

Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6: Information sheet

Implementation of VSB6 Version 3.2

Purpose

This guide provides information for heavy vehicle owners, operators and modifiers about the implementation of version 3.2 of *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6): National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications*.

Introduction

To ensure that the criteria in VSB6 is kept current, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) regularly undertakes reviews and makes changes when needed.

The NHVR has now completed a general review of VSB6 Version 3.1. The general review of VSB6 includes changes to address issues identified in previous VSB6 versions along with updates to a number of diagrams throughout.

This review included the addition of a new tipper body modification code in Section J, a full review of Section T relating to tow trucks and the removal of redundant modification codes from Section H.

To give vehicle owners and modifiers time to become familiar with the updates and to incorporate any necessary design adjustments to planned modifications, VSB6 Version 3.2 has been published 3 months prior to implementation on 1 July 2023.

From 1 July 2023 Version 3.2 of VSB6 will become the new national standard for heavy vehicle modifications, replacing the current VSB6 Version 3.1.

From this date common modifications covered by VSB6 must be carried out and certified to the standards set out in VSB6 Version 3.2.

VSB6 Version 3.2 can be downloaded now from the NHVR's website at www.nhvr.gov.au/vsb6

About the review

VSB6 Version 3.2 includes the most extensive review and amendment to several Sections of VSB6 since the release of Version 3 in 2017.

The following Sections of VSB6 have had key changes:

- Section H: Chassis
- Section J: Body
- Section T: Tow trucks

In addition to these key changes, other updates include:

- Changes to include reference to the Commonwealth Road Vehicle Standards Act
- Several administrative changes throughout the document.
- Updates to several diagrams in multiple modification codes

Section H: Chassis

- Section H – Chassis has been updated to clarify that box and top hat section chassis are able to be certified in certain circumstances.
- Modification codes H6 and H7 (not currently enacted) have been removed from VSB6 Version 3.2. As these codes were not in use and there are still some issues relating to FUPS designs and lighting they have been removed to reduced confusion.

Section J: Body

- Developed a new J4-tipper body (design) dedicated modification code for tipper vehicle designs. This modification code was developed to reflect the requirements of AS1418 and in response to several safety incidents reported by WorkSafe.
- Section J has been adjusted to allow J2 – Truck-Bus body, J3 Roll-over or falling object protection system and J4 Tipper body design installations to be certified under the J1 – Body Mounting code.

Section T: Tow trucks

- Review of modification codes T1 – Tow trucks (construction) and T2 – Tow trucks (design) to reflect current good practices.

Transition to VSB6 Version 3.2

To allow vehicle owners and modifiers to become familiar with any changed requirements and to consider adjust any modification designs before starting a modification, VSB6 Version 3.2 has been published 3 months prior to implementation on 1 July 2023.

The NHVR understands that some vehicle modifications are complex changes and require extensive design and work to complete. For owners and modifiers that are not able to complete the modification prior to 1 July 2023 they can apply to NHVR for an extension. Applications are to be sent to vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au and include details of the extension along with the reason the modification cannot be completed in time. The information will be reviewed and considered for a 1 month extension (1 August 2023).

Feedback

The NHVR will be seeking to continually update and improve VSB6. Contributions and feedback may be made by completing the [VSB6 Feedback Form](#) and sending it to vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au.

Complying with the national heavy vehicle safety standards

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure that their vehicle complies with the ADRs, *Heavy Vehicle National Law* and heavy vehicle safety standards. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle, or a heavy vehicle with unapproved modifications on a road, is an offence.

Penalties can include on-the-spot fines or prosecution. Formal warnings or a defect notice may also be issued. For more information see the *Heavy vehicle defects—Compliance and enforcement bulletin* at www.nhvr.gov.au/ce-bulletins

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au/hvmodifications

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

Email: vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au

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