

# BULLETIN

## All Members



Reference No: Stage 4 Servicing/jk-9-20

Date issued: 16/09/2020

### Urgent Advice

Dear member

I'm pleased to inform you that Stage 4 restrictions pertaining to logbook and scheduled vehicle servicing have been eased after a long and collaborative discussion with the Victorian Government.

#### What is the issue?

Under the Victorian Government's Stage 4 restrictions, which came into effect on 2 August, routine maintenance was not a permitted activity unless it was deemed to be critical. Following extensive lobbying from VACC, these rules were relaxed on 25 August to allow vehicle servicing to be undertaken while a vehicle presented for urgent repairs.

#### What action has VACC taken?

VACC recently wrote to all Labor and Independent MPs advising that restricting general vehicle servicing would inadvertently place Victorians at risk. Specifically, concerns were raised about a vehicle's safety condition due to a lack of professional oversight. Constructive meetings were held with the Department of Jobs, Regions and Precincts where VACC proposed an automotive-specific COVIDSafe Plan in a bid to reopen automotive workshops.

#### What has been the Government response?

In response, VACC has been informed by the Victorian Government that:

***Routine maintenance (i.e. logbook or scheduled maintenance) is permitted as a standalone service for safety purposes only, including for repairs and product recalls. Under the current guidance, automotive, machinery and equipment repair and maintenance are permitted to operate:***

- ***where service providers are providing support to a permitted service or industry or***
- ***where it is required to maintain the health and safety of Victorians at home or at work (e.g. routine maintenance, vehicle repairs and critical maintenance including disinfection).***

You can see the Government response by clicking [this link](#).

#### What is VACC's interpretation of the Government's latest response?

- I. any vehicle, be it for a permitted industry or a member of the public can have a routine service or scheduled service performed on their vehicle;
- II. this amendment is active from 16 September 2020.

#### Other

- VACC reminds members that all other advice regarding work that is permitted under Stage 4 Restrictions still applies.

- VACC also urges members to ensure that a COVID-19 Safe Plan based on the six principles outlined below has been activated and that all other COVID-19 social distancing and contactless business measures are adhered to.

#### Six COVID Safe Principles

- Physical distancing
  - Wearing of face masks
  - Practicing good hygiene
  - Keeping of records and acting quickly if staff become unwell
  - Avoiding enclosed spaces
  - Creating workforce bubbles (where applicable).
- Based on the Stay at home Directions and Roadmap, the 5km travel rule will likely stay until at least 26 October.

We will keep you informed if there are any further changes to the Victorian Government's COVID-19 business restrictions. Finally, I thank members for the many examples and feedback provided regarding significant vehicle safety concerns due to missed or overdue servicing.

**Geoff Gwilym**  
Chief Executive Officer