

Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin No 05

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Transport Services Division

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Road Transport Compliance

- For:
- ◆ Transport Inspectors
 - ◆ NT Police Outstations

Amendments to Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations

Background

The Northern Territory *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations (MV(S)R)* provide the legislative requirements that relate to vehicle standards, dimensional and loading limits. The regulations have been amended and now incorporate the *Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSR)*.

The MV(S)R deal with a vehicle and its load and incorporate model national *Mass and Loading Regulations*. Many of these provisions were previously contained in gazettals.

The AVSR have been incorporated as a schedule (schedule 6) of the MV(S)R and are a set of nationally consistent vehicle standards which have been introduced by each Australian State and Territory. These standards set the parameters for in service vehicles and include roadworthy, safety and dimensional requirements

Requirement

All vehicles operating on the NT road network must comply with the requirements of the MV(S)R and AVSR. These amended regulations commence on 1 May 2003. Regulations applicable prior to this date have been repealed.

The attached tables highlight the new initiatives and provide a comparison with the repealed legislation, all Inspectors and Police Officers should familiarise themselves with this revised legislation which is available on the Internet at: <http://www.nt.gov.au/lant/hansard/hansard.shtml>

Revised nationally consistent vehicle inspection guidelines for light and heavy vehicles are also being developed and will be distributed to all Inspectors and Police Outstations in the near future.

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MOTOR VEHICLES (STANDARDS) REGULATIONS
1 May 2003
Incorporating Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSR)

TABLE 1: New Initiatives introduced with the adoption of the AVSR	
Item	Comment
Adoption of AVSR	Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSR) are included as a schedule (Schedule 6) of the <i>Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations</i> commencing 1 May 2003. The AVSR represent nationally consistent vehicle standards which have been introduced by each Australian State and Territory. The AVSR deal with <u>vehicle standards only</u> , not its load.
<i>Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations</i>	The Northern Territory <i>Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003</i> are specific to the NT, and deal with requirements for the <u>vehicle and its load</u> . The regulations incorporate the model national Mass & Loading Regulations. Many of the provisions of the Mass & Loading Regulations were previously contained in gazettals. These gazettals are now no longer in effect.
<i>General exemption power</i>	Provides general exemption power to exempt a vehicle or vehicle combination by instrument pursuant to Rule 11 under section 59 of the <i>Motor Vehicles Act</i> . For example: exemptions could be issued for: Vehicles using Av-gas on communities, grandfathering of non complying vehicles, plant & equipment that doesn't meet the standards, bells/alarms on ice-cream vans etc
Specific exemptions Reg 28 - 33	Part 3, Division 2 of the regs list a number of exemptions from the AVSR in the NT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LH drive vehicles • spray suppression for B-Doubles • pneumatic tyre requirements certain vehicles • ABS brakes for B-Doubles • 90 km/h speed-limiting for road trains • loaded vehicle carriers
Size and projection of load Reg 19-23	Replicate provisions of Mass & Loading regulations. Some change from repealed provisions, specifically relating to front projection limit and rear overhang limit (1.2m), and for requirements for warning signals.
Light vehicle towing capacity limits – Reg 14	Introduce national requirements for vehicles not exceeding 4.5t. (the over 4.5t requirements remain unchanged)
Rear marking plates Reg34	Sets out requirements for HV rear marking plates as previously required under AS4001.1 – 1992. This AS was amended and no longer refers to rear marking plates, so content of AS is replicated in regs pending amendment of AVSR.
Australian Design Rules (ADRs)	In service vehicles required to continue to comply with ADRs
Tyre manufacturer's ratings Rule 52	Minimum tyre speed ratings specified for vehicle types.
Tyre tread limits	Minimum tyre tread requirements for vehicles over 4.5t, tread required on 75% of tyre width that contacts the road.

TABLE 1: New Initiatives introduced with the adoption of the AVSR	
Rule 54	
Left hand drive signage Rule 63	Left hand drive signage required on LHD vehicles over 4.5t GVM
Warning lights on school buses Rule 115	Specifies the requirements for buses fitted with signage and lights.
Silver or white band required on the rear of vehicles Rule 59	Vehicles over 2.2m wide with trays less than 300mm high require a silver or white band 75mm high if not fitted with rear marker plates.

