



# Reapplying for an expiring or expired approval

May 2026

This guide explains what to do when an approval has either expired or is expiring soon. This includes retaining an approval number, paying a commencement levy (when applicable), and how the department determines ADR applicability for vehicle type approvals.

The Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation sets a defined approval period of either 5 or 7 years for several approval types on the condition that they are not revoked. Specifically:

- testing facility approvals, registered automotive workshop approvals, authorised vehicle verifier approvals and opted-in vehicle type approvals will expire after 5 years, and
- component type approvals and vehicle type approvals will expire after 7 years.

Due to the timing of the RVS legislation implementation, some approvals either have or will soon expire, with key examples being the early testing facility approvals and opted-in vehicle type approvals. You cannot use an expired approval to either operate as a regulated entity under the RVS legislation or to provide road vehicles to the Australian market.

Importantly, the RVS legislation does not make provisions for either extending or renewing an approval. As your approvals will expire, you must apply for and be granted a new approval to continue operations. While the RVS legislation does not set an explicit time limit on when you may apply for a new approval in these circumstances, the department:

- advises that there is no scope to accommodate multiple versions of the same approval and therefore recommends approval holders exercise common sense when timing applications for a new approval to take the place of an expiring approval;
- recommends that regulated entities and other approval holders continue to consider the department's legislated decision-making timeframes when seeking approvals under the RVS legislation, including when managing an expiring approval;
  - to support this, the [RVS legislation application decision-making timeframes](#) document lists the timeframes by application type; and
- recommends vehicle type approval holders consider the impact of obtaining a new approval on the expiring approval as outlined below under the [Type approval commencement dates](#) heading.

## How to apply

You are required to apply for a new approval. This means you must complete a new application in ROVER and provide all required supporting information.

The department cannot approve a request to vary your approval so that it remains in-force beyond the 5 or 7 year duration that the RVS legislation provides for the relevant approval type. You must make a new application in ROVER.

## Retaining an approval number

As the RVS legislation does not make provision for renewing approvals, you will need to apply for a new approval. ROVER will allocate a new approval number to a successful application by default.

If you wish to have a prior/existing approval number attached to a new approval, you need to request this when you make your application.

In [ROVER](#), you can request this in the field provided on the **Comments and any other matters** page of your new application. Please provide your existing approval number and a brief statement that confirms:

- you wish to retain the previously issued approval number should a new approval be granted to you
- your new application covers the exact same vehicle, component, facility or entity as the expiring approval. For example, for a component type approval application, that the application covers the exact same component make and model, or the exact same facility for a testing facility approval application.

The following is an example of a request being made as part of a vehicle type approval application.

The screenshot shows the ROVER interface for the 'Comments and any other matters' page. The left-hand navigation menu includes items like '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', 'Embargo of variants', 'Comments and any other matters', and 'Declarations'. The 'Comments and any other matters' section is active. The main content area displays the application ID 'VTA-2026-0000402' and a prompt: '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 text area containing a sample comment: 'If your application is for a type of vehicle covered by an expiring or expired opted-in vehicle type approval, please provide the opted-in approval number and indicate if you wish to retain the same approval number in the comments and additional information box below. For example: This application is for the same vehicle type covered by an opted-in approval VTA-050001, which expires shortly. I would like to retain the same approval number for this approval.' Below the text area are 'Refresh' and 'Upload New' buttons. A table header is visible with columns 'File Name', 'Uploaded by', and 'Uploaded On'. A message states 'No files have been uploaded.' and a 'Save and Next' button is at the bottom right.

## Choosing not to retain an approval number

You do not need to retain the number of an expiring approval if you do not wish to. However, to prevent ambiguity and any delays in assessing and deciding on your application, you must clearly state your choice not to retain an existing approval number.

In [ROVER](#), you can request this in the field provided on the **Comments and any other matters** page of your new application. Please provide a brief statement that confirms:

- your new application covers the exact same vehicle, component, facility or entity as the expiring approval, and quote the expiring approval number. For example, for a vehicle type approval application, that the application covers the exact same vehicle make and model; and
- you do not wish to retain the previous approval number should a new approval be granted to you.

## Vehicle type approvals

### Existing models and ADR applicability

The department will determine that a vehicle model is an existing model, rather than a new model, for ADR applicability purposes if the vehicle model is the subject of a previously-granted vehicle type approval.

However, the vehicle type detailed in the new vehicle type approval application must be exactly the same as that detailed in the prior approval for the department to apply this consideration. The vehicle model in the new application **must**:

- have the same names and/or codes for the 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 before the new approval application is decided.

When completing your new vehicle type approval application, you will be required to:

- confirm the vehicle's extent of compliance with each applicable ADR, including selecting 'Not applicable' for ADRs that are not yet applicable to all vehicle models
- identify that you are applying for the same vehicle type as a prior approval in the field provided on the **Comments and any other matters** page of the application.

### Approval commencement dates when retaining an approval number

When applying for a new vehicle type approval and seeking to retain the same number as an expiring approval, it will not be possible to have the new approval commence on a commencement date of your choice. This is because the RVS legislation does not contemplate renewing an approval, and two approvals of the same number cannot co-exist in ROVER.

In your application you should leave the commencement of approval field blank. If your application is successful:

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

Please also note that the RVS legislation allows vehicle type approvals to be in force for a maximum period of 7 years. The department therefore cannot grant a new approval that extends beyond 7 years to account for the remainder of a revoked approval.

\* You will need to request that the department revoke your prior approval when applying for a new approval under these circumstances. See the [Opted-in vehicle type approvals](#) section for more information.

### Approval commencement dates with new approval numbers

For new vehicle type approvals that do not retain the same approval number as a prior approval, you can nominate a forward commencement date.

If the new approval commences before the prior approval expires, there will be a period of time where both approvals are active. Please note that there will be no link between these approvals in ROVER and so any variations made to one will also have to be independently made to the other.

**Important:** If you nominate a future commencement date (for example, when the prior approval expires), please be aware that you will not be able to make any variations to the new approval until it comes into force.

Any variations made to the prior approval before the new approval comes into force—for example, to demonstrate compliance to a newly-applicable ADR—will not be carried over to the new approval.

If the new approval does not meet all legislative requirements when it comes into force it may be suspended.

Please note you cannot continue to provide vehicles if the approval is suspended.

## Opted-in vehicle type approvals

The [Guidance note—Applying to continue supply of a vehicle covered by an opted-in vehicle type approval](#) 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 we have made in ROVER to support the application process.

## Approval commencement dates for other approval types

Testing facilities, registered automotive workshops and authorised vehicle verifiers must pay a commencement levy upon receiving notification that the department intends to grant a new approval. The new approval will not commence in lieu of the department receiving the commencement levy.

ROVER will generate an invoice for your granted approval once your current approval expires.

The new approval is only in-force once you have paid the commencement levy, after which you can operate under that approval.

## 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](#)
- [RVS guides and resources | Department's website](#)
- [RVS legislation glossary of terms | Department's website](#)
- [Guidance note—Applying to continue supply of a vehicle covered by an opted-in vehicle type approval](#)

First published May 2025

Updated June 2025 – Added information on when models are considered an existing model for ADR purposes and the commencement date of type approvals.

Updated February 2026 – Removed restriction on reapplication timeframe and altered information on type approval commencement date. Added information on opted-in vehicle type approvals.

Updated May 2026 – Restructured guidance to group advice for vehicle type approvals and other approval types. Added information on choosing not to retain an existing approval number. Minor clarification to existing models ADR applicability and future commencement dates.