

Dealer Certification Bulletin No. 2 2015

Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) J & P Code Modification (body-fit and tow coupling/fifth wheel) Changes.

Information for all Dealerships registering heavy vehicles on the VicRoads Dealer Certification Scheme.

5 February 2015

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Changes Regarding J & P Code Modifications (body-fit and tow coupling/fifth wheel) to be implemented from 1 July 2015

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) implemented on 10 February 2014 introduced the requirement that all heavy vehicles modified under Section 86 must be fitted with a compliance plate and issued with a certificate by an Authorised Vehicle Examiner (AVE) who holds the delegated authority of the NHVR to certify the modification. In Victoria, AVE's licensed to certify modifications are members of the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS). VASS AVE's issue modification certificates recorded against the vehicle's registration.

Prior to the introduction of the HVNL, J & P Code modifications did not require certification in Victoria for vehicles being registered for the first time. On the 18th of July 2014, the NHVR issued advice instructing participating jurisdictions (VIC, NSW, and ACT) that the requirement to enforce the certification of J & P code modifications was on hold until 10 February 2015.

In response to a request from participating jurisdictions, the NHVR recently approved an extension of this advice allowing jurisdictions sufficient time to complete the implementation of updates to their respective AVE schemes to comply with the HVNL. Accordingly, the revised arrangements provide an extension for a limited time until 30 June 2015.

The revised arrangements effectively defer the commencement date for the enforcement of J & P Code modifications on heavy vehicle registrations in Victoria to 1 July 2015. From this date, modifications to heavy vehicles under Section 86 of the HVNL, categorised in Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6) as "J" Code – body-fit modifications, and "P" Code – tow coupling and fifth wheel additions, will require certification by an AVE even when those modifications are conducted prior to first registration.

Preparation for the change on 1 July 2015 is in progress and consultation with dealers and industry representatives is underway. This includes the option for additional VASS Signatories to enter the Scheme to accommodate the increased volume. Whilst there are

no proposed changes to the Vehicle Approval Signatory Scheme (VASS) technical requirements, any dealer that has suitably qualified staff is welcomed to have that staff member apply to become an AVE.

If any staff member is interested in becoming an AVE, they can get further information by contacting VicRoads on VSCInfo@roads.vic.gov.au.

For further information on other matters please contact the Dealer Help Desk on 1300 555 153.

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