



Road Vehicle Standards

High ATM trailers – Overview

Road Vehicle Standards legislation for trailers started on 1 July 2021.

High ATM trailers

The *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 (RVSA)* replaced the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (MVSA)* on 1 July 2021.

The Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019 are made under the RVSA. Together, they form the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation.

Regulating road vehicles is part of how the Australian Government keeps Australians safe on our roads. The RVS laws ensure vehicles in the Australian market, including high ATM trailers, are safe, secure and environmentally-friendly.

What has changed?

Under the MVSA, high ATM trailer manufacturers and importers had to get an Identification Plate Approval before they could supply new vehicles in Australia.

Now, under the RVS legislation, manufacturers and importers of trailers **with an aggregate trailer mass (ATM)* of more than 4.5 tonnes (high ATM trailers)** can choose between obtaining a [vehicle type approval](#) or a [concessional Register of Approved Vehicles \(RAV\) entry approval](#) vehicle to be provided 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](#) 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

Applying for a vehicle type approval for a high ATM trailer has the same requirements as other vehicle type approvals. However, for high ATM trailers the applicant may choose to 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. If the approval is granted, the department will enter the vehicle(s) on the RAV vehicle by vehicle.

Transitional arrangements

On 1 July 2021 a transitional period started where some MVSA arrangements may continue in parallel to the RVSA. The transitional period ends on 30 June 2023.

How do I apply?

All RVS applications must be submitted through [ROVER](#), the department's online applications and approvals portal. To apply for an approval, 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

In addition to including information on ADR 38/05, 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 loaded into 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 already required for an application or variation to an Identification Plate Approval for a high ATM trailer.

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, 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 with the RVS legislation.

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.