com.au

Correspondence and Enquiries

Department of Transport

Vehicle Safety and Standards Section

Telephone 13 11 56

Appendix 1 - List of Automotive Consultants (Engineering and Modifications)

Name	Business Name	Address	Tel/Mobile	Light/heavy Vehicle	Email Address	Professional Membership	Engineering/ Modifications
SOUTHAM, Terry	Terry Southam & Associates	PO Box 1608 BOORAGOON WA 6954	(08) 9457 1299 0417 811 044	LV/HV	terry@southam.com.au	MIE Aust. CPEng	Engineering & Modifications
BUTLER, Neil	NB Drafting	BUSSELTON WA 6280	0407 545 830	LV/HV	nbdrafting@fastmail.com	AMIEAust	Engineering & Modifications
MARCHESI, Reno		CANNINGTON WA 6107	0417 900 403	LV/HV	Moritz11@bigpond.com	MSAE Australia, MIAME	Modifications
STYLE, Rodney	Rodney Style & Associates	6 Belinda Ave CLOVERDALE WA 6105	(08) 9277 5050 0417 918 024	LV/HV	rodstyle@inet.net.au	MAIME	Modifications
SILICH, Brett	Wallaby Engineering Pty Ltd	Not Applicable	0418 144 371	LV/HV	Brett.silich@wallabyeng.com	GradIE, Aust	Engineering & Modifications
DIACONITA, Vlad		55 St Albans Promenade CANNING VALE WA 6155	0459 345 268	LV/HV	Vlad.diaconita@gmail.com	BE	Engineering & Modifications
PACKARD, Jack	Packard Automotive	10A Haydock St, FORRESTDALE WA 6112	(08) 9414 9555	LV	jack@packardauto.com.au	B Eng (Mech) MSAE Australia	Engineering & Modifications
TRIVEDI, Miles	Heavy Vehicle Certifications Pty Ltd (HVC)	8 Levey Rise WINTHROP WA 6150	(08) 9332 2030 0435 250 678	LV/HV	info@vsb6.au	B.Eng M.Sc MIE Aust.	Engineering & Modifications
TRIVEDI, Tito	Heavy Vehicle Certifications Pty Ltd (HVC)	8 Levey Rise WINTHROP WA 6150	(08) 9332 2030 0412 456 545	HV	info@hvc.net.au	Mech. Eng Diploma	Engineering & Modifications
FINDLATER, Greg	Truck Engineering Australia	94 Geldart Road CHANDLER QLD 4155	(07) 3390 3588 0411 565 016	LV/HV	gregfindlater@truckengineering.com.au	B.Eng(Mech). FIEAust. CPEng. RPEQ	Engineering & Modifications

Note: LV denotes 'Light vehicles', HV denotes 'Heavy vehicles'