



Vehicle Safety Branch Information Bulletin

Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles - Guidelines for Importers

Introduction

The following guidelines have been introduced to assist Vehicle Importers who may wish to purchase and supply imported vehicles for registration in Western Australia.

For the purposes of this document a “Vehicle Importer” is defined as a person or a business importing one or more vehicles either for personal use or for resale.

Note that a person or a business importing vehicles into WA for resale must become a registered Motor Vehicle Dealer before selling them to the market regardless of the number of vehicles that are imported. Heavy penalties apply to a person or organisation that is not licensed under the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973 to sell vehicles.

The Department of Transport (Transport) has revised procedures to ensure that imported vehicles, over 15 years old, comply with relevant Australian Design Rules (ADRs) for the relevant year of manufacture before they can be registered in WA. In some cases where it is not feasible to demonstrate compliance with ADRs it may be acceptable to demonstrate compliance with the intent of the ADRs.

This Circular to Industry describes the procedures and the technical requirements that apply when a vehicle importer modifies a vehicle.

Vehicle Compliance

Vehicle Importers have the responsibility to ensure that a vehicle complies with the relevant ADRs prior to it being released to the market place or sold to a client. It should be understood that to meet the required standards some of the modifications required might be complex and costly.

Imported motor vehicles built overseas are generally built to different specifications to those required for the Australian market. When a vehicle is imported the Vehicle Safety Branch will initially require that certain information be submitted before it can be considered for licensing.

A “Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report for Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles” is to be completed and endorsed by a Transport approved Consulting Engineer or Organisation.



Where modifications are necessary they must comply with the relevant ADRs. Only an approved Organisation and/or Consulting Engineer can approve them. (Vehicle Safety Branch may insist that only an Engineer can approve certain modifications.)

Vehicle Importer Requirements

Vehicle Importers have the primary responsibility to carry out whatever modifications are needed to meet the requirements of the ADRs.

Vehicle Importers should use the “Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report” as a checklist. However the items listed on this form may not be comprehensive, and the Importers should familiarise themselves with all technical requirements contained in the ADRs applicable to the vehicles category and year of manufacture.

The Consulting Engineer or Approved Organisation should identify all modifications that are required and advise the importers as to how these should be executed to ensure compliance.

Audits

An Importer must keep comprehensive records of all vehicles imported and details of modifications performed. A copy of the DOTARS/Infrastructure Import Approval document and Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report for each vehicle must be kept for auditing purposes.

Audits may be conducted from time to time as determined by Transport’s Vehicle Safety Branch Technical Section.

Future reports may not be accepted from any individual or organisation that has been found to have inadequate audit facilities or fails to satisfy audit requirements.

Continued Compliance with ADRs

Vehicle importers have a responsibility to ensure that any modifications are performed in accordance with sound engineering practice, and they should have evidence that the vehicle will maintain its structural integrity and it will continue to comply with the ADRs. An Engineer’s Report will usually be sufficient evidence.

Approved Engineers or Approved Organisations

An approved Organisation is one that has been accepted as a DOTARS/Infrastructure “Registered Automotive Workshop”. A list of these businesses can be obtained by contacting DOTARS.



An approved Engineer is one who has been approved by Transport to compile Vehicle Compliance Inspection Reports. A list of these engineers and organisations is attached.

Other business entities could also be considered as approved Organisations if they have the same level of certification as is required of a “Registered Automotive Workshop”.

Consulting Engineers or Approved Organisations should not take on consultancy work unless they are aware of Transport’s requirements in relation to imported motor vehicles. Consulting Engineers must be able to provide professional advice to an owner, undertake technical assessments and produce competent engineering reports.

Dispute Resolution

Vehicle Safety Branch can be approached for adjudication if a dispute arises over technical matters concerning the ADRs or WA vehicle standards.

Issues such as payments for consultancy fees, quality of work and other commercial considerations will need to be resolved by the parties involved.

Vehicle Dimensions

Vehicle Importers must ensure that each vehicle meets the dimensional requirements of Part 7 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002. This is particularly important in the case of commercial vehicles and vehicles such as campervans and caravans. Many of these vehicles have been imported with excessive rear overhang, or doors on the wrong side of the vehicle resulting in extremely costly modifications.

Other Related (Vehicle Safety Branch) Documents

These documents are available upon request from the Vehicle Safety Branch.

