



Australian Government

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



Road Vehicle Standards

High ATM trailers – Overview

Under the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation, manufacturers and importers of trailers with an aggregate trailer mass (ATM)* of more than 4.5 tonnes (high ATM trailers) must be granted a vehicle type approval or concessional RAV entry approval before providing it to a consumer for the first time in Australia.

The two main differences between a vehicle type approval and a concessional RAV entry approval are the number of vehicles allowed to be entered on the [Register of Approved Vehicles](#) (RAV) and the requirement to have a conformity of production system.

Both vehicle type approval and concessional RAV entry approval applications must include a declaration that the trailer complies (or will comply) with the relevant national road vehicle standards – the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) – at the time the vehicle is entered on the RAV. Applications also need to provide evidence of compliance with the relevant ADRs.

* **ATM** = the trailer's total mass when carrying the maximum load recommended by the manufacturer.

Vehicle type approval

A [vehicle type approval](#) application for a high ATM trailer has the same requirements as other vehicle type approvals. However, for high ATM trailers the applicant may use a [Model Report](#) to show compliance with the applicable ADRs.

Model Reports set out how a particular make, model, variant(s) or build range of vehicle may be modified or manufactured to meet the standards applying to it, given its vehicle category and age. Using a Model Report may also help meet some of a vehicle type approval holder's conformity of production and design change control obligations.

Concessional RAV entry approvals

Manufacturers and importers may apply for a [concessional RAV entry approval](#) for up to 4 high ATM trailers in a 12-month period. This can include up to 4 identical trailers in one application. If the approval is granted, the department will enter each vehicle on the RAV.

How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted through [ROVER](#), the department's online applications and approvals portal. Before you apply, you must first [create an account in ROVER](#) and fill out an online application form. This includes all of the required information, documents and declarations so your application can be assessed.

High ATM trailer specific requirements

ADR 38/05—Trailer Brake Systems

In addition to including information on [ADR 38/05—Trailer Brake Systems](#), applicants also need to attach a braking calculation report. The calculation report must be specific to the variant information and show how the trailer or trailer type meets the requirements of the ADR.

The information in the calculation must be in a format that can be uploaded to ROVER (pdf, jpeg, png or bmp format) and include the fields shown in this [ADR 38/05 calculations template](#). The template has been created based on information previously required for an application or variation to an Identification Plate Approval for a high ATM trailer.

ADR 61/03 and trailers using SARNs

Clause 7.4.2 of ADR 61/03 requires the vehicle plate affixed to trailers over 4.5 tonnes ATM to include the words 'BRAKE SYSTEM COMPONENT TYPE APPROVAL NUMBERS' followed by the relevant numbers or 'N/A' if there isn't an applicable component type approval.

In the case of manufacturers who opted-in and wish to continue to rely on SARNs, they would still need to include the wording above and 'N/A', but could also list the relevant braking SARN. This could be entered on the plate as 'BRAKE SYSTEM COMPONENT TYPE APPROVAL NUMBERS: N/A – SARN xxx.'

Applications demonstrating substantial compliance

If an application includes substantial compliance, it is the applicant's responsibility to show that the substantial compliance is either minor and/or inconsequential, or complies to an extent that makes it suitable for entry on the RAV.

If the vehicle or vehicle type complies to an extent that makes it suitable for entry on the RAV, the information needs to show the vehicle or vehicle type is covered by:

- a notice issued by a state regulator or the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#), or
- an 'in principle' support letter issued by a state regulator or the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

Complying with your responsibilities

The department encourages voluntary compliance. It [monitors and enforces compliance](#) with the RVS legislation and undertakes informed risk-based compliance activities to confirm compliance.

More information

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

Disclaimer: Please note this information is a brief summary of information. We do not make any guarantees about the completeness of the information above as it is intended as easy-to-read background material/'quick guide' only.