

Request for expressions of interest to review VSB14

Dear member

Following VACC communication with the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King MP, whereby industry concerns were raised about inconsistencies of the standards contained within the National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (VSB14) and vehicle regulations provided by the United Nations Economic Commission upon which Australian Design Rules (ADR's) are based on. I am pleased to inform you that a review of the standards outlined within VSB14 is imminent and will be opened for industry consultation later this year.

VSB 14 was developed to guide those who intend to manufacture an individually constructed vehicle or carry out light vehicle modifications. Its principal aim was to provide a nationally acceptable set of technical specifications to satisfy the regulatory requirements of jurisdictions. The trouble is that the NCOP has not been updated as intended and has failed to keep up with our innovative industry, forcing state and territory transport regulators to go it alone and develop policies to keep up with technology, innovation, and common sense.

Specifically, VACC raised the following concerns and suggestions:

VSB14 sections that require attention:

- Vehicle emissions testing requirements - considering existing capability within industry, the equipment available and determining what is fair and achievable. Consider a multi-test approach like what NSW has proposed and implemented;
- aligning GCM and GVM upgrade standards nationally;
- ICV's - creating a fixed-point ADR / performance requirement list for construction - removing the link to constant evolving ADR's / ECE that are becoming more complex and unachievable;
- establish a review board, that meets regularly to provide direction and answers on engineering questions that are not covered by items in ADR's or VSB14;
- establish a clear set of noise performance requirements for both ICV's and modified vehicles;
- clearly define and document the transfer of vehicle registration requirements of modified vehicles / ICV's between different States;
- creation of a set of guidelines for EV conversions / ICV's to ensure safety of the vehicle, first responders, motorists, and public;
- creation of a manual that provides guidance for modifiers / builders;
- permit flexibility in the requirements to encourage ingenuity, reusability, and promotion of the circular economy within the automotive sector;
- clarification and update of various "guidelines" provided throughout VSB14, such as loads on suspension components;
- recognition of computer simulations such as FEA (finite element analysis) as a viable method of demonstrating compliance for relevant engineering requirements. Recommend that this includes either best practice guidelines so that such analysis work can be checked by a "non-analyst" VASS / third party to be of sufficient quality, OR an accreditation scheme providing a pathway for recognised providers of such computer simulation services.

VACC has active committees that represent your industry sector and will be involved in a national Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) technical working group, that said we seek technical experts to advise and assist in the collection of critical information that will help guide our priorities.

Members that are familiar with the outdated NCOP are asked to submit their expression of interest to be involved in this specialised technical working group that will develop and advise the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board Working Party, facilitated by the National Transport Commission on the amendments needed to update the NCOP within VSB 14.

There are many NCOP's, and members are asked to select the codes they use or have technical knowledge of that can lead to open discussions to provide the industry's recommendations for change. If we get this right, we might get some national consistency. Please familiarise yourself with the list of NCOP below.

Expressions of interest to participate in this working can be emailed to jkhoury@vacc.com.au

[Click here to view the current VSB14 Documents](#)

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