

# Vehicle Standards Instruction

## Engine modifications under National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification

September 2021

In 2012, the National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (NCOP) was adopted for use in Queensland. While most of modifications permitted under the NCOP are permitted in Queensland, a small number of variations have been included.

Under the LA section of the NCOP, a large number of engine modifications require that the vehicle undergoes an IM240 Gaseous emission test, in accordance with the LT3 section. Given that there are currently no facilities in Queensland approved to perform this testing, any requirement under the NCOP for an IM240 test will be waived.

While an exclusion from providing an IM240 test has been given for the certification of a modification under the NCOP, the owner of a modified vehicle or any person modifying the engine, is required to ensure that the vehicle complies with any ADR requirement applying to the vehicle.

As outlined in part 2.7 of the LA section of the NCOP, where possible, the muffler(s) and catalytic converter and/or particle trap from the exhaust system of the donor vehicle should be used. Where alternative exhaust systems are fitted, the system must incorporate any engine emission control equipment, meeting the same standard, as that originally fitted in the exhaust system of the vehicle.

**Note**, this exemption from the requirement to conduct an IM240 test has been issued considering the present absence of suitable test facilities across Queensland. TMR intends to review this exemption and consider mandating the IM240 test once suitable test facilities are established in Queensland to provide access and choice to consumers across the whole state. No date has been set for this review, however TMR will continue to monitor the situation.

Under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021 (the VSS Regulation)*, the owner of a modified vehicle must ensure that a modification that requires approval has been approved, before the vehicle is used on a road.

Modifying a vehicle that adversely affects its safety or driving or parking an unsafe vehicle on a road, are breaches of the VSS Regulation.

### Additional Information

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National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification  
(Vehicle Standards Bulletin 14) [https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle\\_regulation/bulletin/vsb\\_ncop.aspx](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/vsb_ncop.aspx)

Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021  
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/sl-2021-0114>

For more information about this VSI, please email [vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au)