



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

ROAD VEHICLE STANDARDS

GUIDANCE NOTE

Applying to continue supply of a vehicle covered by an opted-in vehicle type approval

This guidance note explains how to apply for a new vehicle type approval when an opted-in vehicle type approval is expiring or has expired. It also identifies changes made to ROVER functionality to support this process.

The *Road Vehicle Standards (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2018* allowed holders of certain approvals granted under the former Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (MVSA) to apply for an 'opted-in' vehicle type approval under the Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018. These approvals were granted for 5 years and will expire in 2026.

You must apply for and be granted a new vehicle type approval to continue the provision of a vehicle type that is currently covered by an opted in approval.

How do I know if I hold an opted-in vehicle type approval?

Opted-in vehicle type approvals have a numbering series between VTA-000001 and VTA-059999 (inclusive) and expire between 1 July and 31 December 2026. You can find your approval number and expiration date on the first page of your approval notice.

Applying for a new vehicle type approval

The Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation sets defined approval periods and does not make provisions for either extending or renewing an approval.

To continue supplying vehicles covered by an opted-in approval, you will need to complete a new vehicle type approval application form in ROVER.

Existing models and ADR applicability

When completing your application, you will need to confirm the vehicle's extent of compliance with each applicable Australian Design Rule (ADR). This includes selecting 'Not applicable' for ADRs that are not yet applicable to all vehicle models.

If a vehicle model is exactly the same as the subject of a previously granted approval, the department will consider it to be an existing model (rather than a new model) for the purposes of ADR applicability.

For the department to apply this consideration, the model in the new vehicle type approval application must:

- have the same names or codes for make, model and generation
- be of the same type (as defined in the [Guide to vehicle type approvals](#))
- be the subject of a vehicle type approval that is not revoked before the new approval application is decided.

Demonstrating compliance using test results

Test results from an RVS approved testing facility are one of the primary methods for demonstrating a vehicle's compliance with applicable ADRs. However, some test facilities registered under the MVSA may not have applied to become approved testing facilities under the RVS legislation.

As outlined in the [Guide to vehicle type approvals](#), we will consider requests to use MVSA test results if you meet the following criteria:

- that you were the holder of a MVSA approval under 10A(1), 10A(2) or 14A
- you hold a vehicle type approval taken to be granted under the opt-in arrangements
- you are seeking to reapply for a vehicle type approval after the 5-year opt-in period has ceased.

When you enter the details for an MVSA registered test facility into a compliance information form, ROVER will recognise the details are not valid as an RVS approved testing facility and require you to do the following:

- submit a signed declaration with your application that the test results from the previous MVSA test facility meets the required information to demonstrate compliance, and that:
 - the original test evidence is still applicable and continues to demonstrate the vehicle's compliance with the national road vehicle standards
 - the original test results are accurate
 - retesting for compliance with the applicable national road vehicle standards will impose a significant and unreasonable financial burden on your business
 - retesting would not provide any additional safety, environmental, or anti-theft benefits to the Australian community
- accept responsibility for the accuracy of the test evidence and the vehicle's compliance with the applicable national road vehicle standards, and upload the following supporting documentation:
 - a copy of the original test report/evidence
 - a quote for the cost of retesting provided by an RVS approved testing facility
 - a statement about the financial burden of retesting
 - a statement about why retesting does not provide the community with any additional safety, environmental, or anti-theft benefits.

The decision-maker will consider all the information provided and decide if the vehicle complies, or substantially complies, with the national road vehicle standards. If a decision-maker is not satisfied by the information and declaration provided, they may:

- request further information to assist in deciding whether to grant a vehicle type approval – this may be a request to provide results of testing from an RVS approved testing facility or additional information relevant to the matters declared, or
- refuse to grant a vehicle type approval.

If the decision-maker is satisfied with the information and declaration provided, the vehicle type approval will be granted and will remain in force for 7 years, unless revoked earlier.

To re-apply for a vehicle type approval granted under the above arrangements when it expires, you must only submit test results from an RVS approved testing facility, regardless of any continuing imposition or financial burden to satisfy this criterion.

Letters of in-principle support

You will need to provide a letter of in-principle support (IPS) when applying for an approval for a non-standard heavy vehicle.

As IPS letters do not have an expiry date, most previously issued letters remain valid unless the vehicle specifications have changed since the IPS was issued. To reduce industry's workload when reapplying, the department is working with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to remove the need to provide a new IPS letter where a previously issued letter remains valid and appropriate.

In-service regulators will review the conditions of your opted-in approval to determine if a new IPS letter is required. If they determine that you need a new letter, the department will contact you directly in April 2026.

Retaining an approval number

The RVS legislation treats all applications as being for a new approval. ROVER will therefore allocate a new approval number to a successful application by default. If you want your new approval to retain the same approval number as a prior/existing approval, you need to request this when you make your application. You will also need to request, via a new declaration in ROVER, the department to revoke your prior approval on the day the new approval is granted. This is because 2 approvals with the same approval number cannot exist in ROVER at the same time. Details regarding the new declaration can be found at [A new declaration](#).

