
CVIAV – A division of VACC, serving the Automotive Industry since 1918. Local people taking on the local and National issues that affect you in the Commercial Vehicle Industry.

23 August 2021

Dear members

Please find a summary below of news and updates relevant to the commercial vehicle industry. Should you have any questions, like more information or would like to discuss a policy issue, please do not hesitate to contact Imogen Reid: ireid@vacc.com.au directly.

VACC is here to help – and we can appreciate these are trying times for business.

1. WORKPLACE RELATIONS COVID-19

VACC's Industrial Relations advice on extended lockdown in Metropolitan Melbourne

VACC's Industrial Relations department issued a detailed bulleting last night outlining the new restrictions that are now in force until 2 September 2021.

The bulletin covers:

- Table of restrictions
- Guidance on which automotive businesses can continue to operate
- Work permits
- Face covering
- Density quotients
- QR code requirements
- COVID-Safe Plans

You can access the full bulletin [HERE](#).

Small Business COVID Hardship Fund guidelines released

For small and medium-sized businesses that are not eligible under existing business support funds, the Fund will enable those with a **payroll of up to \$10 million** who have experienced a **70 per cent or greater reduction in revenue**, to apply for grants of up to **\$10,000**. It is intended to cover those businesses that, whilst legally allowed to operate, have been restricted in their ability to generate income – for reasons including lost custom due to restrictions affecting foot traffic.

Read VACC's full bulletin [HERE](#).

NHVR COVID-19 Newsletter

NHVR has released a specific newsletter related to COVID-19 and the commercial vehicle industry.

It covers:

- Testing, passes and exemptions
- Covid-safe toolbox
- Heavy Vehicle Confidential Reporting Line

You can access the newsletter [HERE](#) to learn about recent changes.

Regional Victoria restrictions

The Victorian Premier has [announced](#), that with the **exception of curfews**, the **current restrictions in place in Metropolitan Melbourne will be extended to all of Victoria from 1pm today, Saturday 21 August 2021 until Thursday 2 September 2021.**

As part of the announcement, the Victorian Premier released an updated [Table of Restrictions](#) and advised that **Regional Victoria** will have until **11:59pm Monday 23 August 2021** to issue **Authorised Worker Permits** to employees required to attend the work premises to perform authorised work.

Members can read the full details [HERE](#)

2. VASS

Mandatory use of the eVASS system

VASS signatories will have seen correspondence from VicRoads detailing that from 1 November 2021, it will be mandatory to use the eVASS system to create VASS Approval Certificates and Letters.

From 1 November 2021, signatories will only be able to issue paper-based VASS Approval Certificates with a traditional VASS Approval Certificate Number (your VASS Signatory number preceded with a **C** or **D** instead of a **1** or **2**) in circumstances where the electronic approval documents are unable to be created or completed using the eVASS system.

Engaging an Associate Examiner under the VASS system

Last month, VicRoads announced the addition of Associate Examiners to the scheme.

If you have a suitable candidate you would like to assist you as an approved Associate Examiner, and you meet the [required criteria as a Signatory](#), VicRoads encourages you to nominate them by completing:

- the **Associate Examiner Application form**, [attached](#)
- the **Agreement to amend the VASS Agreement**, [attached](#)

Once the above documents are completed and signed, email to the VicRoads Vehicle Safety support team at vsinfo@roads.vic.gov.au.

If they approve your nominee, you'll need to provide a valid (less than 3 months old) National Police Check before access to the eVASS system is granted. Note that the police check requirement does not apply if your nominee already has Creator permission in the eVASS system or is a user in another VicRoads eCertificate application (eg eRWC or eAFSACS).

- [More information about engaging an Associate Examiner](#)

If you have questions about the Associate Examiner role and the criteria that aren't answered in the above document, contact the Vehicle Safety and Compliance team at vscinfo@roads.vic.gov.au

3. ROAD VEHICLE STANDARD ACT

New Road Vehicle Standards Act - Member Webinar

As of 1 July 2021, the Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 (RVSA) replaced the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (MVSA).

To assist members, VACC has scheduled a member only webinar with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Cities to go through the new requirements of the legislation.

This will be a very practical session, with working demonstrations of the new ROVER platform. It will also allow members to ask important, sector specific questions.

Thursday 9 September

3.00pm – 4.30pm

via Microsoft Teams

with

Mr Graham Evans

Director | Strategic Policy & Partnerships

Vehicle Safety Policy & Partnerships Branch | Surface Transport Policy Division

To register your attendance, click [HERE](#)

Should members like to pass on any additional feedback, please email Imogen Reid directly: ireid@vacc.com.au.

4. SKILLS

VACC /CVIAV is acutely aware of the skills shortages being experienced by the heavy vehicle industry. In response to severe industry need, we have been lobbying extensively at both a state and federal level to have automotive trades added to the Priority Skills Migration Occupation List (PSMOL).

VACC is also encouraging members to write directly to their local MP. There is a draft template available for members to use. Please email Imogen Reid: ireid@vacc.com.au if you would like a copy.

5. PBS

Update – PBS scheme

Industry has been recently notified of reforms to the PBS scheme that will enable a new standardised tyre approach using a set of tyre properties and data for PBS assessment. In good news for industry, PBS vehicles will soon be able to use a broader range of tyres.

CVIAV has been at the centre of these reforms having participated in long-term consultations with the Department of Infrastructure and the regulator. Special thanks to CVIAV executive committee member and CVIAA national president Phill Hodges for his tireless work on this issue.

Read the NHVR's communication [HERE](#).

6. WOMEN IN AUTOMOTIVE

Women in Automotive: Automotive August

Women in Automotive (WinA) has been in operation for over 20 years and works to support, raise the profile, support and encourage more women into the automotive industry. They do this via scholarships, events and providing access to resources.

This month WinA is running a competition around growing their community. If you sign up or refer a new member, you go in the running to win a \$250 Endota spa voucher and other spot prizes!

Membership is FREE and takes only a minute to complete. It can be done [HERE](#).

Please circulate amongst your business and other contacts – men and women are both welcome!



Dr Imogen Reid

Lead, Strategy and Policy

Industry Divisions, Business and Consumer Affairs and Research Manager, Women in Automotive

VACC

Level 1 | 464 St Kilda Road | Melbourne Vic 3004

P: 03 9829 1145 | **M:** 0428 334 128 | **F:** 03 9820 3401 | **W:** vacc.com.au