



Road Motor Vehicle - Certification

FACTSHEET

Certification and supply to the market

The Australian Government maintains a system that generally requires road vehicles meet national standards set out in the Australian Design Rules (ADRs), before supply to the Australian market. The [Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989](#) and the [Motor Vehicle Standards Regulations 1989](#) establishes this system. The ADRs deliver levels of vehicle safety, emission control and anti-theft protection expected by the Australian community. New vehicles supplied to the Australian market must meet the national standards for that category of vehicle under a type approval system.

Application Process for Identification Plate Approval (IPA)

The Australian Government manages an electronic application / approval system called [Road Vehicle Certification System](#) (RVCS). This system is an online portal for registered licensees to make applications for Identification Plate Approval (IPA). The Vehicle Safety Standards (VSS) Branch within the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (Infrastructure) administers RVCS. Before commencing proceedings to certify a road vehicle, we recommend prospective applicants read this factsheet carefully and take the time to understand the obligations under the legislation for supplying road motor vehicles to the market.

[A guide](#) is available to help individuals and representatives of businesses or companies to gain awareness and knowledge of the different certification schemes and type approvals.

Additional information on the [Certification Procedures for New Motor Vehicles](#) is available online.

Licensees

Individuals or representatives of businesses or companies intending to supply new road vehicles to the Australian market must register as a licensee in RVCS. Licensee registration forms are available from the RVCS website. Following registration, the licensee will receive a unique username and password for access to the online portal in RVCS and information specific to their application(s). Licensees will need to download and install the software (Informed Filler) to retrieve the suite of forms for completion.

Agents

Licensees may appoint one or more agents to lodge applications on their behalf. An agent is able to provide assistance with the certification process, since this can be quite complex. The agent is authorised to act on a licensee's behalf by completing the relevant sections on the Licensee Registration Form or at any time after by completing an Agent Registration Form.

[A list of agents](#) is available on the RVCS website.

Submission

A licensee or their agent(s) may apply for IPA by submitting an application form for Compliance Approval (CA). Ensure all Summary of Evidence (SE) forms for the applicable ADRs are complete. The Agent is not responsible for each vehicle's compliance with the relevant ADRs; this responsibility rests solely with the licensee.

Design and Production Facilities

At the time of registration, each licensee is required to register the Design and Production Facilities used for the manufacture of the vehicle to which the application applies. This information is collected for the purposes of scheduling the [Conformity of Production \(COP\) audits](#).

Conformity of Production (COP) Audits

Audits are an integral part of the Australian vehicle certification system. VSS uses a [COP audit](#) process to confirm that all road vehicles supplied to the market by licensees comply with the ADRs and relevant IPAs.

Licensees must confirm a quality plan is in use within their organisation, which ensures identification plates are fitted only on vehicles of that type approval. Licensees must also demonstrate control of their design and manufacturing processes to guarantee all vehicles are manufactured to the correct specifications.

Compliance obligations

Licensees should be aware that providing false and misleading information to the Australian Government is a serious offence and may result in penalties.

The department will continue to undertake compliance activities to ensure vehicle import approvals and declarations meet requirements, in conjunction with other law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

Further information

Please contact the Vehicle Safety Standard (VSS) Branch in Infrastructure, on 1800 815 272 or vcs.roads@infrastructure.gov.au if you have any questions about information in this fact sheet.