

Road Safety (Vehicles) Interim Regulations 2020 commencing 4 October 2020 - Tractor front and rear number plate changes

Members of the VACC Farm and Industrial Machinery Dealers Association (FIMDA) and Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Victoria (CVIAV) are advised that the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 will be replaced by the Road Safety (Vehicles) Interim Regulations 2020, which will take effect from 4 October 2020.

The new Regulations include the following changes that apply to dealers.

Agricultural machine number plates

If it is not practicable to affix the number plate on both the front and the rear of the agricultural machine, one number plate is to be affixed to the rear of the vehicle.

This is an important change and has been lobbied for by FIMDA for the past 12 years. VACC thanks VicRoads for this change.

Seasonal registration

There will no longer need to be at least one month between seasonal registration periods for heavy vehicles. This has been a long standing FIMDA and CVIAV issue that has also been resolved.

Changes to General Identification Marks (GIM) and trade plates

- A prospective purchaser of an unregistered vehicle with trade plates may test drive the vehicle if the seller is an eligible person who is a dealer. The following requirements in relation to this have been removed:
 - the vehicle must not to be driven more than 1000 kilometres since its manufacture
 - the dealer would have to acquire a certificate of roadworthiness for the vehicle.
- The distance that an unregistered vehicle can be driven without a trade plate by an authorised person (e.g. licensed dealer) is being increased; from 25 to 100 metres of the perimeter of the owner's premises, and on a road that adjoins the premises.
- New penalties (5 penalty units) will be introduced for the misuse of a GIM and/or trade plate. The penalties can be applied to the person driving the vehicle when the trade plate is misused, or to the GIM holder who has caused or allowed the associated trade plates to be misused.

Minimum age of a registered operator

- The minimum age of the registered operator of a **car** or **light trailer** will change from 17 to 16 years.

- The minimum age of the registered operator of a **motorcycle** will change from 17 and 9 months to 18 years.
You can continue to use existing forms until stocks are all used. Please note that the cover page of the current manual dealer transfer form states the minimum age of registered operators as per the current Regulations. You can cross this out and insert the correct age as per the 2020 Interim Regulations until all these forms are used.

Unregistered Vehicle Permits (UVPs)

- A driver can provide a UVP electronically upon request. If the vehicle is left unattended or the electronic permit is unavailable, the permit must be printed and displayed.

Change of vehicle details

- If a vehicle's details have changed, the registered operator will need to notify VicRoads of the change **within 14 days**. The vehicle may be driven during the 14 day period.

Please call John Bouras and the team at VicRoads on the number below for any further details.

John Bouras

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