



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications



➤ Non-RAV entry import approvals

A guide

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Non-RAV entry import approval

A non-RAV entry import approval under the Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019 allows for an approval holder to import a vehicle that is not eligible to be on the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) for a specific purpose or temporary period.

What is a non-RAV entry import approval?



Under the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (RVSA), if you plan to import a road vehicle into Australia you are required to apply to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the department) for an approval to import the vehicle.

Road vehicles that are intended to be used regularly on public roads must be entered on the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) before they are provided to the Australian market. Vehicles being imported for specific purposes or for a limited period of time and are not intended to be used on public roads, or only used on public roads in exceptional circumstances, can seek a non-RAV entry import approval.

Before applying for an approval, you should read these guidelines explaining how to apply and outlining the eligibility requirements.

Full details of non-RAV entry import approvals are in the [Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019](#), sections 147 to 158.

What is the Register of Approved Vehicles?

The RAV is an online database of vehicles that meet the requirements of the RVS legislation and have been approved for provision to the Australia market.

Once entered on the RAV a vehicle is available for registration by a state or territory registration authority (pending the regulatory requirements of the particular state or territory).

The [Register of Approved Vehicles](#) is a publicly searchable database.

Why do I need an approval to import my vehicle?

Under section 22 of the RVSA it is an offence to import a road vehicle into Australia without an approval. The department manages the approval process through its online application system, [ROVER](#). You must apply to the department for approval to import a road vehicle **before** importing the vehicle.

What are the eligibility requirements of a non-RAV entry import approval?

The eligibility requirements of a non-RAV entry import approval are:

- The road vehicle is being imported for a purpose that
 - does not involve use on a public road, OR
 - involves use on a public road only in [exceptional circumstances](#), AND
- Any of the following applies in relation to the road vehicle to be imported:
 - It will be used only in a race or rally, or in providing support to a vehicle used in a race or rally
 - It will be used only in a public exhibition and is not [generally available](#) in Australia
 - It will be used only in the production of a film, video, television program or advertisement
 - It will be used only for testing or market evaluation
 - It is a significantly modified vehicle (including a hot rod)
- Another eligibility criterion a road vehicle may meet is that the import is ‘temporary’, meaning the vehicle will only remain in Australia for a temporary period (12 months or less) and, during that period, will not be used on a public road or will only be used on a public road in exceptional circumstances.

In order for your non-RAV application to be approved you are required to meet the eligibility requirements. These are set out in full at Sections 151 and 152 of the [Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019](#).

What are ‘exceptional circumstances’?

Using a vehicle on a public road in ‘exceptional circumstances’ does not have a specific legal definition under the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation.

Each case must be decided on its merits. However, some examples of exceptional circumstances may include:

- one-off functions, a visit by a head-of-state or church leader, for example, a G20 broadcast van or the ‘Pope-mobile’
- short-trip access to a specific site for the purpose that the vehicle’s use was approved for
- support for a charity function.

Exceptional circumstances may also include situations where road use occurs regularly but road use is controlled or limited by registration authorities.

When applying for a non-RAV entry approval you must specify the planned use of the vehicle, including any public road use.

If you are planning to use the vehicle on a public road in exceptional circumstances you may be asked to provide permission documentation from the relevant state or territory authority where the vehicle will be used. Alternatively, a condition may be imposed on the non-RAV entry approval that you will seek such permission before using the vehicle on a public road.

What does ‘generally available’ in Australia mean?

Under the non-RAV entry approval option to import a vehicle only for use in a public exhibition, the vehicle must not be generally available in Australia.

The term ‘generally available’ means that, either:

- the vehicle is not available for purchase in Australia, or
- the vehicle may be difficult to acquire due to rarity, condition of locally available vehicles, remote location and difficulty of transport within Australia or if there is a long waiting time for the vehicle to be available.

If you are applying for the 'public exhibition' option, you should have information relating to the non-availability of the vehicle you are applying to import, for example, a data search of the vehicle.

Important: Please see the [Glossary of terms](#) on our website for a comprehensive list of road vehicle standards terms and their definitions.

Applying for a non-RAV entry import approval

This section explains how to apply for a non-RAV entry import approval. If you are considering importing a non-RAV road vehicle you should read this information before you apply.

Who may apply for a non-RAV entry import approval?

Any person may apply for a non-RAV entry import approval.

An agent may also apply on behalf of the applicant.

To apply for a non-RAV entry import approval you (or your agent) must first [create an account in ROVER](#) and supply identification details.

When do I need to apply?

You must submit an application for an import approval **before** importing the vehicle. To import a vehicle without permission is an offence under the RVSA and penalties may apply. Allow enough time to apply for your application to be assessed before your planned importation date. It may take up to 30 business days for an import approval application to be assessed and a decision made.

How do I apply?



After you have created an account in ROVER click on the 'Single Road Vehicle' option. You will be asked a series of questions from the online application form which will direct you through the non-RAV entry approval pathway. You will be required to upload documents, where necessary, to support your application. At the end of the application you are required to sign a declaration about the information you have supplied.

