



## Vehicle Safety Branch Information Bulletin

# Modifying Heavy Vehicles

### *Do you intend to modify your heavy vehicle?*

The following information may be of assistance, particularly if you travel interstate.

Prior to 1995, most vehicles modified in Western Australia needed prior documented approval for the modifications from the Department of Transport's, Vehicle Safety Branch. This was necessary to ensure that the modifications were completed to an acceptable standard, and to ensure that the modified vehicle operated safely. Following the completion of work, the modified vehicle was (and still is) required to undergo an inspection by a Department of Transport vehicle examiner.

To assist the industry, the approval process for most heavy vehicle modifications was streamlined with the introduction of the Authorised Modification Scheme for Heavy Vehicles and by the implementation of alternative inspection procedures.

### *Authorised Modification Scheme for Heavy Vehicles*

In essence, the scheme is set up to give approval to organisations that meet certain standards to perform certain modifications.

These organisations are referred to as *Authorised Modifiers*.

The *Authorised Modifier* is responsible for ensuring your truck is modified in accordance with provisions and standards acceptable to the Vehicle Safety Branch. These are specified in the publication, "Vehicle Standards Bulletin No 6 - National Code of Practice - Heavy Vehicle Modifications". This code is commonly referred to as "**VSB6**".

This scheme allows most modifications to heavy vehicles to be certified by qualified people in the industry without reference to the Vehicle Safety Branch.

The reduction in paperwork and the simplification of the process means your truck can be modified much faster without affecting the quality of workmanship.

Certain *Authorised Modifiers* who have the appropriate facilities, are now also authorised to carry out the final inspection of the modified vehicle. This also means you will have less downtime as you will have your truck back on the road earlier.





## WHY USE THE SCHEME

### *Advantage to the truck owner*

If you take your vehicle to an *Authorised Modifier* to be modified you receive the following benefits:

- you can be sure your vehicle will be professionally modified
- your vehicle will be modified to conform with the National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications, “VSB6”
- it will bear a “Modification Plate” identifying the modifier and the modifications
- modifications listed on the vehicle’s “Modification Plate” will be accepted by most other Jurisdictions.

### *Scheme Limitations*

Note that the Authorised Modification Scheme does not apply to heavy vehicle modifications that result in:

- a major change in vehicle category (eg. conversion of a truck to an omnibus)
- compliance with the Australian Design Rules being adversely affected

**Note: For modifications not covered under the scheme it is still necessary to apply to the Vehicle Safety Branch for approval. Your *Authorised Modifier* will advise you when this is necessary.**



### Modification Plate

After your vehicle is modified the *Authorised Modifier* will affix a “Modification Plate”, which identifies your vehicle and the modifications carried out. The modifications are identified by a series of codes - for example, a suspension substitution is identified with the code “F1”.

<b>MODIFIED VEHICLE</b>	
<b>WEST AUSTRALIAN AUTHORISED MODIFICATION SCHEME</b>	
<b>THE NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE - VSB</b> _____	
<b>MODIFIER</b> _____	<b>AUTH. CODE</b> _____
_____	
<b>DATE</b> _____	
<b>REF. NUMBER</b> _____	<b>MODIF</b> _____
<b>MODIFIED SEATING CAP.</b> _____	<b>MODIFIED GVM</b> _____ (kg)
<b>TYRE SIZES</b> _____	
_____	
<b>THIS PLATE MUST NOT BE REMOVED</b>	
_____	

If you require additional information contact the Vehicle Safety Branch.

Publications are also available specifically for those individuals or businesses interested in joining the scheme.

**Vehicle Safety Branch**  
Department of Transport  
21 Murray Road South  
WELSHPOOL WA 6106  
*Telephone (08) 9216 3880 Facsimile (08) 9216 3899*