



Vehicle Safety Branch Circular to Industry

Immobiliser Scheme - Innovative Devices

Information for the Approval of Innovative Immobiliser and Anti-Theft Devices

Component manufacturers may submit innovative designs that may not be covered by the scope of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 (Rules-2002) for assessment by Department of Transport's (DoT) Vehicle Safety Branch (VSB). The following information will assist in the preparation of these applications.

Applications will need to be in writing and accompanied by a report from a suitably qualified person confirming that the device has equal or greater security than the codes specified in the Rule 176 of the Rules-2002. The report must also confirm that the device has the necessary reliability to ensure the continued safe operation of the vehicles to which it is fitted. Immobilisers may be submitted for approval at two levels:

Type A *For use in vehicles not required by the regulations to be fitted with an immobiliser. This includes vehicles that are not transferred or sold by the current owner, vehicles more than 25 years old and any other vehicles exempted under the regulations.*

Type B *For installation into vehicles which are required by the regulations to be fitted with an approved device (immobiliser) for the purposes of transfer.*

Submission to VSB - Details

The submission shall include a sample of the immobiliser device, a copy of the installation instructions, a copy of the report from a suitably qualified person and any other supporting relevant information.

The report should describe the operation of the immobiliser device. It should also demonstrate that the device conforms to the *General Guidelines for All Anti-Theft Devices and Immobilisers* specified below.

If the device is of a similar design to a currently approved immobiliser, then a comparison with the relevant Standard (eg ECE 97 Part III) should be carried out. If the method of immobilisation is different from the typical devices then a more detailed assessment is required.

VSB will assess the device. VSB reserves the right to employ a third party organisation to assist with the assessment process.



General Guidelines for all Anti-Theft Devices and Immobilisers

The following guidelines apply to all anti-theft devices and immobilisers fitted to registered vehicles. These apply to, immobilisers fitted by the vehicle manufacturer, immobilisers complying with the Vehicle Engine Immobiliser Scheme (VEIS) and to any other device fitted as an immobiliser or anti-theft device.

- the device or use of the device must not cause the vehicle to contravene the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002, Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002 (Rules-2002) or any Australian Design Rule (ADR) applicable to the vehicle in question
- the device, or it's method of installation must not be likely to cause a fire, or interfere with the operation of the vehicle in such a manner which is likely to compromise the safety of the vehicle or other road users
- the device must comply with any other emission standards required by any other applicable Australian laws with respect to noise and or radiation.

Note: Manufacturers and importers of devices that use low powered radio frequency (RF) remote controls must ensure the remote units comply with the Radiocommunications Standard AS 4268.2. Most immobilisers are excluded from compliance with emission standards because they are battery-operated devices, however some immobilisers may use technology that causes significant RF emissions. If RF is generated within these devices they may fall within the scope of AS/NZS 2064 and should be tested and labeled accordingly. It is the responsibility of each supplier to assess their products against the standards to determine whether their products are affected by these requirements.

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) is the body responsible for administering the laws relating to electromagnetic and radio-frequency emissions. More information is available from the Authority or its website, <http://www.aca.gov.au>.

Immobiliser Standards

As from the 1st July 1999, certain vehicles have been required to have an immobiliser fitted before a vehicle license can be issued or transferred. The principal aim of this legislation is to reduce car theft whilst ensuring the safety of the vehicle user.

These immobilisers are known as "**required immobilisers**" and the applicable standards are contained in the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002. (An excerpt from the Rules follows).

Required immobilisers

(1) A motor vehicle in relation to which an application is made for the grant or transfer of the licence for the vehicle must be fitted with one of the following immobilisers—

- (a) an immobiliser fitted to a vehicle by the manufacturer of the vehicle or a person authorised by the manufacturer, at the time the vehicle is being manufactured;
- (b) an immobiliser that complies with Part III ("Approval of immobilisers and approval of a vehicle with regard to its immobiliser") of ECE 97 "Vehicle



	Alarm Systems” published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
(c)	an immobiliser fitted to a vehicle as an integral part of an alarm system complying with AS/NZS 3749.1:1997 “Intruder alarm systems — Road vehicles”, jointly published by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand;
(d)	an immobiliser that complies with AS/NZS 4601:1999 “Vehicle immobilisers”, jointly published by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand;
(e)	an immobiliser —
	(i) fitted to a vehicle before 1 July 1999; and
	(ii) that is self-arming and immobilises the engine either by interrupting the fuel, ignition, starter or engine management system;
(f)	an immobiliser —
	(i) fitted to a vehicle before 1 January 2001; and
	(ii) that complies with “Specifications for Vehicle Immobiliser” published by the Department of Transport on 4 August 2000 and available from its Vehicle Safety Branch at 21 Murray Road South, Welshpool WA 6106;
(g)	a device known as the “GT2000 Gearlock Auto-armed Pinlock”, manufactured by “Grip-Tech (Pty) Ltd”, that is fitted to a vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Specific Requirements for Approval Types

Type A:

Type A devices essentially need to meet the requirements as specified in the *General Guidelines For All Anti-Theft Devices and Immobilisers*. (See above).

These devices may include a great variety of anti-theft products in addition to immobilisers. For example, anti-theft devices may include products such as brake locks, steering locks, ignition security shrouds, fuel system locks etc.

If the device is found to be suitable for use in a vehicle, the applicant will then be advised accordingly, in writing.

Note: *In-line brake lock devices:* A separate and item-specific policy exists for in-line brake lock devices. Since these devices are designed to be installed in a vehicle’s brake lines, they have the potential to be a road safety hazard. Special tests and installation provisions therefore apply. Persons wishing to market or install such devices must contact VSB for further details before proceeding with any vehicle installations.

Type B

Type B devices must conform with the *General Guidelines for all Anti-Theft Devices and Immobilisers*. They must also comply with the following:

- Submissions for approval will need to be accompanied by engineering reports confirming that the device has equal or greater security than the codes mentioned in the section entitled *Immobiliser Standards*.



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- The report will also need to demonstrate that the device has the necessary reliability to ensure the safe operation of the vehicles to which it is fitted.
- Devices under this category must be *self-arming* and it is recommended that designers/inventors use the existing standards as a guide to acceptable design parameters.

If, following the assessment process VSB considers that the device is suitable for use in a vehicle, then the device will be put forward for inclusion in the Rules-2002. The device may not be installed in vehicles for the purpose of registration or transfer until the necessary amendments to the Rules-2002 are gazetted.

Typically, these devices may have areas of minor non-compliance with the existing standards that may allow them to be accepted for registration purposes.

Where the device is radically different from any existing product, designers/inventors need to be aware that they may need to train existing installers or set up an installation network for their product.

A document outlining the requirements for these submissions is available from VSB.

Other Information Available From DoT

Circular to Industry CI-107A

Immobiliser Scheme - Technical Requirements

Circular to Industry CI-110A

Immobilisers Scheme – Additional Immobiliser Information for Motor Vehicle Dealers

Website: www.immobilisers.wa.gov.au

Address for Correspondence:

The written submission should be forwarded to the Manager Vehicle Standards at the following address:

Vehicle Safety Branch

Department of Transport
21 Murray Road South (corner of Welshpool Rd)
WELSHPOOL WA 6106
Telephone (08) 9216 3880 Facsimile (08) 9216 3899

Disclaimer:

This information is provided in good faith to assist applicants in the process of having new and innovative anti-theft devices approved for use on road vehicles. Laws and regulations are subject to change or amendment. It is therefore the applicants responsibility to be aware of the laws governing the use and installation of these devices and ensure that their products conform with these requirements.