



## **IB-104C**

### **Vehicle Safety and Standards Information Bulletin**

#### **Modifying Heavy Vehicles**

#### **Do you intend to modify your heavy vehicle?**

The following information may be of assistance, particularly if you travel interstate.

Prior to 1995, most vehicles modified in Western Australia needed prior documented approval for the modifications from the Department of Transport (DoT). This was necessary to ensure that the modifications were completed to an acceptable standard, and to ensure that the modified vehicle operated safely. Following the completion of work, the modified vehicle was (**and still is**) required to undergo an inspection by one of DoT's Authorised vehicle examiners.

The *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* made it an offence to modify a vehicle before it is first supplied to the market for use in transport (i.e. a new vehicle) in such a way as to make it 'non-standard'.

It is also an offence to modify a vehicle in Western Australia without approval under the ***Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014 r235***.

To assist the industry, the approval process for most heavy vehicle modifications was streamlined with the introduction of the Authorised Modification Scheme for Heavy Vehicles and by the implementation of alternative inspection procedures.

This National Code of Practice - Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB6) applies to modifications to heavy vehicles both prior to their first sale in Australia (new vehicles) and after their first sale in Australia (vehicles in service).

#### **Authorised modification scheme for heavy vehicles**

In essence, the scheme is set up to give approval to organisations that meet certain standards to perform certain modifications. These organisations are referred to as *Authorised Modifiers*.

The Authorised Modifier is responsible for ensuring your truck is modified in accordance with provisions and standards acceptable to the DoT. These are specified in the publication, 'Vehicle Standards Bulletin No 6 - National Code of Practice - Heavy Vehicle Modifications' (VSB6).

This scheme allows most modifications to heavy vehicles to be certified by qualified people in the industry without reference to the DoT.

The reduction in paperwork and the simplification of the process means your truck can be modified much faster without affecting the quality of workmanship.

Certain *Authorised Modifiers* who have the appropriate facilities, are now also authorised (AIS) to carry out the final inspection of the modified vehicle. This also means you will have less downtime as you will have your truck back on the road earlier.

### **Advantage to the truck owner**

If you take your vehicle to an *Authorised Modifier* to be modified you receive the following benefits:

- You can be sure your vehicle will be professionally modified
- Your vehicle will be modified to conform with the National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB6)
- It will bear a 'Modification Plate' identifying the modifier and the modifications
- Modifications listed on the vehicle's 'Modification Plate' will be accepted by most other jurisdictions.

### **Scheme limitations**

Note that the Authorised Modification Scheme does not apply to heavy vehicle modifications that result in:

- A major change in vehicle category (eg. conversion of a truck to an omnibus)
- Compliance with the Australian Design Rules being adversely affected.

**Note:** For modifications not covered under the scheme it is still necessary to apply to Vehicle Safety and Standards (VSS) for approval. Your *Authorised Modifier* will advise you when this is necessary.

### **Modification plate**

After your vehicle is modified the *Authorised Modifier* will affix a 'Modification Plate', which identifies your vehicle and the modifications carried out. The modifications are identified by a series of codes - for example, a suspension substitution is identified with the code 'F1'.

MODIFIED VEHICLE <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;"> </span>			
WEST AUSTRALIAN AUTHORISED MODIFICATION SCHEME ALL MODIFICATIONS LISTED HEREUNDER COMPLY WITH THE NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE - VSB ___			
MODIFIER _____	AUTH. _____	CODE ___	
VIN _____	/	CHASSIS _____	No _____
_____ MOD. CODE(S) _____			
_____ DATE ___			
REF. NUMBER _____	MODIFIED GCM _____(kg)		
MODIFIED SEATING CAP. _____	MODIFIED GVM _____(kg)		
TYRE SIZES _____			
<b>THIS PLATE MUST NOT BE REMOVED</b>			

The attachment of the modification plate is essential as this represents the CEO's approval to modify.

Where no VSB6 plate is attached a vehicle requires the issue of a modification permit.

#### Related documents and links

- National Code of Practice – Vehicle Standards Bulletin No 6: Heavy Vehicle Modifications' (VSB6) can be accessed on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)
- Australian Design Rules are available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website [www.infrastructure.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au)

Publications are also available specifically for those individuals or businesses interested in joining the scheme.

#### Correspondence and enquiries

**Vehicle Safety and Standards Branch**  
 Department of Transport  
 34 Gillam Drive  
 Kelmescott WA 6111  
 For enquiries contact DoT  
 on 13 11 56