

Vehicle Standards Instruction

Ex-Australian Defence Force Vehicles

September 2021

The purpose of this Vehicle Standards Instruction (VSI) is to clarify the requirements for registering Ex- Australian Military vehicles for general road access.

Applicability

All light Ex-Australian Military vehicles designed for Active Service except "L" category.

Light Australian military vehicles designed for active service are registered under a special Federal Government registration scheme. Vehicles designed for Active Service may have been specifically modified for a military role and may or may not have been fitted with a federal compliance plate. Because of their military role they may also have been exempted from certain Australian Design Rules (ADRs) and therefore not eligible for registration in Queensland in their current configuration.

Some of the most common areas of non-compliance are:

- **Security:** There is no ignition key and no door locks. Effectively, the vehicle cannot be secured against unauthorised use without modification. The vehicle itself should be theft resistant. It is not necessary for the contents in the cabin or the cargo bay of the vehicle to be secured
- **Lighting:** The lighting system has a blackout feature that is able to disconnect all external lamps, including the brake lights. When the blackout system operates, a small white light shines on the rear diff housing, so a following vehicle can see it at ground level
- **Stability and performance:** Some of these vehicles were raised by an average 100 mm above manufacturer design ride height to increase the break over angle achieved mid wheelbase. This modification has resulted in a vehicle that has unpredictable handling and a tendency for loss of control crashes resulting from a combination of body roll induced axle steer, non-linear spring return and negative front axle castor trail

Before these vehicles would be considered for registration in Queensland it will be necessary to confirm compliance to all the relevant ADRs. This will require an Approved Person Engineer to certify these vehicles under the LO1 certification code in Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) 14.

Note, prior to the initial purchase it is recommended that, an Approved Person Engineer be consulted about the LO1 certification, as necessary modifications may be cost prohibitive.

Under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, the owner/operator of a vehicle must ensure any modification has been appropriately approved before the vehicle is used on a road.

Additionally, failure to comply with the above requirements may render your vehicle defective in Queensland as well as other state jurisdictions and could incur a monetary penalty.

Further Information

Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/sl-2021-0114>

For details of current ADRs and VSB, please visit the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/vehicles/vehicle-design-regulation>

For more information about this VSI, please email vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au.