

Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6)

Implementation of VSB6 Version 3 in Victoria

Purpose

This guide provides advice to heavy vehicle owners, operators and modifiers about the implementation of version 3 of Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6): National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications in Victoria.

Introduction

From 1 September 2017 Version 3 of VSB6 will become the new national standard for heavy vehicle modifications, replacing the current version that has been in use since July 2015.

From this date Approved Vehicle Examiners (AVEs), who in Victoria are known as Vehicle Assessment Scheme (VAS) Signatories, must use VSB6 Version 3 when assessing and certifying heavy vehicle modifications.

VSB6 Version 3 can be downloaded now from the NHVR's website at www.nhvr.gov.au/vsb6

About the review

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), in conjunction with State and Territory Transport Agencies and key industry associations, has undertaken the most comprehensive review of VSB6 since it was originally published in the early 1990s. The review included re-formatting the document into a new design, updating of diagrams, referenced standards, and guidance material.

A review of the technical content has also been conducted and has focused on ensuring that VSB6:

- represents the professional nature of the heavy vehicle industry
- adopts performance based, rather than prescriptive, requirements where possible
- reflects current vehicle design and construction practices
- is easy to use and clearly outlines the requirements for each modification and provides recommendations that align with best practice engineering
- allows for the certification of a wider range of common modifications.

New Codes

The review identified a number of common modifications where nationally consistent guidance is required. New Codes have been developed to meet these needs and include:

- H7 - Design or manufacture aftermarket Front Underrun Protection
- J3 - Fitting of roll-over or falling object protection system
- K6 - Child restraint anchorage installation

Removed codes

During the review it was determined that, due to very similar technical requirements for all vehicle mounted lifting systems (VMLS), separate modification codes for the installation of slewing and non-slewing VMLS are not required.

As such, in VSB6 Version 3 the Q section (including modification code Q1) has been removed and an expanded modification code R1 will apply to all VMLS.

What is new for Victoria?

In Victoria, the introduction of new modification codes, and the removal of Section Q (including modification code Q1) will impact on the accreditation of AVEs.

Removal of Section Q

As the majority of AVEs who are accredited to certify modification code Q1 are also accredited to certify modification code R1, the removal of Section Q is expected to have minimal impact.

AVEs who currently hold accreditation to certify modification code Q1 must not issue new certifications to this code after VSB6 Version 3 commences, instead modification code R1 must be used.

Now that modification code Q1 has been discontinued, no new accreditation will be issued for this code. For AVEs who were accredited for this code, it will be removed from your accreditation when the accreditation is next renewed, or if a replacement accreditation document is issued.

Introduction of Modification Codes H7, J3 and K6

Any AVEs who are not currently accredited to certify to the new Modification Codes are encouraged to contact the VicRoads by email at yscinfo@roads.vic.gov.au

Transition period

While changes to the technical requirements of VSB6 have been kept to a minimum, there are some changes that will change the way that some common modifications are performed. To allow vehicle owners and modifiers to become familiar with any changed requirements and adjust any modification designs before 1 September 2017 VSB6 Version 3 is now available on the NHVRs website.

The NHVR understands that some vehicle modifications are complex changes and require extensive design and work to complete. To ensure that owners and modifiers who have already commenced these types of complex modifications to finish the modifications, AVEs will be able to certify modification to the existing codes provided these modifications are completed and certified by 30 September 2017. From 1 October 2017, all modifications certified by an AVE must be done in accordance with VSB6 Version 3.

Industry tools

To assist the heavy vehicle industry understand the amendments made to VSB6 and the requirements for modifying heavy vehicles, the NHVR will be producing a number of industry tools. These include:

- Vehicle Standards Guides (VSGs) providing information about:
 - Front Underrun Protection Systems and compatible components
 - 50 mm ball couplings
 - low friction plates / wear plates on fifth wheels
- a podcast series to explain the structure of the NHVR modification framework and to provide information about the most common modifications in heavy vehicles

Further information on VSB6 Version 3 can be found at www.nhvr.gov.au/vsb6

Feedback

The NHVR will be seeking to continually update and improve VSB6. Contributions and feedback may be made by completing the [VSB6 Feedback Form](#) and sending it to vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au

Complying with the national heavy vehicle safety standards

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

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

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Fax: 07 3309 8777

Post: PO Box 492, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

*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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