



IB-114N

Vehicle Safety and Standards Information Bulletin (Updated October 2017)

Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles Guidelines for Importers

Introduction

The following guidelines have been introduced to assist Vehicle Importers who may wish to purchase and supply imported vehicles for registration in Western Australian (WA).

For the purposes of this document a “Vehicle Importer” is defined as a person or a business importing one or more vehicles either for personal use or for resale.

Note that a person or a business importing vehicles into WA for resale must become a registered Motor Vehicle Dealer before selling them to the market regardless of the number of vehicles that are imported. Heavy penalties apply to a person or organisation that is not licensed under the *Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973* to sell vehicles.

The Department of Transport (DoT) has revised procedures to ensure that imported vehicles over 15 years old comply with relevant Australian Design Rules (ADRs) for the relevant year or manufacture before they can be registered in WA. In some cases where it is not feasible to demonstrate compliance with ADRs it may be acceptable to demonstrate compliance with the intent of the ADRs.

This Information Bulletin describes the procedures and the technical requirements that apply when a Vehicle Importer modifies a vehicle.

Vehicle Compliance

Vehicle Importers have the responsibility to ensure that a vehicle complies with the relevant ADRs prior to it being released to the market place or sold to a client. It should be understood that to meet the required standards some of the modifications required might be complex and costly.

Imported motor vehicles built overseas are generally built to different specifications to those required for the Australian market. When a vehicle is imported the DoT will initially require that certain information be submitted before it can be considered for licensing.

A “Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report for Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles” is to be completed and endorsed by a DoT approved Consulting Engineer or Organisation.

Where modifications are necessary they must comply with the relevant ADRs. Only an approved Organisation and/or Consulting Engineer can approve them (DoT may insist that only an Engineer can approve certain modifications).

Vehicle Importer Requirements

Vehicle Importers have the primary responsibility to carry out whatever modifications are needed to meet the requirements of the ADRs.

Vehicle Importers should use the “Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report” as a checklist. However the items listed on this form may not be comprehensive, and the Importers should familiarise themselves with all technical requirements contained in the ADRs applicable to the vehicles category and year of manufacture.

The Consulting Engineer or Approved Organisation should identify all modifications that are required and advise the importers as to how these should be executed to ensure compliance.

Audits

An Importer must keep comprehensive records of all vehicles imported and details of modifications performed. A copy of the *Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development Import Approval* document and *Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report* for each vehicle must be kept for auditing purposes.

Audits may be conducted from time to time as determined by the DoT.

Future reports may not be accepted from any individual or organisation that has been found to have inadequate audit facilities or fails to satisfy audit requirements.

Continued compliance with ADRs

Vehicle Importers have a responsibility to ensure that any modifications are performed in accordance with sound engineering practice, and they should have evidence that the vehicle will maintain its structural integrity and it will continue to comply with the ADRs. An Engineer’s Report will usually be sufficient evidence.

Approved Engineers or Approved Organisations

An Approved Organisation is one that has been accepted as a Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development, “Registered Automotive Workshop”. A list of these businesses can be obtained by contacting Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development.

An Approved Engineer is one who has been approved by the DoT to compile Vehicle Compliance Inspection Reports. A list of these engineers and organisations is provided below.

Other business entities could also be considered as Approved Organisations if they have the same level of certification as is required of a “Registered Automotive Workshop”.

Consulting Engineers or Approved Organisations should not take on consultancy work unless they are aware of Transport’s requirements in relation to imported motor vehicles. Consulting Engineers must be able to provide professional advice to an owner, undertake technical assessments and produce competent engineering reports.

Dispute Resolution

The DoT can be approach for adjudication if a dispute arises over technical matters concerning the ADRs or WA vehicle standards.

Issues such as payments for consultancy fees, quality work and other commercial considerations will need to be resolved by the parties involved.

Vehicle Dimensions

Vehicle Importers must ensure that each vehicle meets the dimensional requirements of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*. This is particularly important in the case of commercial vehicles and vehicles such as campervans and caravans. Many of these vehicles have been imported with excessive rear overhang (max 3.7m), width (2.5m), length (12.5m) or doors on the wrong side of the vehicle resulting in extremely costly modifications.

Signatory List of Approved Engineers or Organisations

Authorised to produce Department of Transport Vehicle Inspection Reports on Imported Vehicles Pre 1989:

Name	Business	Address	Tel/Mobile	Facsimile	Email
Dan Pitic MIEAust.	ENDRACON Pty Ltd Automotive Consulting Engineer	6 Brighton Mews HILLARYS WA 6025	9307 1436 0419 932 022	9307 1046	apitic@bigpond.net.au
Jack Apgar FIEAust.	W J Apgar	11 Telopia Dr DUNCRAIG WA 6023	9246 1600	9447 7231	apgar@iinet.net.au
Andre Syed BE., MEngSc. FIEAust		200 Burke Drive ATTADALE WA 6156	9330 4205 0410 393 850	9330 4205	
Jay Daviot B Eng (Hon)	GTSA Engineering	PO Box 270 MADDINGTON WA 6989	0408 958 007		jdaviot@gsta.biz
Brett Silich GradIEAust	Wallaby Engineering	DARLINGTON WA 6164	0418 144 371		brett.silich@wallabyeng.com
Peter Long	Commercial Pty Ltd	10 Millrose Drive MALAGA WA 6090	9209 3588 0418917580	9209 3544	
Mike Steel	Autoco Holdings Pty Ltd	Unit 1-2 44 Buckingham Drive WANGARA WA 6065	9309 4500 0418 887 775		autoco@bigpond.net.au
Terry Southam	Terry Southam and Associates	PO Box 1608 BOORAGOON WA 6954	9457 1299 0417 811 044		terry@southam.com.au
Jack Packard B Eng (Mech) MSAE Australia	Packard Automotive	Unit 4/6 Biscayne Way JANDAKOTT 6164	9414 9555		jack@packardauto.com.au

Registered Approved Workshops

Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development (list provided at www.infrastructure.wa.gov.au)

Name	Business	Address	Tel/Mobile	Facsimile	App/I Number
Bryan Hubbard	Down Under Auto Services Pty Ltd	7/10 Prestige Parade WANGARA WA 6065	9303 4881	6210 5995	10097
Frank Bempasciuto	C.A.M. (Cannington Auto Mart) Pty Ltd	1520 Albany Highway CANNINGTON WA 6107	9350 9696	9350 5066	10115
Kevin Quinn	AAMCO Transmissions Pty Ltd	19 Sutcliffe Road MUNDARING WA 6073	9295 6911	9295 6922	10041
Nigel Danson	Concept Design and Fabrication Pty Ltd	PO Box 3851 SUCCESS WA 6964	0408 628 323		10476
Andre Horsley	JDM Compliance Pty Ltd	1723 Albany Hwy KENWICK WA 6107	0417 146 142	9459 2525	10490
Douglas Wilks	West Coast Auto Compliance Pty Ltd	PO Box 143 MIRRABOOKA WA 6941	0411 713 757		10656

Related documents and links

- Imported vehicles pre 1989 – guidelines for engineers (Circular CI-118) is available on (www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs)
- Australian Design Rules are available on the Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development website (www.infrastructure.gov.au)
- Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014 can be accessed on State Law Publisher website (www.slp.wa.gov.au)
- Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development website (www.infrastructure.gov.au)
- Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973 (available from Australasian Legal Information Institute (www.austlii.edu.au))

Correspondence and enquiries

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