

IPAC-18 | Nomination of Design Variant and use of Part B for PBS certifications

Audience: PBS Assessors and Certifiers

Effective date: 20 June 2024

Version 2 effective date: 31 January 2025

This IPAC provides advice regarding:

- the nomination of design Dimension Set or Variant in certifications and ASO; and
- use of the latest Part B for certifications.

Nomination of Dimension Set or Variant

When certifying a vehicle against a design, a specific Dimension Set or Variant within the PBS Design Approval (DA) must be nominated. Certification cannot be done against a design broadly; it must be done against a specific Variant or Dimension Set within the design.

The ASO must also identify the specific design Dimension Set or Variant.

When signing off on an ASO, Assessors must ensure that the specific Dimension Set or Variant within the design is identified in the ASO against which anomalies are accepted.

Identifying Dimension Set or Variant

The Dimension Set or Variant name can be found on the drawing in Part B or the DA. If Part B is the new layout format, please include the layout number shown on the cover page of Part B.

Example of new layout Part B - Layout number is 3.1:



If there's no defined Dimension Set in the DA and it is the only Dimension Set, please refer to it as 'Original'.

Using the correct Part B

Short Form Design Approvals

Short Form Design Approvals are DAs that have been issued prior to PBS Portal implementation. These DAs can include multiple Dimension Sets in one Part B.

Certifiers must use the most up-to-date version of the Variation or Amendment Part B document.

Long Form Design Approvals

Long Form Design Approvals are DAs that have been issued after PBS Portal implementation and using the 'Long Form' option. These DAs contain only one Dimension Set per Part B.

The initial version of the DA is labelled as Layout 1.0, with subsequent additions of Dimension Sets labelled sequentially as Layout 2.0, 3.0, etc.

If a Long Form Layout is amended, it is done by creating a new, separate Layout. This new Layout is labelled with the first number referring to the parent Layout and a second number indicating the version number of that parent Layout - i.e. Layout 1.1.

Each Layout (e.g., Layout 1.0, 1.1) is considered its own standalone Layout. Therefore, when certifying units against a specific Layout, the Certifier must ensure all units in a combination are certified under the same Layout version.

This means that vehicle units from the same combination cannot be certified against a mix of Layouts, such as Layout 1.0 and 1.1.

Example:

Truck 1 and Trailer 1 were originally certified under Layout 1.0; a new Truck 2 is added to the VA that can be used in a combination with the original Trailer 1. Both new Truck 2 and original Trailer 1 must be certified under Layout 1.1.

NHVR Approved Part B

The Part B document must be NHVR-endorsed, and not sourced directly from the PBS Assessor. It must be reviewed and endorsed by NHVR before being used for certifications.

The endorsement by NHVR can be confirmed if the 'FOR OFFICE USE ONLY' box on Part B has been filled out and the file name follows the NHVR format.

Example of 'FOR OFFICE USE ONLY' box on the front page of Part B:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Assessor	Assessor Name
Applicant	APPLICANT COMPANY
Vehicle description	B-Triple (3-3-3)
Pre-advised design	No
Received by NHVR	11-May-23 (555555_Original)
Processed by NHVR	17-Oct-23

Example of an NHVR Part B file name format:
V555555 PRP Item 67 APPLICANT COMPANY B-Triple (3-3-3) Part B v1.

The Certifier can be nominated in the Part A at the time of design approval application (new or modification), so that the latest Part B will be sent automatically to the nominated Certifier once it has been processed by NHVR.

Requesting Part B from NHVR

If you are unsure if you have the most recent version of Part B or if you require a specific version of Part B, please contact us at pbs@nhvr.gov.au and include 'Part B request' in the email subject line.

In accordance with PBS Vehicle Certification Rules, Rule 14, the Certifier must seek a written authority from the design owner to obtain the vehicle certification information.

Part B for adding vehicles to an existing VA

For 'Add-Identical' certification type, use the exact same Part B version that was used for the original certification. For instance, if the original vehicle was certified under Layout 3.0, use that specific version of Part B and not subsequent versions i.e., Layout 3.1.

Contact

This IPAC was produced by the PBS Vehicle Approval Team; for queries, please email pbs@nhvr.gov.au.

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