

Information for PBS Assessors and Certifiers (I-PAC) 1

Vehicle Certification and COVID-19

This information sheet provides guidance for Certifiers certifying vehicles for the purpose of Vehicle Approvals during the current coronavirus outbreak.

Background

In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, States and Territories have implemented strict new measures advising people to stay at home, limit travel and imposed quarantine periods for those travelling between states and territories.

The NHVR recognises that like the rest of the heavy vehicle industry, PBS certifiers provide an essential service and the restriction of movement may negatively impact their ability to physically inspect a vehicle.

The certification process remains a vital step in the approval process and is designed to ensure that vehicles have been built to the PBS Design Approval (DA). It is an assurance that the vehicle complies with the DA requirements and will perform on road within the assessed PBS performance.

Vehicle Certification Rules

The *Heavy Vehicle (General) National Regulation* mandates that a vehicle approval application must be accompanied by a certificate given by a Certifier. Only a Certifier may issue this certificate.

However, the *Vehicle Certification Rules* permit a Certifier to employ, or use the services of, other people to assist or to provide any technical information required to support them in the certification process.

This means that, in some instances, the certifier may engage a third party to conduct the physical inspection on their behalf. The rules make it clear that where a third party is used as part of the certification process the Certifiers remains responsible for certifications and must be in control of each certification.

Third party inspections

The NHVR considers physical inspections carried out by the Certifier to be best practice, and acknowledges that there may be some risk in engaging a third party to perform these tasks. This is because the third party may not have the same level of experience or knowledge of the PBS scheme as the Certifier and is not bound by the agreement that the Certifier has with the NHVR.

Where a third party is engaged to perform the inspection, the Certifier must understand that they remain responsible for the certification just as they would had they carried out the inspection themselves.

There are a number of steps a Certifier may take to ensure that the third party inspection meets their requirements. These include but are not limited to:

- Use trusted and qualified service providers
- Ensure the person providing the service does not have a conflict of interest
- Provide clear instructions on the information required and how it must be determined
- Request evidence to support the information provided e.g. specification sheets, photos of VINs, the whole vehicle/vehicle unit and relevant vehicle features etc.
- Cross check the evidence against the information provided
- Ask questions of the service provider to validate method and correctness

While these steps will help mitigate the risks associated with a third party performing certification inspection, they will not eliminate them and should not replace Certifiers performing physical inspections where practical.

Insurance

The NHVR is aware that some insurers require the Certifier to be at every certification. Certifiers are encouraged to contact their insurer to ensure they remain covered in the event of a third party inspection.

For more information:

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au
Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe
Email: pbs@nhvr.gov.au
Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.
© Copyright National Heavy Vehicle Regulator 2019, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au
Disclaimer: This information is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.