



Australian Government

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

Road Vehicle Standards



Guide to non-RAV entry import approvals—Appendix 1 —Testing and market evaluation vehicles

August 2025

One of the non-RAV entry import approval eligibility criteria for a testing or market evaluation vehicle, is that the vehicle will not be used on a public road or will only be used on a public road in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional circumstances may include situations where road use occurs regularly, but is controlled or limited by registration authorities and/or conditions of the approval. An example of this is where a vehicle manufacturer road tests a vehicle to confirm it is suitable for Australian road or climate conditions. Please refer to ‘Conditions of approval’ in the [Guide to non-RAV entry import approvals](#) for the types of conditions that may be included in these approvals.

An approval could be granted that involves use on a public road, but includes conditions limiting who can use the vehicle and preventing the sale of the vehicle while it is being tested.

Registering a vehicle for test and evaluation use

State and territory authorities and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) have an agreement to allow vehicles to be registered for test and evaluation use in certain circumstances. These circumstances generally include where the non-RAV entry import approval holder is also a vehicle type approval holder and the vehicle complies with safety related Australian Design Rules (ADRs). Vehicle type approval holders (and others supported by the vehicle make’s approval holder) are not required to obtain in-principle support to include in their application, however it is recommended applicants contact the relevant registration authority to confirm the option of registration for test and evaluation use in their specific circumstances.

Where the applicant does not hold a vehicle type approval and intends to use the vehicle on a public road, they will be required to provide information demonstrating in-principle support from the state or territory registration authority (or the NHVR if applicable) for the vehicle to be used on a public road.

For the vehicle to be assessed as fit-for-use on a public road in exception circumstances, the applicant may be required to declare the vehicle complies with safety related ADRs or provide in-principle support from the registration authority.

Where a vehicle does not comply with safety related ADRs, the state or territory may not grant road registration.

Vehicles that do not comply or have in-principle support may be eligible for an approval that does not involve use on a public road.

If a test or evaluation vehicle intended for registration lacks a 17-character VIN, this should be indicated on the application form, along with any chassis number that may be present on the vehicle. As a vehicle cannot be registered without a 17 character VIN, where a vehicle does not have one the department is able to issue a [surrogate VIN](#).

Note: While this information is applicable to applications for non-RAV entry import approvals, if a local manufacturer is having difficulty registering a testing or market evaluation vehicle, they can submit an application for consideration.

Testing plans

A test plan should include:

- a basic description of how and where the vehicle will be tested
- who will operate the vehicle while the testing is being performed
- the intended management of the vehicle after testing is completed.

If more than one vehicle is required, justification for why multiple vehicles are required should be included in the test plan and attached to each application.

When the vehicle is covered by a vehicle type approval

A vehicle that meets the definition of a new vehicle* can be entered on the [Register of Approved Vehicles](#) (RAV) by the vehicle type approval holder or their authorised representative, if it is covered by the vehicle type approval.

A vehicle that has been tested on a public road is not eligible for entry on the RAV under the vehicle type approval pathway as it does not meet the definition of a new vehicle. However, a concessional RAV entry approval may be granted for a vehicle if the department is satisfied that the vehicle is suitable for RAV entry.

***A new vehicle** is defined in the Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019 (the Rules) as: a vehicle that has not been used in transport on a public road in Australia or outside Australia, other than:

- to have work done on it, or
- to protect it, or
- to store it, or
- if the vehicle has been imported – to transport it to the importer, or
- if the vehicle has been exported – to transport it to the exporter.

Where a vehicle is identical to a vehicle identified in a vehicle type approval, other than the fact it has been used on a public road, the department may be satisfied it is suitable for entry on the RAV based on a declaration from the vehicle type approval holder.

An application for concessional RAV entry approval would be on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis. A separate application will be required for each vehicle, unless they are identical. The RAV would record the vehicle RAV entry pathway as 'Concessional – Otherwise Suitable'.

