

## Vehicle Standards Guide (VSG-15)

### Delayed implementation of Modification Codes H6 and H7

#### Purpose

This guide provides advice about the delayed implementation of *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6)* Modification Codes H6 and H7.

#### Introduction

Following the release of VSB6 Version 3, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has become aware of compliance issues relating to the design and manufacture of bull bars and front underrun protection devices (FUPD). Primarily, it has been identified that many common bull bar and FUPD designs may not meet requirements for headlight visibility.

Initial discussions with bull bar and FUPD manufacturers have indicated that to produce compliant components, it will be necessary to carry out re-design and testing work that can not be completed by 1 September 2017.

To ensure bull bar and FUPD manufacturers are able to adjust their designs, the NHVR is delaying the implementation of Modification Codes H6 and H7.

#### When will H6 and H7 be implemented?

The NHVR has not set a date for the implementation of Modification Codes H6 and H7 at this time.

Prior to setting a date for implementation, the NHVR will consult with affected parties to ensure they are aware of all the relevant heavy vehicle safety standard requirements and have sufficient time to adjust designs and manufacturing processes.

The NHVR will not implement these modification codes until we have undertaken industry consultation and provided industry with a six-month implementation period to ensure their components are compliant.

#### What about existing bull bars and FUPD?

The NHVR will be working through how to manage non-compliant bull bars and FUPD that are already fitted to heavy vehicles. Further information about this will be provided following consultation with affected parties.

#### What needs to be done now?

There are no immediate changes that need to be made by bull bar or FUPD designers, manufacturers or vehicle operators.

Designers and manufacturers should however begin to consider what changes they may need to make to products they design and build to ensure compliance with all relevant ADRs.

#### 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](http://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:

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