Can I make changes to my application?

When you start a new application, ROVER will allow you to save your work, exit the system and return to your saved work as and when you need to. At any time **before** submission, you can change the details of your saved application.

If you need to make changes **after** submitting your application, the following scenarios cover how changes are managed:

- if the application has been submitted but not paid, you can withdraw the application and start a new application
- if the application has been submitted and paid, the application will have a status of 'in progress'. You can either:
 - notify the department that a change is required and provide further information when requested (noting this may delay the process), or
 - withdraw the application and start a new application (please note: a new application fee is payable if you choose to do this).

What information do I need to apply?

Before you apply for a non-RAV entry import approval it is advisable to have the information you are required to supply with the application ready. Some of the information will be different depending on which option you are choosing to apply for under the non-RAV entry approval pathway. The information may include:

- Details of the vehicle you are applying to import, including the type of vehicle, (car, motorbike, truck, trailer, etc.) make, model and year of manufacture (if known).
- VIN or chassis number
- Clear photos of the vehicle you are applying to import. Photos that identify the vehicle taken in a clear and well-lit area. Photos taken from the front, rear and side of the vehicle.
- No use of the vehicle on a public road or use only in exceptional circumstances
 - Approval by relevant state/territory authority to use the vehicle on a public road (in exceptional circumstances); OR
 - You may make a declaration on your application form that such approval will be sought; OR
 - You may make a declaration on your application form that the vehicle will not be used on a public road.
- Details of any contraventions of road vehicle legislation (or contraventions which *may* have been made) by the applicant or, if the applicant is a body corporate, by the key management personnel.
- Period of use that the vehicle will be required for.
- Application specific information as set out in Table 1.

Important: You must apply online through the department's application portal [ROVER](#).

Table 1

Non-RAV entry import approval option	Examples of information required
Race or rally (or support vehicle for race/rally)	<p>Details of the event or series name (including organiser and location).</p> <p>Whether the vehicle being applied for is a race/rally vehicle or a support vehicle (including vehicle features to show suitability as race/rally or support vehicle)</p> <p>Competitor information, including club membership.</p>
Public exhibition	<p>Details of the public exhibition, including documentation authorising the vehicle use in the exhibition (for example, a letter from the museum indicating the vehicle will be used in an exhibition).</p> <p>Documentation demonstrating the vehicle is not generally available in Australia (for example records of a data search under the make/model).</p>
Film, video television program or advertisement	<p>Details of the type of production the vehicle will be used in.</p> <p>Details of the vehicle use and written agreement from a production company or film body (for example, Film Victoria) setting out the intended use of the vehicle.</p>
Testing or market evaluation	<p>Purpose of testing (for example, type approval or model report).</p> <p>How the vehicle will be used during the testing/evaluation period.</p> <p>Details of the applicant's approval to carry out testing and market evaluation (for example vehicle type approval or testing facility approval).</p> <p>Details of the number of vehicles required for testing (note: each vehicle must have a separate application).</p> <p>Period of time the vehicle will be in Australia.</p> <p>Intended use of the vehicle after testing/evaluation is complete.</p>
Significantly modified (including hot rod)	<p>Information about the type of vehicle being imported (significantly modified or a custom built hot rod.)</p> <p>Original specifications of the vehicle.</p> <p>Details of modifications to the vehicle (including dates of modifications).</p> <p>If the vehicle is a hot rod – details of the special features that relate to the hot rod.</p>
Temporary	<p>Details of how the vehicle will be used during the temporary period it will be in Australia.</p> <p>Date range of the temporary period (projected arrival and export dates).</p> <p>Where the vehicle will be exported to.</p>

Important: All vehicles being applied for under the non-RAV entry import approval option are not to be used on public roads, OR if they are being applied to be used on a public road, the use must be only in exceptional circumstances.

What if I need to supply more information?

Sometimes during an assessment an assessor may require further information so that they can assess your application. For example, they may not be able to identify your vehicle if the photos supplied were taken in a poorly lit garage. Or they may require relevant documents about why the vehicle is being imported.

If this happens, the assessor will send a 'Request further information' (RFI) notice. You will be sent an email notifying you that an RFI is in your ROVER account.

To respond to the RFI, access your ROVER account and open the RFI notice. The additional information required for your application to be able to be assessed will be clearly requested in the notice. You will be given a period of time to respond to the RFI (usually 30 days). If you require more time you should contact the department to request more time to respond.

How much is the application fee?

At the time of submitting the application you are required to pay an application fee of \$60 for the application to be assessed and decided upon. This fee is based on cost-recovery of processing the application and is generally non-refundable (except in exceptional circumstances).

Checklist – am I ready to apply?

Before you create an account in ROVER

- ✓ Are you an agent or representative of the applicant? If yes, do you have an electronic copy of your [authority to act](#) on behalf of the applicant?
- ✓ Do you have the relevant proof of identity documents required by the [ROVER account creation](#) process?