- Circular to Industry Bulletin CI-118B
- Second edition Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report for Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles”. (VSB inspection report 1)
- Third edition Vehicle Compliance Inspection Report for Pre 1989 Imported Vehicles”. (VSB inspection report 2)



Signatory List of Approved Engineers or Organisations

Authorised to produce TRANSPORT Vehicle Inspection Reports on Imported Vehicles Pre 1989

Name	Business	Address	Tel/Mobile	Facsimile	Email
Romeo Hillerin MIEAust.	ROMARTA Automotive Consulting Engineer	12 Kearney Mews Marangaroo W A 6106	9342 6976 0417 996 229	9343 7589	romeoh@bigpond.net.au
Dan Pitic MIEAust.	ENDRACON Pty Ltd Automotive Consulting Engineer	6 Brighton Mews Hillarys W A 6025	9307 1436 0419 932 022	9307 1046	apitic@bigpond.net.au
Jack Apgar FIEAust.	W J Apgar	11 Telopia Dr Duncraig W A 6023	9246 1600	9447 7231	apgar@inet.net.au
Andre Syed BE., MEngSc. FIEAust		200 Burke Drive ATTADALE WA 6156	9330 4205 0410 393 850	9330 4205	
Don Stevens FIEAust	D E Stevens	183 Bateman Road Brentwood WA 6153	9364 9557	9364 9557	
Jay Daviot B Eng (Hon)	GTSA Engineering	P O Box 270 Maddington W A 6989	0408 958 007		jdaviot@gsta.biz
Brett Silich GradIEAust		5 Johanson Prm Murdoch 6150	0422 238 769		Brett.silich@inet.net.au



DOTARS	Registered	Approved	Workshops		
Name	Business	Address	Tel/Mobile	Facsimile	App/ Number
Bryan Hubbard	Down Under Auto Services Pty Ltd	8 Buckingham Drive Wangara W A 6065	9409 8887	9409 8837	10097
Frank Bempasciu to	C.A.M. (Cannington Auto Mart) Pty Ltd	1520 Albany Highway Cannington W A 6107	9350 9696	9350 5066	10115
Steve Fraser	Skipper Mitsubishi	P O Box 273 Victoria Park W A 6979	9334 3174	9334 3176	10119
Joe Pintaudi	West City Commercials	26 Stanford Way Malaga W A 6090	9248 8895	9248 8896	10160
Jimmy Balducci	JB W A	Unit 1/1520 Albany Highway Cannington W A 6107	0411 693 256	9451 2222	10206
Paul Hewitt	Autoworx Pty Ltd	2/38 Baretta Road Wangara W A 6065	9409 2445	9409 2445	10196
John Pollard	Lane Ford	P O Box 189 Mandurah W A 6210	9581 8191	9581 9990	10257
Regan Whitby	Distinctive Car Imports Pty Ltd	Unit 7/73 Buckingham Drive Wangara 6065	93095211 0411733211	93095262	10167
Rajesh Karan Andre Horsley	Jap Parts Plus W.A	5-7 Jade Street Maddington W A 6109	9493 2191	9493 1411	10333
Danny Fisher	Global Motorworks Pty Ltd	U1/25 Forward Street East Victoria Park W A 6101	9355 5101 0403065666	9355 5102	10218



Peter Nastasi	Autocomm Pty Ltd	2/1520 Albany Hwy Cannington W A 6107	9350 6969	94583335	10205
Peter Long	Commercial Pty Ltd	10 Millrose Drive Malaga W A 6090	9209 3588 0418917580	9209 3544	10282
Kevin Quinn	AAMCO Transmissions Pty Ltd	19 Sutcliffe Road Mundaring W A 6073	9295 6911	9295 6922	10041
Mike Steele	Autoco Vehicle Imports.	3 Irwin Road Wangara WA 6065	93094500	94094744	10307
Alistair Maxwell	Autoworx Pty Ltd	30 Baretta Road Wangara	9409 2445	9409 2446	10196
John Tighe	Formula Cars Pty Ltd	2A Prindiville Dve & Lindsay Road Wangara 6065	9302 1833	9302 1834	10410

Note: A search of the DOTARS/Infrastructure web site should be checked for any amendments or updated list of W.A approved Registered Approved Workshops at: www.infrastructue.gov.au

Vehicle Safety Branch

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