

Common questions about heavy vehicle registration changes

Under what circumstances will the new national heavy vehicle number plates be issued? Will I be fined if I don't have one?

National heavy vehicle plates will be issued in the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and, on a voluntary basis, in the Northern Territory whenever:

- a new heavy vehicle is registered
- an unregistered heavy vehicle is re-registered
- a state or territory registration is transferred to a jurisdiction other than WA
- a lost, damaged, destroyed or stolen number plate is replaced.

You'll only be required to change your existing plates to the national plate when you're doing one of the above.

In the Northern Territory, you can opt to be issued with a national plate in conjunction with any transaction.

Your state, territory or personalised plate will remain valid while that registration is valid and so—as long as you're displaying these plates in accordance with the relevant requirements—you shouldn't be fined.

If you wish to voluntarily replace your current plates with national plates, you can do so. To swap them over, you'll need to take your existing plates to a transport authority customer service centre in the jurisdiction where your vehicle is registered.

The standard plate fee of \$25.45 per set will apply.

How do I get a national plate? Can I register with the NHVR or get a plate from them? Can I order one online?

State and territory transport authorities will continue to manage and administer transactional heavy vehicle registration services, such as new registrations, renewals, changes to registration details, number plate issue/replacement etc. Please contact your state or territory transport authority or customer service centre if you require these services. Contact details are provided below.

Jurisdiction	Phone	Registration web address
ACT	13 22 81	www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/home#/transport
NT	1300 654 628	https://mvr.nt.gov.au/
NSW	13 22 13	www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/registration/index.html
QLD	13 23 80	www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration
SA	13 10 84	www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/heavy-vehicles/registering-a-heavy-vehicle/heavy-vehicle-registration-scheme
TAS	1300 135 513	www.transport.tas.gov.au/registration/options/heavy_vehicles
VIC	13 11 71	www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/registration-permits-curfews-and-compliance
WA	13 11 56	www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/license-my-vehicle-registration.asp

What is meant by 'national registration' for heavy vehicles?

National arrangements for the registration of heavy vehicles—occasionally referred to as the National Heavy Vehicle Registration Scheme—is the process of implementing greater consistency and support for heavy vehicle operators through better alignment of heavy vehicle registration functions.

This first phase of the national arrangements—rolled out from 1 July 2018—includes availability of a new national heavy vehicle plate (see above/overleaf). This plate removes outdated requirements for heavy vehicle registration labels, and gives the option to set common expiry dates due dates for two or more vehicles (which was already an option in most jurisdictions but the minimum requirement varied).

In addition, from 1 October 2018, operators have had free access to read-only fleet registration details on the new Registration Services section of the NHVR Portal.

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments have delivered the first stage of heavy vehicle registration reform and will continue to progress further industry-benefiting reforms during 2018–19.

Are there any vehicles that won't be issued with a new national heavy vehicle number plate?

Yes there are. While the new national plate will be issued to most heavy vehicles and heavy trailers over 4.5t GVM/GCM/ATM, participating jurisdictions are providing for limited exclusions for certain vehicle types or uses. You'll need to contact your registration authority for advice but a list of known exemptions is provided below.

Jurisdiction	Exemptions
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION buses Emergency Services Agency ACT government enterprises
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy tow trucks Public passenger buses NSW conditional registration scheme customers
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special purpose vehicles Commercial passenger vehicles Pastoral permit vehicles
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special interest vehicle scheme FARM plated vehicles Conditionally registered vehicles Queensland Fire and Rescue Services vehicles
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special purpose vehicles Tow trucks that are part of the Accident Tow Scheme (general tow trucks will not be exempted)
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interchangeable (or spare) semi-trailers Farm vehicles (applies to motor vehicles over 15.9 GVM and heavy trailers) Vintage or special interest vehicles Special purpose vehicles Restricted (Limited Use) vehicles
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buses on the Transport Safety Victoria's Bus Accreditation Scheme Tow trucks on the Accident Towing Allocation scheme Club Permit Scheme Vehicles > 4.5 tonne

What's happening with primary producer plates? How will enforcement agencies know which vehicles have a primary producer concession?

In some jurisdictions, primary producer plates will remain under certain conditions (see above). There will not be a primary-producer-specific **national** number plate for vehicles/operators that have a primary producer concession. As with any other concession type, the onus is on the registered operator to comply with the conditions of registration and to notify any change of circumstances within 14 days of the change.

Local on-road transport inspectors have direct access to vehicle registration concessional data to assist in determining appropriate vehicle usage for enforcement purposes.

If you believe that an operator is misusing a concession, you can lodge a complaint through your local registration authority.

Have enforcement agencies been advised/trained regarding changes in labels and plates?

Yes, they have been consulted at both a national and local level.

Will Northern Territory and Western Australian enforcement agencies recognise the national plate?

Yes, the national heavy vehicle number plate will be recognised nationwide.

Please note: prior to crossing the border into Western Australia, you should make sure you have any necessary access permits from Main Roads WA.

Will I have to change my national plate when I re-register my vehicle in another jurisdiction?

It depends which jurisdiction you're transferring it to. If you're re-registering it in a participating jurisdiction, it'll keep the same national plate. If the transfer involves a change of ownership, some jurisdictions may require you to change the plate.

If you're re-registering it in Western Australia, you'll need to surrender your national plate and will be issued with a new Western Australia plate. The relevant fees will apply. Contact the relevant jurisdiction for more information.

Can I keep my personalised or custom plate?

Yes you can.

What if I seasonally register my vehicle and it's unregistered for periods of time? What's required with the national plate?

There'll be no change to the current process in your state or territory. The existing requirements will continue to apply.

What happens if my national plate is lost, damaged, destroyed or stolen?

You'll need to arrange for a replacement plate through the transport authority in the jurisdiction in which your vehicle is registered. The process for replacement varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, so please contact your jurisdiction for more information.

Can I change my registration information through the NHVR Portal?

No you can't. You'll need to contact the jurisdiction in which your vehicle is registered to do this.

Do the registration changes—including changes to FIRS—impact my enrolment in the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) for mass and/or maintenance management?

No, they don't. When you change the registration of any nominated vehicle, the vehicle will still be considered enrolled in the NHVAS but—as is current practice—you must submit an amendment form to the NHVR providing your new registration details within 14 days of the change. There is no cost for this amendment and your NHVAS vehicle label won't need to be replaced.

The NHVAS *Add/delete/amend vehicles* form is available on the NHVR website at www.nhvr.gov.au/nhvas-forms