



Vehicle Safety Branch Information Bulletin

Special provisions for light LEFT HAND DRIVE VEHICLES Older than 15, but less than 30 years Vehicles not exceeding 4.5 tonnes GVM

Scope.

In the recent past, certain left hand drive (LHD) vehicles that were more than 15 years old, on the date at which the owner applied for registration, were able to be conditionally licensed in Western Australia without the need for right hand drive conversion. These provisions were essentially intended to give the enthusiast the opportunity to licence classic left hand drive vehicles without the need to execute modifications that depreciated the value and/or the originality of the vehicle.

This policy has now been incorporated in the published Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 (Rules-2002) and applies to vehicles which are more than 15 years, but less than 30 years old, and are not over 4.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM).

The Rules-2002 does not allow LHD vehicles less than 30 years old to be used for commercial purposes, e.g. motor wagons, taxis, private taxis, omnibuses, school buses and all manner of hire vehicles.

The Rules-2002 has provisions for vehicles intended for ***personal use*** only - i.e. use of the vehicle by, or for, the carriage of family and friends. All left hand drive vehicles registered under the provisions of the Rules-2002 will display the following advisory note on the registration documents reminding owners of this fact.

305 Left hand drive vehicle – licensed for personal use only.

Left Hand Drive vehicles under 4.5 tonnes that are more than 30 years old are not restricted in their usage in so far as the Rules-2002 is concerned. Consequently the advisory note will not appear on vehicles more than 30 years old.

However persons wishing to use these vehicles for commercial purposes such as taxis, omnibuses etc must ensure that that other relevant legislation covering the use of these vehicles does not prohibit their use.



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When did the new provisions commence?

The new provisions took effect from the date of publication of Government Gazette N° 1 of January 3, 2003.

What do I do if I already have a LHD vehicle registered under the previous policy?

You will need to take your vehicle to a Department Transport Vehicle Examination Centre when the annual examination for your vehicle falls due.

Unless you have a specially licensed vehicle (for example a trial and evaluation vehicle) your vehicle will be examined and re-classified as an unconditionally licensed vehicle, i.e. it will be licensed A-Class. The need for a LHD warning sign and the annual inspection requirement will be removed from your vehicle's licence record.

Your vehicle's licence papers will include the advisory note mentioned in the Scope of this document, reminding you that the vehicle may only be used for personal use. If your vehicle is more than 30 years old, the advisory note will not appear on the vehicle licence.

What do I need to do to licence my LHD vehicle?

Written prior approval for the licensing of these vehicles will not be required. Providing the vehicle is accompanied by adequate proof of ownership (e.g. receipt of purchase, or previous vehicle licence showing present owner's name) and the appropriate import approval documents from the Australian Customs Service, the vehicle may be taken to any Transport Examination Centre for inspection.

Imported vehicles must also be accompanied by an import approval document from the Department Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS/ Infrastructure) .

In circumstances, such as in remote country centres, where it is not practical to utilise Department of Transport facilities, alternative arrangements can be made by contacting the Technical Officer (Imports) on telephone 92163882.



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Temporary Permit: It is important to note that a temporary permit is required to drive the vehicle from the wharf or from a shipping agent's premises to a place of vehicle repair or to a Vehicle Examination Centre. Temporary Permits incorporate Third Party Insurance cover that is not otherwise obtainable for the vehicle until it is licensed. Temporary Permits may be obtained at any Department of Transport Licensing Centre and may also be obtained by ringing telephone number 131156.

The telephone service is available state-wide. You will be asked for your vehicle's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or engine number and for your credit card details.

Left Hand Drive Warning Sign: A left hand drive warning sign no longer needs to be displayed on vehicles under 4.5 tonnes GVM. Owners who wish to display the sign may continue to do so.

The vehicle must undergo and pass a thorough vehicle inspection at a Vehicle Examination Centre. Following inspection, the Certificate of Inspection together with proof of ownership and all other importation documents must be presented in order to complete the registration process.

What work should I do before presenting the vehicle for inspection?

Vehicles built for use in Australia must comply with standards known as the Australian Design Rules (ADRs). The ADRs that apply vary according to the date of manufacture and the category of the vehicle in question. See *Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles -Guidelines for Importers IB 114 if the vehicle is not a personal import*. The Rules-2002 provides a partial exemption from most of the ADR requirements for vehicles that have been **personally imported** as stated in the *Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 rule 17*. However no exemption applies for the following ADR related items.

All vehicles must comply, according to their category and date of manufacture with the following:

- seat belts that are as effective as seat belts that meet an Australian Standard or British Standard for seat belts (American and Japanese seat belts are deemed to be as effective provided that are adequately identified as having been made to a standard);
- seat belt anchorages that meet the number and location requirements of second or third edition ADR 5;
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- child restraint anchorages that meet the number, location, accessibility, thread size and form requirements of second edition ADR 34 or third edition ADR 5 or 34; and
- head restraints that meet the number, location and size requirements of second or third edition ADR 22.

Information relating to the applicable Australian Design Rule requirements can be obtained from the Technical Officer (Imports).

Notwithstanding the ADR partial exemptions, personally imported vehicles must comply with the general provisions of the Rules-2002 and with the provisions of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002.

In order to satisfy these requirements it is recommended that the following work be carried out prior to presenting the vehicle at an Examination Centre:

- Ensure the vehicle is roadworthy
- Headlamps must dip to the left, or meet ECE Specifications for right hand drive vehicles
- Rear indicator lenses must be amber for vehicles manufactured after June 1973. Prior to that date indicator lenses may be red. The indicator must be a separate globe from the brake light.
- All vehicles must be fitted with two flat external side mirrors, one fitted on each side.

Note:

Whilst there are no mandatory requirements for the installation of seat belts to vehicles manufactured prior to December 31, 1968, their fitment is encouraged. All belts installed must comply with relevant Australian Standards and must be fitted strictly in accordance with the seat belt manufacturer's fitting instructions.

The **correct fitment** of seat belts is essential. It is recommended that advice be sought from the Senior Vehicle Examiner at the nearest Examination Centre or from the Technical Officer (Imports), if difficulties are encountered.



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In certain circumstances the services of a professional engineer may be required to verify the suitability of complex modifications. A list of engineers with vehicle modification experience is available from the Vehicle Safety Branch.

What should I do if I decide to convert my LHD vehicle to right hand drive?

It is recommended that those persons who import left hand drive vehicles intended for regular and extensive use, convert their vehicles prior to registration. To assist in this regard a National Code of Practice entitled:-

Vehicle Standards Bulletin Number 4 Steering conversions for left hand drive vehicles (VSB4) is available free of charge from the Technical Officer (Imports). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the DOTARS/Infrastructure website: www.infrastructure.gov.au

The bulletin describes various methods of steering conversion and the minimum standards of workmanship expected.

Important Advice for Owners of LHD Vehicles Intending to Move Permanently to Another State or Territory

Owners of vehicles registered in WA under the LHD provisions that intend moving permanently to another State or Territory should seek advice from the relevant registration authority as to the status of their vehicle/s **prior** to moving.

It is important to note that certain LHD vehicles **may not be able to be registered** in other States or Territories of Australia because the 15 year rule for LHD vehicles is unique to WA.

Enquiries

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