TABLE 2: Comparison Repealed MV(S) Regs to Current Regs (incorporating AVSR)			
Repealed Motor Vehicle (Standards) Reg		New Reg./Rule	Comment
PART I - Preliminary		PART I - Preliminary	
1	Citation	Reg. 1	
2	Commencement	Reg. 2	Gazettal 1 May 2003
3	Application	Reg. 3	Do not apply to nonconforming vehicle – Part VA of MVA (Motor Vehicles Act)
4	Interpretation	Reg. 4	Refer Table 3
PART II - Offences		Part 4 - Offences	
5	Compliance	Reg. 35	Penalty increased and converted to penalty units (1 PU = \$110) Individual – 20 PU Corporation – 100 PU
5A	Regulatory offences	Reg. 36	All offences regulatory offences
6	Particulars kept by Registrar etc	Reg. 38	Renamed Certificate in relation to manufacturer's gross axle load limit, etc
PART III – Axle Requirements of Vehicles			
7	Axle requirements of rigid MV and trailers	Rule 64	Rules detail the requirements for extendable trailers. Converter dolly no longer limited to single or tandem axle group.
8	Axles in axle group to be load sharing	Rule 65	
9	[Repealed]		
10	Axles on hauling units of certain road trains	Repealed	Road train requirement for inter axle lock on tandem drive.
PART IV – Mass Limits of Vehicles		PART 2: Division 1 and Division 2	
11	Tyre and axle mass limits	Reg. 5, 6, 7, 8	Incorporation of gazettal
12	Laden mass of vehicles & vehicle combinations	Reg. 7, 12, 13, 14	(as above) Changes in towed mass ratio for vehicles under 4.5t.
PART V – Maximum Length, Height and Width of Vehicles		Division 5 – Size and projection of load	
13	Maximum length of vehicles	Rules 67, 68, 69	Incorporation of gazettal
13A	Forward & other projections	Reg 19 - 23	A load must not project more than 150 mm to sides or project in any direction or way that is dangerous. Max forward projection 1.2m.

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Repealed Motor Vehicle (Standards) Reg		New Reg./Rule	Comment
14	Maximum height and width of vehicles	Rules 66, 72 Reg 33	Incorporation of gazettal Exhaust outlets height is now maximum vehicle height.
	PART VI – Rear Overhang, etc		
15	Rear overhang	Rule 70	Incorporation of gazettal
16	Tow coupling overhang	Rule 171	Requirement changed from 30% of wheelbase to 30% or 2.7 whichever is greater on road train rigid p movers.
17	Location of tow coupling pivot	Rule 169(b)	Requirement changed to must not exceed 300mm <u>forward</u> of the rear of the vehicle.
18	Towing of pig trailers	Rule 160(3)	Requirement changed to only pig trailers in road train must not have a tow coupling on the rear.
19	Drawbar length	Rule 71	Minimum length of 3m now only applies to road trains.
20	Drawbar angle	Rule 169	Requirement changed from a maximum angle of 5° to must allow 15° up and down movement.
21	Loading space	Repealed	
22	Projecting loading	Part 2, Division 5 – Size and Projection of Load Regs 19 – 23	Introduces provisions of national Mass & Loading Regs see 13A above
23	Exceptions to projecting loading requirements	Reg 20 (2)	
24	Ground clearance	Rule 73	
	PART VII – Maximum Mass & Speed of Certain Vehicles	PART 2 – Division 3	
25	Vehicle having no rubber or pneumatic tyres	Reg. 15	
26	Vehicle having some pneumatic tyres	Reg. 16	
27	Tyres filled with water	Reg. 17	
28	Speed capability of road train	See Reg 32	Need to comply with ADR 65. Exemptions from requirements of AVSR for elect limited to 100 km/h.
	PART VIII – Brake Requirements for Certain Vehicles	Part 9 Braking Systems	
29	Service brakes of road train	Divn 4, Part 9 of Rules	
30	Brake line couplings of road train	Divn 4, Part 9 of Rules	

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Repealed Motor Vehicle (Standards) Reg		New Reg./Rule	Comment
31	Parking brakes	Divn 4, Part 9 of Rules	
PART IX – Requirements for Tow Couplings, etc		Part 9 Mechanical connections between vehicles	
32	Tow couplings	Part 13 Rules	
33	Fitting of towing attachment	Part 13, Rules	
34	[Repealed]		
35	Strength of fifth wheel assemblies of vehicle combination	Part 13, Rules	
36	Installation of fifth wheel assembly – road trains	Part 13, Rules	
37	Types of fifth wheels & turntables	Part 13, Rules	
38	Marking of fifth wheels & turntables	Part 13, Rules	
39	Strength of fifth wheel kingpin – road train	Part 13, Rules	
PART X – Identification of Road Trains		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division 6 Requirements for Converter Dollies Division 7 Identification of Road Trains 	
40	Converter dollies – road trains	Reg. 24	
41	Identification of hauling unit - road train	Reg. 25	Amended to allow for identification by means of compliance plate, registration certificate or other documentation as approved by the Registrar
42	Identification of trailers – road train	Reg. 26	As above
43	Road train signs	Rule 60	
PART XI - Miscellaneous			
44	Defence where excess loading within certain limits	Reg 37	Amended: specific livestock defence deleted. Reg. 44(1) retained 44(2) & 44(3) Repealed.
45	Turning circle of motor vehicle	Rule 28	
46	Inflation pressure of pneumatic tyres	Rule 49	

