



Australian Government

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



➤ Guide to interim arrangements for importing a special purpose vehicle under the RVS legislation

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Director – Creative Services
Communication Branch
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Email: publishing@infrastructure.gov.au
Website: www.infrastructure.gov.au

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Updated January 2022 – definition of a special purpose vehicle and examples added
Updated April 2022 – extended transitional period dates added
Updated January 2023 – URL links updated.

Introduction

Special purpose vehicles (SPVs) are permitted to not comply with certain Australian Design Rules (ADRs) so they can perform a special purpose.

These vehicles may be imported and added to the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) if the vehicle meets the relevant entry requirements.

Under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (MVSA) SPVs are not required to demonstrate compliance with ADRs. However, under the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (RVSA), which fully commenced on 1 July 2021, SPVs are required to demonstrate compliance with all applicable ADRs unless they can demonstrate that complying with an ADR(s) will mean the vehicle is unable to operate for the purpose for which it was designed.

For example, certain mobile cranes, concrete pumpers and airport service vehicles.

Interim arrangements for importing a special purpose vehicle under the RVS legislation

This is a significant change for industry and, given the procurement lead times for many SPVs, the following interim arrangements have been implemented to provide SPV applicants with sufficient time to adapt to the new requirements.

Interim arrangements for special purpose vehicles from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Date	Interim arrangement
1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023	SPVs will be granted concessional RAV entry approval even if they cannot demonstrate compliance with applicable ADRs, as long as they meet all other entry criteria.
1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	SPV applications, excluding trailers, must demonstrate compliance with ADRs applicable to brakes, lights and mirrors. Special purpose trailer applications must demonstrate compliance with ADRs applicable to brakes, lights and mechanical connections. SPVs will be granted concessional RAV entry approval even if they cannot demonstrate compliance with all other applicable ADRs, as long as they meet all other entry criteria.
1 July 2024 onwards	SPVs must meet eligibility criteria as set out in the Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019, including demonstrated compliance with all applicable ADRs unless they can demonstrate that complying with an ADR means the vehicle would not be able to operate for the purpose for which it was designed.

How do I apply to import an SPV?

Since 1 July 2021, anyone seeking to import an SPV is required to apply through [ROVER](#) for a concessional RAV entry approval. A concessional RAV entry approval also provides import approval.

To apply for a concessional RAV entry approval you need to first create an account in ROVER, verify your identity and register an authority to act on behalf of an individual or company. The [ROVER resources](#) webpage provides more information.

When starting a concessional RAV entry approval application, the applicant (or agent) will be prompted for information. Depending on the type of vehicle, certain ADRs will be presented and the applicant must note the degree to which the vehicle complies with the ADRs. See Table 1 for further details.

Where the vehicle demonstrates compliance with all applicable ADRs – except where the applicant can demonstrate the vehicle would not be able to operate for the purpose for which it was designed if it complied with certain ADRs – the vehicle may be granted a **concessional RAV entry approval – SPV**.

During the interim arrangements outlined above, where a vehicle cannot demonstrate compliance with an applicable ADR – and cannot demonstrate the vehicle would not be able to operate for the purpose for which it is designed if it complied with the ADR – the vehicle may be granted **concessional RAV entry approval – road vehicle suitable for entry on the RAV**.

Note: Obtaining a full **concessional RAV entry approval – SPV** may entitle the vehicle to a greater range of registration options.

Table 1: The information required in an application for a concessional RAV entry approval on the basis that the special purpose vehicle criterion is met and why it is required

ADR compliance	What is required?
Vehicle does not comply with the applicable ADR	<p>Select a vehicle category for the vehicle (link to ADR definitions and vehicle categories).</p> <p>Statement of which ADRs the vehicle does not comply with (ADRs selected from a list using the vehicle category and the ADR applicability table to determine list to display).</p>
Vehicle would not be able to operate for the purpose it was designed for if it complied with ADR	<p>Description of the purpose for which the vehicle was designed, with supporting information.</p> <p>Statement that the vehicle would not be able to operate for the purpose for which it was designed if it complied with national road vehicle standards.</p> <p>Description of how modification or different design of the vehicle (to make it compliant with national road vehicle standards) would mean the vehicle could not operate for this purpose. This should be specific to each standard with which the vehicle does not comply.</p>
Vehicle complies with ADR standards to an extent that makes it suitable for use on a public road	<p>Letter of in-principle support from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator or state or territory registration authority where the vehicle will be used.</p>

ADR – extent of compliance

When completing the application, you will be required to select the extent of compliance for all the applicable ADRs for the SPV. The selection options are:

- Compliant
- Compliance to be confirmed after importation
- Not compliant
- Not applicable/Exempt.

The following shows some of the applicable ADRs for SPVs and examples of selection options for the extent of compliance for each ADR. When selecting 'Compliance to be confirmed after importation' or 'Not applicable/Exempt' or 'Not compliant' you will be prompted to provide additional compliance information to support your application.

Applicable ADRs for SPVs

ADR	Extent of compliance
ADR 01/00 - Reversing Lamps	Compliant
ADR 02/00 - Side Door Latches and Hinges	Compliant
ADR 03/04 - Seats and Seat Anchorages	Not applicable/Exempt
Transition arrangement	
ADR 04/06 - Seatbelts	Not applicable/Exempt
Transition arrangement	
ADR 05/06 - Anchorages for Seatbelts	Not applicable/Exempt
Transition arrangement	
ADR 06/00 - Direction Indicators	Compliant
ADR 08/01 - Safety Glazing Materials	Compliant
ADR 13/00 - Installation of Lighting and Light Signalling Devices on other than L-Group Vehicles	Not compliant
Cannot comply because	
<div> <div>+</div> <div>-</div> </div>	
ADR 14/02 - Rear Vision Mirrors	Compliant

What is the RAV?

The [RAV](#) is an online publicly searchable database of vehicles that comply with the RVSA and are suitable to be provided in Australia. Once entered on the RAV a vehicle is available for registration by a state or territory registration authority (pending any local rules).

Further information

For further information, please visit the [department's website](#) or submit an [online enquiry](#).