



On the Road

Issue 5 | 13 November 2013

On track for commencement of national rule book

Hello and welcome to our new subscribers.

This newsletter comes to you shortly before a key meeting with Australia's Transport Ministers at the Standing Council on Transport and Infrastructure (SCOTI) on Friday 15 November. At this meeting, the start date for the national law and Release 2 of the NHVR will be discussed and we will keep everyone up-to-date with the outcome.

I'm pleased to report that the NHVR is also embarking on its final testing phase for the new access management system. Throughout November and December, state and territory road authorities and local governments in all participating jurisdictions will be directly involved. One of the key tests will include industry representatives in an end-to-end test for an access permit from lodgement through to notification. This testing is critical as we need to ensure that our systems and processes are robust and working as intended, and that we can communicate with our customers and partners as expected.

When the Heavy Vehicle National Law commences, it will apply in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. We'll be travelling through these jurisdictions in the coming weeks and will soon send you more details about the NHVR roadshow. We'll be outlining exactly what the law means for your state and will be ready to answer your questions, so I urge you to register as soon as you can.

I look forward to advising you soon of the start date for Australia's first national rule book for heavy vehicles.

Richard Hancock
Chief Executive Officer



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NHVAS review

Throughout October, there was significant media coverage on the fatal crash in Mona Vale, New South Wales, and a direct focus on the maintenance and safety of heavy vehicles. Since this incident, the New South Wales Minister for Roads has requested the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) undertake a review of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).

Currently, the NHVR continues to work with state road transport authorities who are undertaking investigations arising from the recent fatal crash, as well as liaising with New South Wales Minister for Roads and relevant ministers from other states and territories regarding our intentions for the NHVAS review and consultation with stakeholders.

The NHVR will have these details available for consideration by Australia's transport ministers at the upcoming SCOTI meeting on November 15 in Brisbane. The review will likely encompass the current auditing standards and the certification process for auditors. First and foremost, our priority will continue to be on a safer heavy vehicle industry and safer community.

The McAleese Group, parent company for Cootes Transport, the operator involved in the crash, publicly announced several weeks ago that it had voluntarily withdrawn Cootes from NHVAS maintenance module on 11 October.

For more information on the NHVAS, visit www.nhvr.gov.au/nhvas



Vehicle standards under the NHVR

Once the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) commences in participating states, the NHVR will be the single point-of-contact for national heavy vehicle standards and granting exemptions.

What will change when the new law commences?

- › Owners, operators and modifiers of heavy vehicles will apply to the NHVR for modifications and exemptions (permits and notices).
- › The NHVR will have a dedicated Vehicle Standards Unit to process applications. Staff will have extensive heavy vehicle standards experience consisting of engineers and policy personnel.

What will stay the same?

- › All existing approved vehicle examiner schemes will remain in place and continue to be managed by jurisdictions.
- › If you have an existing permit or notice, there is no need to re-apply once the HVNL commences.
- › All existing exemptions will still be valid for up to three (3) years if a permit, or five (5) years if a notice, from the commencement of the national law.

What fees and charges apply?

Once the national law commences, the NHVR will not charge for vehicle standards applications.

Operators and owners however, will incur fees and charges for third party services associated with vehicle modification, certification and inspection. Some of these fees are set by each jurisdiction while others are market-driven (determined by the individual cost of the service). Contact the vehicle modifier and the approved vehicle examiner you intend to use for more information on fees and charges for their services.

Classifying heavy vehicle modifications

The NHVR has developed a general classification system to describe modifications that require approval either by an approved vehicle examiner or the NHVR. These three categories are minor modifications, modifications under the NHVR Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications and modifications outside the code. The code details the modification standards and requirements and will be published shortly on the NHVR website.

DRAFT forms for vehicle standards applications

The NHVR has published draft forms for vehicle standards applications at www.nhvr.gov.au/vehiclestandards. These applications are draft only with final forms available when the national law commences.

Heavy vehicle operators, owners, and modifiers will apply to the NHVR for a vehicle standards exemption (permit) or for approval to modify a heavy vehicle. When an application is submitted, the NHVR will consider vehicle standards and safety issues to decide if a vehicle standards exemption (permit) or a modification approval can be granted.

The two draft application forms are:

- › (Heavy Vehicle) Exemption Permit Application
www.nhvr.gov.au/files/41899-vs-exemption-permit-application-7.pdf
- › (Heavy Vehicle) Modification Application
www.nhvr.gov.au/files/41899-vs-heavy-vehicle-modification-application-12.pdf

For more information on our vehicle standards operations, visit www.nhvr.gov.au/vehiclestandards or email vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au

Local government webinar available for download

Our recent local government webinar on 27 September 2013 is now downloadable from our HVTV (or Heavy Vehicle TV) link at www.nhvr.gov.au/hv-tv. HVTV is going from strength to strength with 350-odd viewers tuning in and more than 80 questions leading up to and during the webinar, answers to which will be progressively posted on the NHVR website.

