

VEHICLE STANDARDS INFORMATION

Left Hand Drive Vehicles & Vehicles Converted to Right Hand Drive

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For further information please write to the Manager – Vehicle Safety & Policy
60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101 or contact your local Customer Service Centre.

Registration

The Standards for Registration specify that the steering wheel of a vehicle must not be located to the left of the centre line of the vehicle.

However, vehicles over 30 years old with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of less than 4.5 tonnes are exempt from this requirement. These vehicles must still comply with the Standards for Registration applicable at their date of manufacture and be fitted with headlights which are suitable for a right hand drive vehicle (i.e. dip to the left).

All other left hand drive vehicles may not be registered in Victoria except in the cases of:-

- (a) vehicles approved by VicRoads for registration as Engineering or Market Evaluation vehicles;
- (b) vehicles primarily built for a special purpose that have to be left hand drive or dual control to fulfil that purpose;

In the case of a left hand drive vehicle being one described in (a) or (b) the words "Left Hand Drive" must be clearly and legibly displayed in letters at least 75mm high and of proportionate width on the rear of the vehicle. Registration will be conditional and other conditions, including a requirement that both left hand and right hand external rear vision mirrors be fitted, may apply.

Unregistered vehicle permit

VicRoads may issue an unregistered vehicle permit to allow an unregistered vehicle to be used on a highway for a restricted period, subject to conditions. In the case of a left hand drive vehicle the following conditions apply.

- (a) The vehicle may only be driven on a highway for the purpose of:-
 - (i) moving the vehicle to a place where it will be garaged or stored;
 - (ii) obtaining registration e.g. converting the vehicle to right hand drive, obtaining a roadworthy certificate etc., or
 - (iii) driving the vehicle out of the State.
- (b) The words "Left Hand Drive" in lettering at least 75mm high and of proportionate width must be clearly and legibly displayed on the rear of the vehicle.

- (c) If the vehicle does not have all the required lamps, including dipping headlamps suitable for right hand drive and/or has a tinted windscreen with less than 75% light transmission, then it must not be used on the road at night.

- (d) An adult person capable of observing approaching traffic must be seated in the right hand front seat.

Club permits

Left hand drive vehicles more than 25 years old may be issued with a permit authorised by an approved motoring club, under the club permit scheme. This will allow the vehicle to be used on the road when participating in club sponsored or authorised events.

In addition to normal club permit conditions if the vehicle does not have dipping headlamps suitable for right hand drive then it must not be used on the road at night.

Note:

Only clubs which are members of an approved motoring association or federation are permitted to authorise applications for permits for left hand drive vehicles.

Conversions

If a vehicle, which is not subject to low volume compliance plate approval, is converted to right hand drive, an approval certificate issued by a member of the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS) on the conversion must be provided before registration can be granted. The evidence supporting the certificate must contain detailed information on:-

- (a) The method of conversion and components used;
- (b) An assessment of the quality of the workmanship and the overall safety of the vehicle; and
- (c) The vehicle's continued compliance with the Standards for Registration.

If the conversion involves modifications to any steering, suspension or other safety related component by cutting, heating or welding, evidence such as x-ray prints of the welded joints or affected areas must be provided as part of the evidence supporting the VASS approval certificate. If a steering or suspension component is modified by bending, a description of the bending technique and subsequent stress relieving heat treatment procedures must also be included.