



IB-122G

Vehicle Safety and Standards Information Bulletin

Licensing of Vehicles Not Designed for On-Road Use

Scope

This information bulletin relates to vehicles that are not primarily designed for on-road use, such as:

- Non-compliant tractors;
- Forklifts within VSR mass and dimensions and mobile plant;
- All-terrain vehicles;
- Quad bikes;
- Non-compliant utility vehicles; and
- Golf carts.

However, it does **not** relate to vehicles that are classified as 'exempt motor chairs', such as electric wheelchairs and 'gopher'-type vehicles, as these vehicles **cannot** be licensed.

Background

The Department of Transport (DoT) has on occasion conditionally licensed these vehicles for a variety of applications. Some require limited road access, while others are to be used entirely on private property or crown land. Owners have licensed the vehicles for two main reasons:

- Major Injury insurance: There is a belief that the licensing of an off-road vehicle will provide it with major injury insurance when operating in a public facility (e.g. golf course or reserve) or an industrial site.
- External requirements: In some cases, the owner of a facility (e.g. a local Shire) requires a vehicle to be licensed before it can access the facility. This requirement may also be based on the belief that the licence will provide major injury insurance coverage.

There is no justification for licensing a vehicle for the above reasons unless there is a genuine need for it to cross and/or travel along one or more public roads and a compliant vehicle cannot be used. Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS), Vehicle Safety & Standards (VSS) will assess this need based on the information provided in your application to license these vehicles, prior to the grant of a conditional (restricted use) vehicle licence.

Policy

DVS will only license a vehicle if:

- It is not possible to use a compliant vehicle; and
- There is a legitimate need to access one or more public roads (even if it is only for the purpose of crossing); and
- DVS is confident that this access can be performed safely.

Implementation:

- For licensing of tractor or tractor plant type vehicles such as forklifts within VSR mass and dimensions, front end loaders, graders, backhoes etc. (but not quad bikes), the current policy and procedures (present for inspection) will remain in place. Such vehicles will not require special approval prior to licensing.
- Off road type vehicles including quad bikes and special purpose utility vehicles (side-by-side's) used on a farm will be conditionally licensed, subject to a roadworthiness inspection. They do not need prior approval from VSS, and can be taken directly to a Vehicle Examination Centre or Authorised Inspection Station for inspection.
- All other licensing applications for vehicles of this type (including quad bikes, side-by-side's, golf carts, etc.) will be referred to VSS for an assessment of whether the vehicle and application meet the policy criteria.

The application must provide the following details;

- Applicant details (name, address etc).
- Full vehicle details (make, model, year, VIN, engine number, dimensions, tare and loading weights etc).
- Details (including a detailed map) of the area's and roads to be used.
- Reason(s) why a compliant vehicle cannot be used.
- There may be a further requirement to provide written approvals from the local jurisdictions/land holders and/or a Road Safety Audit from an Approved Provider of where the vehicle is to be used.
- The applicant must provide a letter of approval from VSS to the Vehicle Examiner when the vehicle is presented for licensing.
- The letter will state the condition codes under which the vehicle is to be licensed.

Note 1: Over mass and/or oversize forklifts cannot be licensed to travel along a road.

Note 2: The use of quad bikes is not recommended.

Related documents and links

[Insurance Commission of WA \(www.icwa.wa.gov.au/\)](http://www.icwa.wa.gov.au/)

[Vehicle examination locations \(www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs\)](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs)

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