

Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6: Information sheet

VSB6 Version 3.2 AVE information

Purpose

This guide provides information for heavy vehicle Approved Vehicle Examiners (AVEs) about the changes to *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6): National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications*. Specifically, changes that may affect the certification of vehicle modifications under Version 3.2 of the code.

Introduction

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

Included in Version 3.2 is a new tipper body design code in Section J, a full review of Section T relating to tow trucks and the removal of redundant modification codes from Section H.

From 1 July 2023, common modifications covered by VSB6 must be carried out, and certified to, Version 3.2 of VSB6.

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

About the review

While the revised Version 3.2 of VSB6 includes changes to all sections of the document, the majority of changes relate to:

- references to the Commonwealth's *Road Vehicle Standards Act* (updated from the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act*)
- minor administrative and grammatical changes
- updates to several diagrams and illustrations.

While these changes are important, they are not technical changes and do not affect the certification process.

In addition to these minor changes, significant alterations were made to the Chassis (H), Body Mounting (J) and Tow truck (T) sections, including:

- updates to technical content and application of codes
- new design code
- removal of codes.

Technical Content Changes

Section H: Chassis

Minor technical changes.

Section H: Chassis has had minor technical changes. The changes clarify that box and top hat section chassis may be certified where the modification is carried out in accordance with vehicle manufacturer's modification guidelines.

Section J: Body Mounting

Significant technical changes and new code.

Section J: Body has had significant changes to how AVEs certify body modifications. Previously all codes under Section J were modification codes, however, under VSB6 Version 3.2, the J2 and J3 codes are now design codes. This allows body and component manufacturers to obtain a VSB6 design certification from one AVE rather than providing confidential information to multiple AVEs (depending on where the body/component fitment occurs).

Section T: Tow trucks

Full review and update.

Section T: Tow trucks has had a full review which includes some design requirement changes. These changes reflect regulatory amendments and ensure best practice.

The section also provides further clarification as to which types of vehicles need to be certified as a tow truck under Section T.

New codes

Section J: Body Mounting

New design code, J4 – Tipper bodies.

As part of the review of feedback received since the release of Version 3.0, a new code dedicated to tipper vehicle design has been developed.

Previously, the J1 modification code provided some direction on tipper bodies, however, due to the complexity of tipper body design this was not considered adequate.

The new Modification Code J4, provides significantly more guidance on the design of tipper bodies. The provisions predominantly adopt the standards detailed in AS1418.8 and AS2671 and are designed to increase the safety of tippers.

The J4 design certification will be required on all tipper body designs. However, where the tipper body is designed by the vehicles' OEM and the fitment is carried out in accordance with that OEM's fitting instructions, J4 certification is not required. These vehicles will only require J1 certification.

Removed codes

Section H: Chassis

Removed Modification codes:

H6 – Install approved front underrun protection

H7 – Design or manufacture or aftermarket front underrun protection

Modification Codes H6 and H7 have been removed. These codes were originally included in VSB6 Version 3.0 but had not been implemented. To avoid confusion, these codes have now been removed and the guidance included in an updated Vehicle Standards Guide (VSG) 15.

Accreditation

To ensure you hold the correct accreditation to certify designs and modifications under VSB6 Version 3.2, you are encouraged to contact your jurisdiction's AVE accreditation unit.

This is recommended as there have been changes to how some codes are applied, and the addition of a new code, meaning that your AVE accreditation may require updating. Contact details for accreditation schemes can be found on the relevant jurisdictions' websites.

Transition to VSB6 Version 3.2

To become familiar with the changes and to consider adjustments to designs, VSB6 Version 3.2 was published 3 months prior to implementation on 1 July 2023.

For more information:

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