

## National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual - Version 2.3

From 1 July 2018, updates to the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (NHVIM) will come into effect.

From this date, when conducting a vehicle inspection, criteria in Version 2.3 of the NHVIM should be used.

The NHVIM Version 2.3 can be downloaded from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) website at [www.nhvr.gov.au/nhvim](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/nhvim)

### Key changes

This revision reflects amendments made to the *Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL)*, the *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation (the Regulation)* and in response to feedback provided to the NHVR. Key changes to requirements are outlined in this document.

#### Condensate drain valves

A routine review of the HVNL identified that the requirements for condensate drain valves in the law was not clear and could allow for the fitting of drain valves that were not consistent with ADR requirements.

Amendments made to the Regulation include the requirement for brake systems fitted with automatic condensate drain valves to have a means to drain the reserve manually. Version 2.3 of the NHVIM incorporates this requirement.

#### Retroreflective rear marking plates

All motor vehicles with a GVM over 12 tonnes and all trailers with a GTM over 10 tonnes are required to be fitted with rear marking plates. The NHVR recognises that the voluntary fitting of UN standard conspicuity markings comes at a notable cost and is an investment in safety by operators. As such, the NHVR has amended the Regulation to allow operators the choice of fitting either rear marking plates or UN Standard conspicuity markings.

More information about rear marking plates can be found in Vehicle Standards Bulletin 12 *National Code of Practice for Rear Marking Plates (VSB12)* available on the NHVR website.

#### Advanced Braking Systems

After the release of NHVIM Version 2.2, the NHVR received feedback from industry that raised concerns about the checks made to vehicles and trailers fitted with advanced braking systems.

To address these concerns, the NHVR has reviewed the requirements detailed in Section 2 (Brakes) and Section 14 (Trailers) of the manual. Version 2.3 of the NHVIM now includes reasons for rejection that specifically relate to vehicles fitted with advanced braking systems.

#### National Roller Brake testing Procedure

The NHVR has conducted extensive testing and consultation over recent months to develop a nationally consistent procedure for brake tests performed using roller brake testing equipment.

The National roller brake testing procedure has been implemented as the required procedure for compliance, enforcement and regulated heavy vehicle inspections. This procedure may be used to supplement other maintenance checks of brake systems but is not mandatory. The procedure is available at: [www.nhvr.gov.au/nrbt](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/nrbt)

#### Hydrogen and electric powered vehicles

Following a request from emergency service agencies, new requirements have been introduced that will expand the requirement to label vehicles that are powered by alternate fuels.

From 1 January 2019, vehicles designed to run on either hydrogen or electric power sources, must have markings fixed to the number plate.

More information about number plate marking requirements for alternatively fuelled vehicles is available in Section 12 of the NHVM version 2.3.

#### Schedule of amendments

Each time the manual is revised and updated, the NHVR publishes a schedule of amendments to identify which sections have been changed and the exact change made. For more information about the changes see *NHVIM amendment summary Version 2.3*.

#### Feedback

The NHVR seeks to continually update and improve the manual. Contributions and feedback can be made by completing the NHVIM Feedback Form and sending it to [vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au)

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