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 approached 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:

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

Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development (list provided at [www.infrastructure.wa.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.wa.gov.au))

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

Correspondence and enquiries

Vehicle Safety and Standards Section
Department of Transport
21 Murray Road South
WELSHPOOL WA 6106
Telephone 13 11 56
Facsimile (08) 9216 3899