

Vehicle Standards Guide 24 (VSG-24)

Emergency Services Speed Limiting Exemption Notice

This guide provides advice to emergency service entities on the requirement for heavy emergency vehicles to comply with maximum road speed limiting requirements.

Introduction

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is responsible for setting the standards that all in-service vehicle must meet. This includes the requirement that vehicles continue to meet the Australian Design Rules applicable at the time the vehicle was manufactured.

The NHVR has reviewed the requirement for vehicles used by emergency services to meet the requirements to be road speed limited. After consultation with relevant parties, the decision has been made to exempt these vehicles from the requirements of an *Australian Design Rule 65/.. – Maximum Road Speed Limiting for Heavy Goods Vehicles and Heavy Omnibuses* (ADR65).

This means that an emergency vehicle used by an emergency service entity is not required to be speed limited in the way required by the ADR.

What is an emergency service?

The *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation* (the Regulation) defines an emergency service as an entity that has a statutory responsibility to respond to an emergency. Examples of an emergency service entity include:

- an ambulance service;
- a fire brigade, including a volunteer fire brigade;
- a police service or police force;
- a disaster or emergency organisation of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory.

What is an emergency vehicle?

The regulation defines an emergency vehicle as a heavy vehicle

- driven by:
 - an officer of an emergency service
 - in the course of the officer's duty
- and fitted with:
 - a repeater horn or siren; or
 - a flashing warning light.

➡ Drivers of vehicle operating under this notice should be made aware that the vehicle does not comply with the road speed limiting requirements and that extra care is required. It is recommended that drivers are trained in the operation of the vehicle are permitted to operate the vehicle and a placard prominent from the driver's position is to be placed to alert drivers of this requirement.

Decommissioned emergency vehicles

Before an emergency vehicle can be sold or donated to anyone other than another emergency service entity, the vehicle must be made compliant with ADR65/..

Complying with the Heavy Vehicle National Law

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure that their vehicle complies with the ADRs, HVNL, heavy vehicle safety standards and MDL Regulation. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle, or a heavy vehicle with unapproved modifications on a road, is an offence. It is also an offence to use a vehicle on a road the exceeds a mass or dimension limit.

Penalties can include on-the-spot fines or prosecution. Formal warnings or a defect notice may also be issued.

For more information about vehicle defects, 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 fact sheet* at www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/mass-dimension-and-loading/general-mass-and-dimension-limits

For more information:

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