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47	Rear marker plates	Rules 59 & 119, see also Reg 34	Rule 119 refers to Australian Standard which has been amended and no longer relates to rear marker plates – Reg 34 sets out requirements of A.S. prior to amendment
48	Electrical connectors for vehicle combinations	Rule 41	
49	Max projection - mirrors	Rule 35	
SCHEDULES			
1	Regs 25, 26 non pneumatic tyres etc	Schedule 4 – relates to regs. 15 & 16	
2	Reg 26 some pneumatic tyres	Schedule 5 – relates to reg. 16	
3	Reg 12(b)(ii) max mass for road train	Schedule 2 – relates to reg. 12	
4	Reg 28(2) calc. of operating speed	Repealed	
5	Reg 13 max length	Repealed	
6	Reg 47 rear marker plates	Repealed	

TABLE 3: Repealed Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regs – Interpretation	
<i>aggregate mass</i>	Repealed (Reg. 21 loading space repealed)
<i>airbrake test pressure</i>	Repealed
<i>articulated omnibus</i>	Repealed – see ‘articulated bus’ (Rules)
<i>Australian standard</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>axle</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>axle group</i>	Repealed – see Rules <i>Note now includes quad axle group.</i>
<i>axle group centre</i>	Repealed – see ‘centre line’ (Rules)
<i>axle spacing</i>	Retained
<i>brake coupling</i>	Repealed - see Divn 4, Part 9 Rules
<i>brake system</i>	Repealed (as above)
<i>converter dolly</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>coupling pin</i>	Repealed – see Part 13 Rules
<i>dog trailer</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>drawbar</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>drawbar length</i>	Repealed – see Rule 71
<i>fifth wheel</i>	Repealed – see ‘fifth wheel coupling’ Rules
<i>fifth wheel assembly</i>	Repealed – see Part 13 Rules
<i>fifth wheel kingpin</i>	Repealed – as above
<i>gross combination mass</i>	Amended to reflect current AVSR definition (as amended 2001)
<i>gross vehicle mass</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>hauling unit</i>	Retained
<i>height</i>	Repealed
<i>hours of darkness</i>	Replaced by ‘night’ to mirror national Mass & Loading Regs
<i>identifying mark</i>	Repealed (Reg 38 repealed)
<i>independently braking</i>	Repealed
<i>inspection label</i>	Retained
<i>inter-axle differential</i>	Repealed
<i>load sharing suspension system</i>	Repealed – see Rule 65(2)
<i>loading space</i>	Repealed (Reg 21 repealed)
<i>manufacturer’s gross axle load limit</i>	Retained
<i>manufacturer’s gross combination mass</i>	Repealed
<i>manufacturer’s gross vehicle mass</i>	Repealed

TABLE 3: Repealed Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regs – Interpretation	
<i>manufacturer's maximum rim load</i>	Retained
<i>manufacturer's maximum tyre load</i>	Retained
<i>mass supported on a tyre</i>	Repealed
<i>mass supported on an axle or on an axle group</i>	Repealed
<i>non-reactive load sharing suspension system</i>	Retained
<i>overall axle spacing</i>	Retained – diagram added
<i>pig trailer</i>	Retained – diagram added
<i>point of articulation</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>polarised brake coupling</i>	Repealed
<i>pole-type trailer</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>positive locking type</i>	Repealed
<i>rear overhang</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>retractable axle</i>	Repealed – see Rule 174(2)
<i>road train</i>	Repealed – see Rules <i>Note changed to number of trailers from a combination over 19m</i>
<i>safety locking system</i>	Repealed
<i>semi-trailer</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>side-car</i>	Repealed
<i>single axle</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>single-pivot load sharing suspension system</i>	Retained
<i>specification</i>	Retained
<i>spring actuated parking brakes</i>	Repealed
<i>steer axle</i>	Retained
<i>steerable axle</i>	Retained
<i>tandem axle group</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>tandem driven axle group</i>	Repealed
<i>tow coupling overhang</i>	Repealed - see Rule 171(1), 174(2)
<i>tow coupling pivot</i>	Repealed
<i>tow coupling</i>	Repealed
<i>towing attachment</i>	Repealed
<i>triaxle group</i>	Repealed
<i>turning circle</i>	Repealed
<i>turntable</i>	Repealed – see Rules
<i>twin steer axle group</i>	Repealed – see Rules

TABLE 3: Repealed Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regs – Interpretation	
<i>tyre section width</i>	Retained
<i>urban route</i>	Retained
<i>vehicle combination</i>	Repealed – see combination (Rules)
<i>wide single tyre</i>	Repealed