Webinar host, NHVR Board Chairman, Bruce Baird, along with NHVR CEO, Richard Hancock, and NHVR General Manager (Operations), Angus Draheim, welcomed Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Director of Transport Policy, Kym Foster and South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Director of Road Policy and Planning, Don Hogben.

If you missed the live-streamed event, you can access a recorded version by clicking on 'HVTV' on our home page or by visiting www.nhvr.gov.au/hv-tv. A presentation on the access permit process is also available at www.nhvr.gov.au/accesspermits.

Our next webinar will focus on heavy vehicle drivers, with our CEO in conversation with industry professionals who spend their days (and nights) behind the wheel. Keep an eye out for dates and times, or let us know what you would like covered in a webinar by emailing webinar@nhvr.gov.au



Transitional arrangements for notices and permits

Current notices and permits

Once the HVNL commences, all existing jurisdictional notices and permits that allow the use of restricted access vehicles will continue to have effect. There is no need for operators to re-apply for new permits.

Current notices are valid until the stated expiration date or for five (5) years after the HVNL commences, whichever comes first.

Current permits are valid until the stated expiration date or three (3) years after the HVNL commences, whichever comes first.

The NHVR can also replace, cancel or amend any notice or permit, but will let you know if this happens.

Current access applications

Keep lodging your access application with state and territory road transport authorities. These agencies will continue to process your application until the new national law is in place.

Once the HVNL commences, any application not finalised by that date will transfer to the NHVR for assessment under the new national law. The NHVR will then coordinate any outstanding approvals from state and territory and local government road managers and, if appropriate, issue the permit.

NHVR local government and industry roadshow

The NHVR will be on the road throughout November and December for a series of seminars and presentations to industry and local government in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Delivered in partnership with road transport authorities, the roadshow will visit all capital cities and key regional centres. When dates and locations are settled, we'll send you the full schedule, along with details of how to RSVP.

Access permits – third party consent

Once the new Heavy Vehicle National Law commences, the NHVR will have the power to coordinate access approvals on the applicant's behalf from state and territory and local government road managers.

In some cases, however, the applicant will also need consent from or will have to consult with other road managers due to requirements of state and territory laws outside the HVNL. These third parties include:

- › rail infrastructure managers, as moving over-size heavy vehicles across rail level crossings or near rail infrastructure creates risks that may need to be managed
- › utilities such as energy power companies, since over-height vehicles may affect telecommunications and power lines.

When the HVNL is in place and you apply for an access permit to the NHVR, we will notify you when you need to consult with or obtain consent from a third party. It will be your responsibility, as it is now, to contact the third party and get consent. In most cases, you will need to show us evidence of the consent before we can issue your permit.

Even if you have notified the relevant third parties, but have not yet received third party consent, you can still submit your application to us, as we can commence the review and decision process with other road managers.



QTA Annual Dinner and Awards Night

NHVR staff recently attended Queensland trucking's "night of nights", the Queensland Trucking Association Annual Dinner and Awards Night on Saturday 19 October 2013. More than 350 industry operators, suppliers, sponsors, key government representatives and their partners were there to recognise individuals and companies who demonstrated success and commitment on a personal and professional level.

Awards included the QTA Driving Excellence Award (Darren Peach from Simon National Carriers); Queensland Professional Driver of the Year (Neville Thacker from BP Regional Operations); QTA Industry Excellence Award (John King from Toll NQX); QTA Industry Safety Award (Frasers Livestock Transport) and QTA Trucking Woman of the Year (Karen Bow from WHSQ Transport Strategy Group).

In their addresses, industry leaders and the Queensland Government affirmed their support for the NHVR and recognised the incredible effort of all stakeholders in getting this far on the path of national reform.



From left to right: David Simon, Chairman – Australian Trucking Association (ATA); Richard Hancock CEO – NHVR; Stuart St. Clair, Chief Executive – ATA; Liz Schmidt, President – Australia Livestock and Rural Transport Association; the Hon. Scott Emerson MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads; Peter Garske, CEO – Queensland Trucking Association.

NHVR at BIC 2013

The NHVR team recently attended the BIC 2013 National Conference held in Adelaide from 27 - 30 October 2013, to speak with more than 400 frontline bus and coach operators and outline how the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) would impact on the bus industry.

NHVR CEO, Richard Hancock, participated in an industry panel session, while Andreas Blahous and Tim Hansen manned the NHVR booth, dealing with key issues such as extra mass requirements for buses with regards to passengers and luggage, and flexible fatigue management options for bus drivers.



From left to right: Agnes Wong, Executive, Bus SA; Andreas Blahous, NHVR; Tony Townsend, Chair, Bus SA; and Luran Huefner, Executive, Bus SA.

NHVR on the road

12-14 November

Alice Springs

- › National Local Roads and Transport Congress, Australian Local Government Association



Got a friend who needs to know?

If you know someone who needs to know about the national law, pass this newsletter on. Encourage them to sign up too!

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visit www.nhvr.gov.au
email info@nhvr.gov.au
fax 07 3309 8777
post PO Box 492, Fortitude Valley Q 4006
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