

Vehicle Standards Guide 13 (VSG-13)

Rear-loading waste collection vehicles in New South Wales

This guide provides advice to heavy motor vehicle owners, operators and modifiers about the design, construction and use of heavy vehicles fitted with rear-loading waste collection bodies.

Background

Across New South Wales, the use of rear-loading waste collection vehicles is preferred by many local councils due to improved manoeuvrability and loading advantages.

The design of these vehicles can prevent the vehicle from complying with the dimension requirements for rear overhang.

The *New South Wales Heavy Vehicle Standards (Rear-loading waste collection vehicle) Exemption Notice* (the Notice) has been renewed to provide the necessary exemptions from the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation (the Regulation).

The Notice imposes certain conditions that must be complied with and provides the specific exemptions that relate to the modification and use of the vehicle.

Rear-loading waste collection vehicles

A rear-loading waste collection vehicle is a vehicle designed and constructed to collect waste by a bin lifting mechanism located at rear of the vehicle.

Typically, these vehicles start as conventional vehicles that are modified to perform the required task. Modifications that cause a vehicle to no longer comply with regulatory limits must be granted a vehicle standards exemption before the modification can be carried out.

This notice provides the necessary exemption for this modification to be carried out.

The modification must be done in accordance with the requirements of *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6: National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB6) Modification Code J1 Body Mounting*.

This means that where the completed vehicle complies with the conditions of the Notice, an AVE may approve this type of modification without first gaining approval from the NHVR.

Vehicle modifications

As with modifications carried out on any vehicle, the design and installation of a rear-loading waste collection body, the position of the body, and the ongoing compliance with relevant Australian Design Rules (ADRs) must be considered. These standards include, but are not limited to:

- lights and reflectors
- rear marking plates
- number plate position
- overall vehicle dimensions (particularly width and height).

Should any other modifications need to be carried out during the fitting of the body, these should also be assessed and certified using the relevant VSB6 modification codes. For example, the following modifications must be assessed and certified under the relevant section of the VSB6:

- Modifications to the vehicle's chassis - under *Section H Chassis*
- Modifications to the braking system - under *VSB6 Section G Brakes*.

Vehicle dimensions

Modifiers must ensure that the completed vehicle complies with the dimension limits set out in the Notice. It is important to note that some bodies are designed to have a folding rear step that is used by waste collection workers. If a vehicle is fitted with a rear step, consideration should be given to how far the step protrudes from the rear of the vehicle, as the step (when folded down for use) is included when measuring rear overhang.

Warning light

To ensure other road users can readily identify the vehicle, a vehicle fitted with a rear-loading waste collection body must be fitted with a flashing warning light. A warning light must:

- be clearly visible at a distance of 500 metres in all directions; and

Note: additional flashing lights must be used to achieve visibility at 500m if this cannot be achieved with a single light.

- not be a strobe light; and
- emit a yellow-coloured light of rotating and flashing effect; and
- flash between 120 and 240 times a minute; and
- not be of an intensity that is likely to dazzle another road user.

Using the vehicle

When the vehicle is being used on a road, the warning light and headlights or daytime running lights must be switched on. If the vehicle is fitted with a folding rear step, it may be folded down when the vehicle is collecting waste. When the vehicle is not engaged in waste collection, the step must be folded up.

Note: This notice does not provide access to the road network. The operator of the vehicle should ensure that any necessary access authorities have been obtained prior to using the vehicle on a road.

Chain of Responsibility

Under the Chain of Responsibility (CoR) laws, relevant parties in the transport supply chain have a duty to ensure the safety of their transport activities.

Parties in the chain have an obligation to eliminate or minimise potential harm or loss (risk) by doing all that is reasonably practicable in their business to ensure safety.

Implementing a system to ensure you are informed of changes to the vehicle safety standards and apply these to your business can support transport safety.

Complying with the Heavy Vehicle National Law

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure their vehicle complies with the *Australian Design Rules* (ADRs) and *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation*. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle on a road is an offence.

A defective heavy vehicle is a vehicle that:

- does not comply with the heavy vehicle safety standards; or
- has a part that does not perform its intended function; or
- has deteriorated to an extent that it cannot be reasonably relied on to perform its intended function.

Penalties can include on-the-spot fines or prosecution. Formal warnings or a defect notice may also be issued. For more information see the Heavy vehicle defects—Compliance and enforcement bulletin at www.nhvr.gov.au/ce-bulletins.

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au/hvmodifications

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