To apply, applicants should select 'Personal effects' vehicle under the 'Single road vehicle application' icon in [ROVER](#) and in the comments section of their application include that they are seeking consideration that the vehicle is otherwise suitable for entry on the RAV, as well as a detailed reason why.

Vehicles imported to develop a Model Report

Where the vehicle was imported to develop a Model Report, a single road vehicle application can be made using the option 'Concessional RAV entry – vehicle to be modified by a RAW'.

The vehicle will still be verified by an authorised vehicle verifier (AVV). However, the modifications may have already been performed while developing the Model Report. In this case, the applicant must make it clear in the application that the vehicle has already been modified and cannot meet the condition of being modified by a registered automotive workshop (RAW).

If suitable, an approval can be granted where the application almost meets the eligibility criteria. Specific conditions will be added to the approval for certain elements of the vehicle outlined in the Model Report to be verified by an AVV.

This may include checks for manufacture or modification, damage and corrosion, deterioration and recall completion.

Conditions of approval for testing or market evaluation vehicles

Non-RAV entry import approvals for testing and market evaluation vehicles may include conditions for an approval holder to maintain control of the vehicle until it is exported, destroyed or entered on the RAV.

Table 1. Non-RAV entry import approval conditions.

When a condition may be added	Conditions that may be included
An applicant has indicated the vehicle will be used on a public road.	<p>The approval holder must ensure that, when the vehicle is driven on public roads, it is only driven by people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaged directly or indirectly by the approval holder, or contracted to the approval holder or the approval holder's nominated representative in Australia, or who are under the supervision of a person that is within one of the classes of people listed above. <p>The approval holder must fit a durable label or placard in a position that is clearly visible to the driver which displays the conditions of approval.</p> <p>The approval holder must not transfer ownership or sell the vehicle.</p>
An applicant has indicated the vehicle will not be used on a public road.	<p>The approval holder must not use the vehicle on a public road.</p> <p>The approval holder must not transfer ownership or sell the vehicle.</p>
<p>An applicant has indicated the vehicle will be disposed of, i.e. exported, or destroyed, after testing or market evaluation is completed rather than entered on the RAV and provided for use in transport.</p> <p>Note: this does not preclude the provision of ex-testing/evaluation vehicles for educational and training purposes.</p>	<p>At the end of the test or evaluation program the approval holder must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dispose of the vehicle, by exporting or destroying it, or make it available for use in education or training, in which case the approval holder must export or destroy the vehicle at the end of its useful life as an educational or training aid. In this case the approval holder must not transfer ownership or sell the vehicle, such as to the educational/training organisation. The approval holder, as the entity to whom the approval conditions apply, remains responsible for the vehicle until such a time as it is exported or destroyed. <p>The approval holder must provide the department with documentary evidence within 30 days that the vehicle has been exported, destroyed or made available for educational or training purposes. In the latter case, at the end of the vehicle's use for education or training, the approval holder must provide the department with further documentary evidence within 30 day of exportation or destruction.</p>

<p>An applicant has indicated the vehicle will be entered on the RAV in accordance with their vehicle type approval, if granted.</p>	<p>The approval holder must not transfer ownership or sell the vehicle until the vehicle has been entered on the RAV in accordance with the vehicle type approval.</p> <p>If the vehicle is not eligible for entry on the RAV, the approval holder must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make an application for a concessional RAV entry approval, or • export or destroy the vehicle (including if the concessional RAV entry approval is refused), and provide evidence this has been done. <p>This condition must be met within 12 months of completing the test or evaluation of the vehicle.</p>
<p>An applicant has indicated the vehicle will be entered on the RAV in accordance with a concessional RAV entry approval, if/when granted.</p>	<p>The approval holder must not transfer ownership or sell the vehicle until the vehicle has been entered on the RAV.</p> <p>If the vehicle is not eligible for entry on the RAV, the approval holder must export or destroy the vehicle and provide evidence this has been done. This condition must be met within 12 months of completion of the test or evaluation of the vehicle.</p>