

## AUSTRALIAN MOTOR VEHICLE CERTIFICATION BOARD

Comprising Commonwealth, State and Territory Authorities

### CIRCULAR NO. 38-1-4 LOW VOLUME ASSESSMENT SCHEME FOR HEAVY TRAILER BRAKING SYSTEMS

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board (AMVCB or the Board) has agreed that an alternative to demonstrating compliance with ADR 38 be available to manufacturers of trailers produced in low volume. The Low Volume Assessment (LVA) scheme is limited to 3 trailers per year per manufacturer and is applicable only to trailers with compressed air braking systems.
2. The Low Volume Assessment Scheme provides, for one-off trailers, a simpler, quicker and less expensive alternative to Compliance Plate Approval, but the trailer manufacturer is responsible for building a trailer that conforms to the standards of braking system design and performance stipulated by ADR 38. The assessment is based on the application - VSB34/4 and Submission of Evidence - AB38 prepared by the trailer manufacturer.
3. Upon examination of the information submitted in the application, the Board will advise the manufacturer whether the trailer meets the Low Volume Assessment criteria and will issue an assessment plate if this is the case. \*
4. It will be considerably easier for the manufacturer to meet the LVA requirements if approved sub-assemblies have been used. The scheme requires the trailer manufacturer to perform the minimum of testing. If an approved Control System is not used, a test for brake actuation and release times must be conducted. If a spring brake Parking Brake System is not used, a parking brake test must be conducted. Otherwise no testing is required.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

5. An application for Low Volume Assessment requires an application Form VSB34/4, and a Low Volume Assessment submission of evidence Form AB38. Applications are to be made to the AMVCB which uses the evidence to assess whether the trailer meets the Low Volume Assessment criteria for ADR 38. Form AB38 contains sufficient details of the trailer to allow the AMVCB to assess its braking performance and check its brake control system. Where approved sub-assemblies are used the braking system is described by stating the sub-assembly approval numbers. Where approved sub-assemblies are not used the braking system is described by make, model and certain physical characteristics (eg brake drum size), of the brake system.

6. If an approved Control System is not used a drawing and parts list of the Control System must be provided.
7. If an approved Suspension System is not used, it must be identified by reference to "A guide to Heavy Vehicle Suspension Systems and Acceptable Axle Grups" prepared by the Advisory Committee on Vehicle Performance. If unapproved suspensions are not shown in the 'Guide' then photographs or drawings and specifications must be provided.
8. If unapproved Foundation Brakes are used that are neither conventional drum or disk, then photographs, drawings and specifications must be provided.
9. A separate application must be made for each trailer and only 3 trailers per manufacturer will be assessed per year (1st July to 30th June).
10. Once three trailers manufactured by one manufacturer have been approved under the low volume scheme in one year any further trailers by that manufacturer in that year will require Compliance Plate Approvals. It will not be possible to base evidence of compliance for Compliance Plate Approval on a Low Volume Assessment.

#### THE ASSESSMENT PLATE

11. An Assessment Plate for low volume trailers is a metal plate issued by the AMVCB pre-stamped with all the information required including the Assessment Number. The trailer manufacturer is not required to stamp on any additional information onto the plate. The trailer manufacturer is required to permanently mark the Assessment Number on the trailer adjacent to the Assessment Plate.
12. A condition of issue of the Assessment Plate is that the trailer manufacturer fits the issued plate to only the trailer specified in the Application for Assessment.