

Vehicle Standards Guide 24 (VSG-24) - Emergency Services Speed Limiting Exemption Notice

This guide provides advice to emergency service entities on the requirement for heavy emergency vehicles to comply with maximum road speed limiting requirements.

Introduction

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is responsible for setting the standards that all in-service vehicles must meet. This includes the requirement that vehicles continue to meet the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) applicable at the time the vehicle was manufactured.

The NHVR has reviewed the requirement for vehicles used by emergency services to meet the requirements to be road speed limited. After consultation with relevant parties, the decision has been made to exempt these vehicles from the requirements of an *Australian Design Rule 65/.. – Maximum Road Speed Limiting for Heavy Goods Vehicles and Heavy Omnibuses* (ADR65).

This means that an emergency vehicle used by an emergency service entity is not required to be speed limited in the way required by the ADR.

National Heavy Vehicle Standards (Emergency Services Speed Limiting) Exemption Notice 2023

The National Heavy Vehicle Standards (Emergency Speed Limiting) Exemption Notice (the Notice) has recently been renewed for 12 months. During this time, it is hoped that a more permanent exemption can be made available to emergency service entities.

What is an emergency service?

The Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation (the Regulation) defines an emergency service as an entity that has a statutory responsibility to respond to an emergency. Examples of an emergency service entity include:

- an ambulance service;
- a fire brigade, including a volunteer fire brigade;
- a police service or police force;
- a disaster or emergency organisation of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory.

What is an emergency vehicle?

The regulation defines an emergency vehicle as a heavy vehicle

- driven by:
 - an officer of an emergency service
 - in the course of the officer's duty
- and fitted with:
 - a repeater horn or siren; or
 - a flashing warning light.

Conditions of the exemption

Drivers of vehicles operating under this Notice should be made aware that the vehicle does not comply with the road speed limiting requirements and that extra care is required. It is recommended that drivers are trained in the operation of the vehicle and are permitted to operate the vehicle, and a placard prominent from the driver's position is to be placed to alert drivers of this requirement.

Decommissioned emergency vehicles

A requirement of this exemption is that, before an emergency vehicle can be sold or donated to anyone other than another emergency service entity, the vehicle must be made compliant with ADR65/.. .

Complying with the HVNL

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure that their vehicle complies with the ADRs, HVNL, heavy vehicle safety standards and MDL Regulation. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle, or a heavy vehicle with unapproved modifications on a road, is an offence. It is also an offence to use a vehicle on a road that exceeds a mass or dimension limit.

Penalties can include on-the-spot fines or prosecution. Formal warnings or a defect notice may also be issued. For more information about vehicle defects, see the [Heavy vehicle defects](#). For more information about vehicle dimension limits, see [Mass, dimension and loading](#).

For more information:

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au

Email: info@nhvr.gov.au

Phone: 13 NHVR (13 64 87)*

*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.

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