



# Road Vehicle Standards

## Testing Facilities – Overview

This overview summarises how to apply to become an approved testing facility under RVS legislation.

### Background

- The regulation of testing facilities is key to the Australian Government's ability to ensure Australians are provided with safe, secure and environmentally-friendly vehicles.
- This is because we rely on evidence from testing facilities when deciding whether a road vehicle or road vehicle component complies with the applicable national road vehicle standards.

### What is changing and why?

- The Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 (RVSA) is replacing the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (MVSA) and is being administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the department).
- The detail of how the new regulatory framework will operate is contained in subsidiary legislation, the Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019 (the Rules). The RVSA and other related legislation, is referred to collectively as the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation.
- Under RVS legislation, any test report evidence submitted must come from an approved testing facility under the RVSA. Testing facilities that wish to test road vehicles and road vehicle components for compliance with the applicable national road vehicle standards must apply for a testing facility approval.
- Under the MVSA (the legislation being replaced), test facilities only needed to be registered in the Road Vehicle Certification System (RVCS).
- Under the RVS legislation, applicants for type approvals, component type approvals or approval of a Model Report have the option to use results of testing from approved testing facilities as a form of evidence to demonstrate compliance.

### Who can apply?

- An individual or company may apply for approval of a testing facility.
- An authorised agent or company representative can also apply on behalf of the applicant. If an agent or representative applies on behalf of the applicant, they must have access to, and be able to provide, the relevant documents and information.

### What do testing facilities have to do differently?

- Test facilities registered with the department in RVCS who wish to continue to test road vehicles or road vehicle components under the RVS legislation must obtain a testing facility approval.
- One form of evidence demonstrating compliance with standards is results from testing conducted by a testing facility approval holder under the RVS legislation.
- Under the RVS legislation, a testing facility approval holder will have greater responsibilities to ensure compliance.

### How do I apply?

- The department uses an online IT service ROVER (the Road Vehicle Regulator system), which integrates all RVS legislation activities and approvals.
- To apply for a testing facility approval under RVS legislation, you must create an account in ROVER, complete an online application form and provide or upload the required information so that your application can be assessed.
- Creating an account in ROVER for agents or representatives requires details about the company or individual they will be creating the application on behalf of.

<p><b>Eligibility requirements/capabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretary (who is authorised under the RVS legislation to, amongst other things, grant or not grant an approval of a testing facility) needs to be satisfied that the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ has, or has access to, technology and equipment to adequately test road vehicles or road vehicle components under the testing facility approval</li> <li>○ has, or has access to, appropriately skilled personnel to carry out any testing under the testing facility approval</li> <li>○ will comply with each of the standard and specified conditions within the testing facility approval.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Complying with your responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The department monitors and enforces compliance with the RVS legislation under both the RVSA (applying penalties) and the Rules (obligations of an approval holder).</li> <li>• The department aims to encourage voluntary compliance, and undertakes informed risk-based compliance activities to confirm compliance with the RVS legislation. These compliance activities may involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ asking you to provide information in writing to assess whether you are complying with RVS legislation</li> <li>○ appointed inspectors physically entering premises to confirm compliance with RVS legislation (monitoring powers).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>What if I'm a registered test facility under RVCS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are registered as a test facility in RVCS and have a registration number, you will need to input your RVCS test facility registration number in your online application.</li> <li>• If you held multiple registration numbers, you may apply to have all testing facilities approved under the one testing facility approval under the RVS legislation. The selection of test facility registration numbers will be validated in ROVER.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What if I don't comply?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the RVS legislation, offences and civil penalty provisions may apply when a person (individual or company): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ breaches a condition of their approval</li> <li>○ breaches an obligation to provide records after an approval ceases to be in force</li> <li>○ provides a false or misleading declaration</li> <li>○ provides false or misleading information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If the department identifies non-compliance, our response will be proportionate to the risk being managed. Our response may include issuing infringement notices, applying for civil penalty orders or injunctions, or entering into enforceable undertakings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>More information</b></p> <p>More detailed information is available in the VSS.GUI.07v3– Guide to Testing Facilities</p> <p>Or you can contact us:</p> <p>Visit: <a href="https://infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/">infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:RVSAimplementation@infrastructure.gov.au">RVSAimplementation@infrastructure.gov.au</a></p> <p>Phone: 1800 815 272 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm AEST, within Australia)</p> <p>Phone: +61 2 6274 7444 (from overseas)</p>	

**Disclaimer:** Please note this information is a brief summary of VSS.GUI.07v3 – Guide to Testing Facilities. We do not make any guarantees about the completeness of the information above as it is intended as easy-to-read background material/'quick guide' only.