

# Adding Identical-Footprint Vehicles to a PBS Vehicle Approval

## Background

Vehicles approved under the Performance Based Standards (PBS) scheme are issued with a Vehicle Approval (VA). The VA serves as evidence that specific vehicles, identified by their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), have been assessed and accepted into the PBS scheme. The VA is also required to be issued with an access permit.

When new vehicles are added to an existing VA, these vehicles can have identical and non-identical axle spacings footprint to vehicles already approved on the VA.

If the new vehicles qualify under an identical-footprint criterion, the vehicles are added to the existing VA without changing the VA number. Otherwise, a new VA number is issued requiring an update to the associated access permit.

The identical-footprint policy allows operators to update their VA without unnecessary administrative delays associated with a brand-new VA number.

When vehicles are removed from an existing VA, the VA number is also preserved.

## What are identical-footprint heavy vehicle units

Identical-footprint means a combination with axle spacings identical to existing combinations.

- There is no tolerance for axle spacings - the new combination's axle spacings must be identical to the existing combinations.
- The overall length can vary provided it remains within the same length bracket - see Table 1.
- The vehicle must be approved at the same level of PBS compliance and at masses no greater than those already approved

In summary, identical-footprint combinations must have the same dimensions except for FOH and ROH which can vary provided that the combination remains within the same length bracket as previously approved combinations.

	Access Class 'A'	Access Class 'B'
Level 1	≤ 20m	
Level 2	≤ 26m	≤ 30m
Level 3	≤ 36.5m	≤ 42m
Level 4	≤ 53.5m	≤ 60m

Table 1. Length limits of PBS Levels

Identical-Footprint vehicles can vary in specifications:

- Different vehicle components, such as engines, tyres, and suspensions are permitted
- Different bin and payload heights are permitted

## Revision and Version numbers

To keep track of each VA issued, the VA name structure will include a Version and Revision number.

All new PBS VAs will be named as follows:

- *PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 V181230 - XYZ Trailers - ABC Haulage v1-revA*

All new PBS VAs will start off as revision A (revA) of the first version (v1).

This naming structure includes the following terms:

- **Version:** a new version of a VA will be issued every time an Identical-Footprint vehicle is added to, or a vehicle is removed from a VA.
- **Revision:** a new revision of a VA will be issued every time a VA is amended for minor and administrative reasons (e.g. corrections or tyre option updates).

When a new version is issued, the revision will also restart as revision A.

## How PBS Vehicle Approvals are issued

**New approval** – a new PBS VA number is generated with a version number of 1 and revision of A.

**Identical-footprint vehicles added to an existing VA** – the VA number does not change; the version number is increased by one and the revision resets to A.

Example: the Operator adds an identical-footprint prime mover to existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v1-revA**; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2-revA**

No access permit update is required.

**Administrative corrections or other minor amendments** – the VA number does not change; the version number does not change and the revision progresses alphabetically.

Example: the Operator adds additional tyre options to existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2-revA**; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2-revB**

No access permit update is required.

**Vehicles removed from an existing VA** – the VA number does not change; the version number is increased by one and the revision resets to A.

Example: the Operator removes a trailer from existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2-revB**; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v3-revA**

No access permit update is required.

**Tyre options update on an existing VA** – the VA number does not change; the version number is increased by one and the revision resets to A.

Example: the Operator requests tyre options update on existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v2-revB**; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v3-revA**

No access permit update is required.

**Non-identical-footprint vehicles added to an existing VA** – a new VA number is generated with a version number of 1 and revision of A.

Example: the Operator adds a non-identical-footprint prime mover to existing VA1234, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1234 ... **v3-revA**; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1235 ... **v1-revA**

Access permit update is required, which may require Road Manager consent to be sought.

**Transfer of an existing PBS VA to another Operator** – a new VA number is generated with a version number of 1 and revision of A.

Example: existing VA1235 is transferred to another Operator, the VA name changes from:

- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1235 ... **v1-revA**; to
- PBS Vehicle Approval VA1236 ... **v1-revA**

Access permit update is required.

## PBS Access Permits

By allowing for different versions and revisions of a VA the NHVR has reduced the impact making minor changes has on existing PBS access permits. However, where changes result in VA being issued with a new VA number, a new PBS access permits will still be required.

PBS truck and dog combinations complying with the Class 2 PBS Truck and Dog Notice that require an access permit for off-network routes are not affected by this change. These access permits do not reference the PBS VA number so changes to VA numbers do not impact these vehicles.

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