

Vehicle Standards Information 18

October 2020 | This information sheet supersedes all previous copies of VSI 18.

Left Hand Drive Vehicles and Vehicles Converted to Right Hand Drive

This Vehicle Standards Information (VSI) sheet provides guidance on the registration of left hand drive vehicles in Victoria and the requirements when registering a vehicle converted from left-hand drive to right-hand drive.

This information sheet applies to vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of 4.5 tonne or less. For heavy vehicle requirements please refer to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator website at nhvr.gov.au.

Registration

Victoria's *Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009* require vehicles less than 30 years old to be right-hand drive in order to be eligible for full registration. A vehicle is deemed to be right-hand drive if the centre of the steering wheel is located on, or to the right of, the centre line of the vehicle.

Left Hand Drive (LHD) vehicles with a date of manufacture 30 years or older are eligible for full registration if they comply with the Standards for Registration applicable at their date of manufacture and are fitted with

headlights which are suitable for a right hand drive vehicle (i.e. dipped beam cut-off to the left).

VicRoads may choose to allow the conditional registration of left hand drive vehicles that are less than 30 years old on the basis of a business need, this may include:

- vehicles approved by VicRoads for registration as Engineering Evaluation vehicles in accordance with Administrator of Vehicle Standards Circular 0-4-8 published on the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC) website.
- vehicles primarily built for a special purpose that have to be left hand drive or dual control to fulfil that purpose.

Conditions may apply to the use of vehicles registered in this manner.

Left Hand Drive Vehicles on the Club Permit Scheme (CPS)

Left hand drive vehicles with a date of manufacture 25 years or older may be issued with a permit authorised by an approved motoring club, under the Club Permit Scheme. This will allow members of vehicle clubs that are recognised by VicRoads to make limited non-commercial use of eligible vehicles on the road network.

To be eligible to access the CPS and to ensure vehicle safety and compliance items are addressed, these vehicles will require a VASS Approval Certificate and a blue modification plate/label issued by a signatory authorised under the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS). For left hand drive vehicles with a date of manufacture 25 years or older but less than 30 years, the blue modification plate/label will be clearly marked "Club Permit Use Only".

The vehicle must be fitted with headlights which are suitable for a right hand drive vehicle (i.e. dipped beam cut-off to the left).

Only clubs which are members of an approved motoring association or federation are permitted to authorise applications for permits for left hand drive vehicles. Permit applications will only be authorised once the vehicle has been inspected and issued with a VASS Approval Certificate.

A list of VASS signatories can be found on the VicRoads website.

Note

Refer to VSI 33 *Guidelines for Modifications to Vehicles operated under Victoria's Club Permit Scheme* for further information on CPS requirements.

Requirements for Left Hand Drive Used Import and Personal Import vehicles

The requirements for the issue of a Club Permit or registration of imported left hand drive Used Import or Personal Import vehicles are summarised in the following table:

Note

Refer to VSI 3 *Conditions for Registration of Imported Vehicles in Victoria* for further information on imported vehicles.

Left Hand Drive Used Import or Personal Import Vehicles Manufactured Date

Less than 25 years	25 years or older but less than 30 years	30 years or older
Not eligible for full registration or Club Permit Scheme in Victoria.	Eligible for Club Permit Scheme only. Requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Certificate of Roadworthiness, VASS Approval Certificate, and Blue modification plate/label clearly marked with "Club Permit Use Only" 	Eligible for full registration or Club Permit Scheme. Requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Certificate of Roadworthiness, Personal Import Plate; or VASS Approval Certificate, and Blue modification plate/label For imported vehicles (other than Personal Imports) manufactured before 1969 (July 1975 for motor cycles), a VASS Approval Certificate is only required if the vehicle has modifications requiring an Approval Certificate.

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:

- The vehicle may only be driven on the road network for the purpose of:
 - moving the vehicle to a place where it will be garaged or stored
 - obtaining registration e.g. converting the vehicle to right hand drive, obtaining a certificate of roadworthiness etc
 - driving the vehicle out of the state.

If the vehicle does not have all the required lamps, including dipping headlamps with dipped beam cut-off to the left 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.

An adult person capable of observing approaching traffic must be seated in the right hand front seat while the vehicle is being driven.

Vehicles Converted to Right Hand Drive

For vehicles other than those imported by a company operating under the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme (RAWS), that are converted to right hand drive, a VASS Approval Certificate for the conversion must be provided before registration can be granted.

It is advised that the VASS signatory be contacted before any conversion work is commenced on the vehicle.

Vehicles imported by a company operating under the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme (RAWS) that are converted to right hand drive and certified under the RAWS requirements do not require a VASS certificate before registration can be granted.

The standards for left hand drive conversions can be found in Vehicle Standards Bulletin 14 - *National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (NCOP)* and Vehicle Standards Bulletin 4 - *Steering Conversions for Left Hand Drive Vehicles* published on the DITRDC website.

For further information

Further information is available on the VicRoads website: vicroads.vic.gov.au or by calling VicRoads on **13 11 71** (TTY **13 36 77**, Speak and Listen **1300 555 727**).