

BULLETIN

Industry Divisions



Reference No: Protective Plan/mm-10-20

Date issued: 13/10/2020

Members are advised of a VACC – VADA document [COVID-19 : Protective Plan and implementation](#). *Automotive retail franchise sector industry guidance and best practice* that has been sent to the Victorian Government in pursuit of having automotive franchise dealerships permitted to open during the current Stage 4 Restrictions.

The document has been received by the Government and is in addition to further documented strategies and roadmaps provided by VACC to the Government with regards to a COVID-19 safe reopening of automotive retail dealerships. VACC will continue to lobby the Victorian Government for a suitable outcome.

What is the purpose of the document?

It is important to note that the guidelines are proposed to supplement the measures already in place with an individual dealership's COVID Safe Plan in order to permit such businesses to move from the current 'Heavily Restricted' to either a 'Restricted' or 'Open with a COVID Safe Plan' status during Stage 4 Restrictions, Second Step Roadmap for Reopening applicable to metropolitan Melbourne.

- The current trading conditions for these sectors are unsustainable and must be urgently reviewed by the government.
- These guidelines are only activated if the Government allows for a partial reopening of automotive franchise dealers.

How has the guidance been compiled?

This industry guidance and best practice document has been developed by the VACC on behalf of the Victorian Automobile Dealers Association (VADA), Motorcycle Industry Division (MID), Commercial Vehicle Dealers Association (CVIAV) and Farm Machinery Dealers Association (FIMDA) for use by the automotive retail sector.

It has been compiled from a wide range of best practice and guidance documents distributed by the Government and VACC. It does not purport to be an exhaustive guide.

What is the current Government positioning on retail trading reopening in Stage 4 restricted areas?

VACC cannot advise on what the Government's current plans are for reopening or what changes may be announced for 19 or 26 October.

VACC continues to put forward its views on how retail automotive can open safely for trade.

It is VACC's view that this sector can open safely and has put forward the *COVID-19: Protective Plan and implementation* cognisant that there are elements of the plan that are onerous for dealers and that will not suit some business models. On this basis members are reminded that the plan put forward is only applicable for the Stage 4 period after which we hope retail trading will return to some version of normality.

Other

- VACC acknowledges the stresses and pressures that dealers are facing in the current trading environment. We are working feverishly to get you all open.
- VACC thanks the UK National Franchise Dealers Association for their input into this document.

Please feel free to contact my office with any queries.

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