How to request to retain a prior approval number

On the **Comments and any other matters** page, provide the opted-in approval number and confirm if you wish to retain the same number as the opted-in approval (see Figure 1).

For example: This application is for the same vehicle type that is covered by opted-in approval VTA-050001. I would like to retain the same approval number.

Figure 1. Comments and any other matters page

The screenshot displays the 'Comments and any other matters' page. On the left is a sidebar with a list of application stages, each with a status icon (checkmark or cross). The 'Comments and any other matters' stage is highlighted with a right-pointing arrow. The main content area has a dark blue header with a home icon and the page title. Below the header, there's a sub-header 'Comments and any other matters' and a reference number 'VTA-2025-0000364'. A blue instruction text reads: 'Please provide any comments or additional information to support your application below. You may also upload any relevant supporting documentation, if required.' Below this is a large text input field containing the example comment: 'This application is for the same vehicle type that is covered by opted-in approval VTA-050001. I would like to retain the same approval number.' At the bottom of the main area are 'Refresh' and 'Upload New' buttons. Below these is a table header with columns 'File Name', 'Uploaded by', and 'Uploaded On ↓'. A yellow message at the bottom states 'No files have been uploaded.'

Approval commencement dates

If your application for a new approval is successful, the new approval will commence on the day it is granted unless you specify a forward commencement date. However, if you are seeking to retain the same approval number as the opted-in approval, you will need to request the department to revoke your opted-in approval when the new approval is granted. This is done via a new declaration in your application for a new approval. Under these circumstances, if your application is successful:

- your new approval will commence on the day that it is granted
- your prior approval will be revoked if it is in-force on the day that your new application is granted.

This is because the RVS legislation does not contemplate renewing an approval, and 2 approvals of the same number covering the same vehicle cannot co-exist in ROVER. Additionally, the new approval cannot extend beyond 7 years to account for the remainder of a revoked approval.

For new vehicle type approvals that do not retain the same approval number as a prior approval, you can nominate a forward commencement date. It is possible to have 2 separate and overlapping approvals for the same vehicle type as long as they have separate approval numbers.

How to complete the commencement of approval field

The commencement of approval field is on the **Approval details** page (see Figure 2).

If you wish to retain a previously issued approval number, leave the commencement of approval field blank. If your application is successful, your new vehicle type approval will commence on the day that the department grants the approval.

If you do not wish to retain a previously issued approval number, select the calendar icon and then select a future commencement date from the dropdown calendar.

Figure 2. Approval details page

The screenshot shows the 'Approval details' page. On the left is a sidebar with a list of steps: 'Before you begin', 'Applicant details', 'Manage application', 'Vehicle Type details', 'Road vehicle descriptor', 'Facility details', 'Design and manufacturing control', 'Extent of compliance', 'Compliance information', 'Contraventions of Road Vehicle Legislation', 'Approval details' (highlighted), 'Embargo of variants', 'Comments and any other matters', and 'Declarations'. Each step has a status icon (green checkmark or red X). The main content area has a header 'Approval details' and a sub-header 'Published contact details *'. Below this is a light blue box with the text: 'The approval holder's contact details will be published on the department's website with the approval, if granted.' The form contains fields for 'Approval holder', 'Name of contact person', 'Email Address ^', 'Phone ^', and 'Website ^'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Commencement of approval' with a light blue box containing the text: 'You may specify the commencement date of this approval if it is granted. If your specified commencement date is before the decision date to grant you an approval, the commencement date for the approval will be the decision date.' Below this is a date input field with a calendar icon.

A new declaration

On the **Declaration** page, you will need to read and acknowledge the following declaration:

I/I on behalf of the applicant, declare that:

- This application is seeking an approval for a type of vehicle covered by an expiring or expired opted-in vehicle type approval granted under item 5 of Schedule 3 of *the Road Vehicle Standards (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2018*;
- I have provided the approval number for the type of vehicle covered by the opted-in vehicle type approval at the comments and any other matters page of the application;
- I request the department revoke the identified opted-in vehicle type approval (if it remains in force) on the day the Secretary decides to grant a new road vehicle type approval, should this application be successful.

The declaration confirms you are seeking a new approval for a vehicle type covered by the identified opted-in approval and that you agree to the revocation of the opted-in approval (if it remains in force) on the day you are granted approval.

Revocation is necessary because 2 approvals with the same approval number cannot be in force at the same time.

Further information

For further information, please visit [Vehicles | Department's website](#) or submit an online enquiry via the [Contact us—RVS | Department's website page](#).

Quick links

- [Welcome to ROVER](#)
- [Road Vehicle Standards legislation | Department's website](#)
- [Guide to reapplying for an expiring or expired approval](#)

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Updated February 2026 – Removed information on when ROVER will be updated.

Updated March 2026 – Added information on existing models and ADR applicability, demonstrating compliance with test results, letters of in-principle support for heavy non-standard vehicles, retaining an approval number and approval commencement dates.