



Vehicle Standards Guide (VSG-13)

Rear-loading waste collection vehicles in New South Wales

Purpose

This guide provides advice to heavy motor vehicle owners, operators and modifiers about the design, construction and use of heavy vehicles fitted with rear-loading waste collection bodies.

Introduction

The use of rear-loading waste collection vehicles is preferred by many local councils due to the manoeuvrability and loading advantages not afforded to conventional side lift waste collection vehicles.

Due to these vehicles not complying with the dimension requirements for rear overhang in some circumstances, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has issued the *New South Wales Heavy Vehicle Standards (Rear-loading waste collection vehicle) Exemption Notice 2017* (the Notice) to provide the necessary exemptions from the *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation* (heavy vehicle safety standards).

Fitting rear-loading waste collection body

Fitting of a body to a heavy vehicle is a modification under the *Heavy Vehicle National Law* (HVNL) and requires approval by an approved vehicle examiner (AVE). If fitting the body results in the vehicle exceeding dimension limits, an exemption is required before the modification can be assessed and approved. An AVE can approve this modification if it complies with the conditions of the Notice.

Fitting a body

Generally, the fitting of a body is approved under *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6: National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB6) Modification Code J1 Body Mounting*.

When designing and installing a rear-loading waste collection body, it is important to take into account the position of the body on the vehicle and ensure ongoing compliance with relevant *Australian Design Rules* (ADRs) and the heavy vehicle safety standards, including but not limited to:

- lights and reflectors

- rear marking plates
- number plate position
- overall vehicle dimensions (particularly width and height).

Should any other modifications need to be carried out during the fitting of the body, these should also be assessed and certified using the relevant VSB6 modification codes. For example, the following modifications must be assessed and certified under the relevant section of the *VSB6*:

- Modifications to the vehicle's chassis - under *Section H Chassis*
- Modifications to the braking system - under *VSB6 Section G Brakes*.

Vehicle dimensions

When designing the installation of the body, it is important that it complies with the dimension limits set out in the Notice. Some bodies are designed to have a folding rear step that is used by waste collection workers. If a vehicle is fitted with a rear step, consideration should be given to how far the step protrudes from the rear of the vehicle, as the step (when folded down) is included when measuring rear overhang.


Warning light

A vehicle fitted with a rear-loading waste collection body must be fitted with a flashing warning light to ensure other road users can readily identify the vehicle. A warning light must:

- be visible for at least 500m in all directions (if it is not possible to achieve this with one flashing light, additional flashing lights must be used until the 500m visibility requirement is met)
- emit a yellow light in a rotating and flashing effect
- flash at between 120 and 200 times each minute
- have a power of at least 24W for LED technology or 55W for another other type of light, and
- not be a strobe light.

Using the vehicle

When the vehicle is being used on a road, the warning light and headlights or daytime running lights must be switched on. If the vehicle is fitted with a folding rear step, it may be folded down when the vehicle is collecting waste. When the vehicle is not engaged in waste collection, the step must be folded up.

 This notice does not provide access to the road network. The operator of the vehicle should ensure that any necessary access authorities have been obtained prior to using the vehicle on a road.

Complying with the *Heavy Vehicle National Law*

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure that their vehicle complies with the ADRs, *Heavy Vehicle National Law* and heavy vehicle safety standards. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle, or a heavy vehicle with unapproved modifications on a road, is an offence.

Penalties can include on-the-spot fines or prosecution. Formal warnings or a defect notice may also be issued. For more information see the *Heavy vehicle defects—Compliance and enforcement bulletin* at www.nhvr.gov.au/ce-bulletins. For more information about vehicle dimension limits, see the *National heavy vehicle mass and dimension limits information sheet* at www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/mass-dimension-and-loading.

About the NHVR

The NHVR has a dedicated Vehicle Standards team to help with modification applications and advise on any technical aspects.

For more information:

Email: vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au/hvmodifications

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*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider

Please note: While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the content of this Vehicle Standards Guide, it should not be relied upon as legal advice.



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