

## IPAC-12 | VA applications for vehicles with VS exemptions

Audience: PBS Certifiers

This IPAC provides advice to Certifiers about the supporting evidence required when applying for a PBS Vehicle Approval (VA) for combinations requiring additional Vehicle Standards exemptions that cannot be granted under a PBS Scheme. The most common example is vehicles with split-axle groups.

This IPAC applies to all certification request types, including 'adding identical' vehicles.

This IPAC comes into effect immediately.

### Background

If the following section appears on the PBS Design Approval (DA), Certifiers will need to supply evidence demonstrating that the Vehicle Standards Exemption/s have been obtained before the VA can be issued.

An example DA extract is listed below:

#### Additional exemptions

The following additional exemption is required that cannot be granted under the PBS Scheme.

Exemptions	
ADR	Rule 43, clause 7.2 (Axle configuration – semi trailer) – Contains more than one axle group

### Supporting evidence for a VA application

#### Exemptions under the IPA system (previous system)

Where the vehicle was granted the exemption under the previous Identification Plate Approval (IPA) system, PBS Certifiers are required to submit **two** pieces of evidence with a VA application:

- 1) Evidence of the exemptions granted:
  - a copy of the IPA, including Schedule 5 where the exemption is provided; and
- 2) Evidence that the as-built vehicle has been allocated to that IPA:
  - a photo of the Heavy Vehicle Identification Plate (IPA plate). Photos of plates other than the IPA will not be accepted.

#### Exemptions under the VTA system (new system)

Copies of the Vehicle Type Approval (VTA) are no longer required to be supplied at submission where the exemption was granted under the VTA system.

If the VIN was given a concessional approval, a copy of the Concessional RAV showing the exemptions is required.

#### VINs must be available in RAV

Recent changes to the RAV system mean a copy of the VTA can be found attached the VINs in the online database.

VINs must be available in RAV with a copy of the applicable VTA accessible for the NHVR to download. The VTA must list the appropriate exemptions.

The NHVR may ask for additional evidence if deemed necessary.

If VINs cannot be added to RAV, the IPA plate must be provided for each VIN.

#### RAV extracts for VINs are no longer required

Certifiers are no longer required to provide snips of the VIN record on the RAV as part of a certification submission. Instead, RAV entries will be checked by an NHVR officer as part of a VA check.

### Submitting a VA application

A VA application must not be submitted until **all** vehicles have the correct exemption/s obtained and the required evidence is supplied to NHVR as part of the certification submission.

If the vehicles do not have the required exemption/s, the case will be closed, and a new application will be required.

#### IPAC-12: Revision history

First published	May 2022
Version 2	July 2022
Version 3	October 2023
Version 4	March 2024
Version 5	June 2025

#### For more information:

Visit: [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au)

Subscribe: [www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe)

Email: [pbs@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:pbs@nhvr.gov.au) for Vehicle Approvals

Email: [pbsdesigns@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:pbsdesigns@nhvr.gov.au) for Design Approvals

Phone: 13 NHVR\* (13 64 87)

\*Standard 13 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.  
© Copyright National Heavy Vehicle Regulator 2025, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au) Disclaimer: This information is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.