

# Adding Identical Vehicles to a PBS Vehicle Approval

## Background

Vehicles approved under the Performance Based Standards (PBS) scheme are issued with a Vehicle Approval (VA). The VA serves as evidence that specific vehicles, identified by their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) have been assessed and accepted into the PBS scheme. The VA is also required to apply for an access permit.

Currently, when new vehicles are certified and added to an existing VA, a new VA with a new number is issued. This means that any existing access permits must be updated to reflect the new VA number, causing unnecessary administrative burden for the Operator and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). The NHVR has developed a new process that eliminates the need to change the VA number when identical vehicles are added or removed from an existing VA.

## Changes

From 1 April 2019, the VA number will not change when adding or removing identical vehicle units. This means that existing access permits no longer require updating as the VA number will remain the same.

The NHVR will continue to use the same VA number for minor and administrative changes, such as corrections and tyre option updates.

## Identical heavy vehicle units

To be considered as an identical vehicle, the following must be satisfied:

- Axle spacings must be identical to the existing vehicles  
*Note: there is no tolerance for axle spacing variation.*
- The vehicle must be approved at the same level of PBS compliance and at masses no greater than those already approved
- The overall length of the combination must be within the same access class as previously approved:

	Access Class 'A'	Access Class 'B'
Level 1	≤ 20m	
Level 2	≤ 26m	≤ 30m
Level 3	≤ 36.5m	≤ 42m
Level 4	≤ 53.5m	≤ 60m

Identical vehicles can vary in specifications:

- Different vehicle components, such as engines, tyres, and suspensions, are permitted provided these comply with the Part B specifications
- Different bin and payload heights are permitted provided these comply with the PBS Design Approval

## Revision and Version numbers

To keep track of each VA issued, the VA name structure will change slightly to include a Version and Revision number.

All new PBS VA's will be named as follows:

- *PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 V181230 - XYZ Trailers - ABC Haulage v1-revA*

All new PBS VAs will start off as revision A (revA) of the first version (v1).

The new name structure introduces the following terms:

- **Version:** a new version of a VA will be issued every time an identical vehicle is added to or removed from a VA.
- **Revision:** a new revision of a VA will be issued every time a VA is amended for minor and administrative reasons (e.g. corrections or tyre option updates).

When a new version is issued, the revision will also restart as revision A.

## Changes to how PBS Vehicle Approvals are issued

**New approval** – a new PBS VA number is generated with a version number of 1 and revision of A.

**Identical vehicles added to an existing VA** – the VA number does not change, the version number is increased by one and the revision resets to A.

Example: the Operator adds an identical prime mover to existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v1**-revA; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2**-revA

No access permit update is required.

**Administrative corrections, tyre option updates or other minor amendments** – the VA number does not change, the version number does not change and the revision progresses alphabetically.

Example: the Operator adds additional tyre options to existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2**-revA; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2**-revB

No access permit update is required.

**Identical vehicles removed from an existing VA** – the VA number does not change, the version number is increased by one and the revision resets to A.

Example: the Operator removes a trailer from existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2**-revB; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v3**-revA

No access permit update is required.

**Non-identical vehicles added to an existing VA** – a new VA number is generated with a version number of 1 and revision of A.

Example: the Operator adds a non-identical prime mover to existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v3**-revA; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1235 ... **v1**-revA

Access permit update is required. Note that if the additional non-identical vehicles are found to be more onerous in terms of geometry, mass, or bridge effects on existing routes; a new access permit may be required.

**Transfer of an existing PBS VA to another Operator** – a new VA number is generated with a version number of 1 and revision of A.

Example: existing VA1235 is transferred to another Operator, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1235 ... v1-revA; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1236 ... v1-revA

Access permit update is required.

## PBS Access Permits

A PBS access permit references a VA number but not the version or revision number. This means that from 1 April, PBS access permits will only need to be amended when a new VA number is issued.

PBS truck and dog combinations complying with the Class 2 PBS Truck and Dog Notice that require an access permit for off-network routes are not affected by this change. These access permits do not reference the PBS VA number so changes to VA numbers do not impact these vehicles.

### For more information:

Subscribe: [www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe)

Visit: [www.nhvr.gov.au/pbs](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/pbs)

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR\* (1300 696 487)

Email: [pbs@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:pbs@nhvr.gov.au)

© Copyright National Heavy Vehicle Regulator 2017, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au)  
Disclaimer: This fact sheet is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.  
\*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.