

Vehicle Standards Information



40

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Registration of left-hand drive vehicles

Introduction

New South Wales legislation requires that:

- A motor vehicle with Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) over 4.5 tonnes must have right-hand drive.
- A motor vehicle with a GVM not over 4.5 tonnes must have right-hand drive if the vehicle is:
 - less than 30 years old.
 - required by the law to have right-hand drive.

Under these requirements left-hand drive vehicles that are 30 years old or older and have a GVM not over 4.5 tonnes may be registered in left-hand drive configuration.

Requirements

Is modification required?

Although vehicles covered by these requirements do not need to have right-hand drive they may need to be modified to adapt them to the Australian driving environment.

Such modifications include:

- Headlights, that when dipped from high to low beam, dip down, or down and to the left.
- Flat external mirrors on the driver's and passenger's sides of the vehicle that give the driver a clear view to the rear and of any following or overtaking vehicles.

These left-hand drive vehicles must meet the NSW roadworthiness requirements as well as the vehicle standards requirements, including any Australian Design Rules (ADR's) that applied at the time of manufacture.

If you are unsure if your vehicle meets NSW vehicle standards requirements or the required ADR's, you should consult a signatory [see Vehicle Standards Information (VSI) No. 15 for a list of signatories].

The installation of a sign at the rear of the vehicle that displays the words "Left-hand drive" is optional.

Registration

To register your left-hand drive vehicle you will need to provide the following:

- Proof of identity (eg. current passport or current NSW drivers licence).
- Proof of acquisition (eg. current certificate of registration, bill of sale, etc.).
- Inspection report ('blue slip') from an Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Station (AUVIS).
- Compulsory Third Party Insurance ("green slip").
- Weighbridge certificate.

(Contact the RTA Customer Service Centre on 13 2213 for your nearest AUVIS or weighbridge station).

Please be aware that your vehicle may also be required to undergo an RTA identity inspection.

If your vehicle is a Personally Imported Vehicle, you must in addition, also supply:

- Evidence of Australian citizenship such as a passport or citizenship certificate. Migrants must provide proof that they have been granted permanent resident status in Australia.
- All importation papers for the vehicle.
- A vehicle import approval from the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services.

Note: VSI No. 4 'Imported vehicles' contains more detailed information about the registration of imported vehicles. It is available free of charge at any motor registry or at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

Other left-hand drive vehicles

Other vehicles that are built or used mainly for purposes other than the transport of goods or passengers by road may also be eligible for registration with left-hand drive.

Some of these vehicles are:

- a) Engineering or market evaluation vehicles (see also VSI No. 20).
- b) Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) such as automated garbage collection vehicles or street sweepers that need to have left-hand drive added (dual control) to enable them to perform their intended purpose.
- c) SPVs such as large mobile cranes that are only available with left-hand drive.

Except for having left-hand drive, these vehicles must still comply with all the vehicle standards requirements specified in the Regulation.



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