Before you start the application

- ✓ Have you created an account in ROVER?
- ✓ Do you have information identifying the road vehicle you are applying to import?
- ✓ Do you have clear images of the vehicle you are applying to import?
- ✓ Have you identified who will be the primary contact for the approval and their details?
- ✓ Do you have supporting information to show that you meet the eligibility criteria? (Refer to – [What information do I need to apply?](#))
- ✓ Do you understand the responsibilities of being an approval holder and what you are expected to do to comply with those responsibilities?

Outcome of the application

This section covers the possible outcomes of an application for a non-RAV entry import approval.

When will I find out the result of my application?

A decision will be made on a non-RAV entry import application within 30 business days of the application being submitted.

If further information is needed to support the application the 30 business-day timeframe is paused until the required information is supplied by the applicant. When the additional information is received the timeframe re-commences.

What are the possible outcomes of my application?

There are 3 possible outcomes to the application process for a non-RAV entry import approval:

- Your application is granted and you receive an import approval notice through the ROVER system.
- Your application is refused to be granted. In this case, you will be notified before this decision is made and allowed to submit further information to support your application or address any deficiencies.
- Your application is refused to be considered. This will only happen if:
 - You did not submit the application fee (you will receive warnings if the payment has not been made)
 - You did not apply on the approved form (if you are having trouble using the online form [contact the help desk](#))
 - You did not provide information required by the application (you will be contacted if you have left out information that is required in the application and given time to provide the required information).

Why do I have conditions on my approval?

All approvals issued under the RVS legislation have conditions included with the approval.

A non-RAV entry import approval is subject to a range of conditions, including to:

- allow or arrange for the vehicle to be inspected if requested to do so. This inspection may be done online rather than a physical inspection
- provide any information or documents specified in a written request from the Minister or inspector that is reasonably required to assess whether the approval holder is complying with the RVS legislation, including information about the vehicle to which the approval applies.

Other conditions that **may** be applied to the approval, include requirements that:

- the approval holder exports or destroys the vehicle to which the approval applies within a specified period and provides evidence that this has been done within the specified period
- the vehicle, or any modification, is verified by an [authorised vehicle verifier](#) (AVV)
- the approval holder keeps specified records for a specified period and provides them when requested to do so by the Minister or an inspector
- prohibit the approval holder from giving another person access to the vehicle to which the approval applies
- specify how the vehicle to which the approval applies may be used.

The conditions that apply to your approval (if granted) will be clearly outlined in your approval notice.

Complying with your responsibilities

Under the RVS legislation, offences and civil penalty provisions apply when a person (individual or company):

- breaches a condition of the approval
- makes a false or misleading declaration
- provides false or misleading information.

If the department identifies non-compliance, its response will be proportionate to the risk being managed. This may include issuing infringement notices, applying for civil penalty orders or injunctions or entering into enforceable undertakings.

What if I am not happy with the outcome of my application?

If the outcome of your application is a refusal to grant (or a refusal to consider), you may apply to the [Administrative Appeals Tribunal](#) (AAT) for a review of the decision.

How do I make changes to my approval?

After you have been granted a non-RAV entry import approval, you may make changes as your circumstances may have changed since the approval was granted. There are three types of changes that you can request: vary, suspend, or revoke your approval.

The department has the authority to do the same in certain circumstances, for example, if you have breached a condition of your approval.

Vary an approval

You may want a change to your approval or choose to update certain information held by us regarding your approval.

To do this, you need to request a variation to your approval. The application must be made on the approved form in ROVER with the required information and documents.

A request for variation is assessed in a similar way to a new application. We may request further information and may refuse to consider the application if that information is not provided.

In making a decision, we must be satisfied that you will meet the conditions of the varied approval.

Suspend or revoke an approval

You may request a suspension or revocation of your approval. This may occur, for example, if you decide that you do not want to import your vehicle or that the importation process has been delayed and you are unsure as to when you will be importing it to Australia.

Suspension or revocation requests are treated differently to variation requests. A request for suspension or revocation does not have to occur by an approved system form—you may submit it via ROVER, email, or mail.

Once we receive a suspension or revocation request, we will suspend or revoke the approval as soon as practicable.

Appendix 1 – Legislation relating to non-RAV entry import approvals

This section provides useful links and information relating to the RVS legislation:

- [The Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 \(RVSA\)](#)
- [Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019](#)
- [Australian Government Charging Framework](#)
- [Privacy Policy – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications](#)

Appendix 2 – Further information

For further information, please:

Visit: [RVS legislation implementation](#) webpages

Email: RVSAimplementation@infrastructure.gov.au (for general RVSA information)

ROVERinfo@infrastructure.gov.au (for ROVER assistance)

Phone: 1800 815 272 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm AEST, within Australia)

Phone: +61 2 6274 7444 (calling from overseas)