



Australian Government

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



# Road Vehicle Standards

## Road vehicle identification marking under the RVS laws – Overview

### Why does a road vehicle require identification marking?

Since 1 July 2021, all road vehicles approved under the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) laws must be added to the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) before they can be provided to the Australian market for the first time. This requirement, together with other identification markings required by the RVS laws, provide multiple levels of vehicle identification and a readily visible means to identify a road vehicle.

### What determines the identification marking for a road vehicle?

All categories of vehicles, as defined in [Australian Design Rule – Definitions and Vehicle Categories](#), are required to comply with [Australian Design Rule 61/03 – Vehicle Marking](#), which commenced on 1 July 2021. ADR 61/03 includes marking requirements for:

- vehicle identification numbers
- engine identification numbers
- secure vehicle identification
- information to be included on a:
  - vehicle plate for heavy omnibuses and all trailers
  - registration plate mounts
- visibility from the rear of vehicles with a body of the tray type.

### Vehicle Identification Numbers

Each road vehicle must have a unique Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). The format, content and location of the VIN must also meet certain international standards. Please see more information about VINs on our [website](#).

### Secure vehicle identification marking

Secure Vehicle Identification (SVI) marking must display at least:

- the name of the manufacturer or the vehicle make, for example, the name of the road vehicle type approval holder or the marque or brand name applied to the vehicle (a manufacturer may also include further information, for example, a 'VIN' barcode), and
- the VIN.

While the above are the minimum requirements, a manufacturer can meet the make component included on their SVI Marking in a number of different ways:

- the marque or vehicle brand name only
- a company name associated with the manufacturer
- a production facility name associated with the manufacturer.

Where the vehicle has been subject to [second stage of manufacture](#) (SSM), the name and make of the first stage base vehicle is sufficient to meet the requirements of SVI Marking. The SSM approval holder does not need to fit an additional SVI Marking unless they choose to.

## What form or marking is required?

Depending on the vehicle category, the marking must take the form of either a:

- durable self-adhesive label, or
- durable metal plate.

**Important:** If using a self-adhesive label, it must be tamper evident, fraud resistant and self-destructive (self-voiding) if there is an attempt to remove the label. All information must be printed indelibly on the label.

## Engine numbers

This number is used to identify the engine fitted to a road vehicle, including for registration, insurance and anti-theft purposes.

The engine number must be legible and permanently stamped, cast, laser engraved or a combination of these. It must be placed on the main component of the engine and able to be viewed without needing to remove any of the vehicle components, or moved easily, or the number has been repeated on a supplementary label placed in a conspicuous position and cannot be removed.

## Vehicle plates

A vehicle plate is required for certain vehicles to provide additional information needed to ensure the safe and legal operation of the vehicle. For example, the seating capacity for buses or the aggregate trailer mass (ATM) or gross trailer mass (GTM) for trailers. In these instances, the vehicle plate must be readily available and visible on the vehicle to operators and enforcement agencies.

**Note:** If using a metal plate, it must be welded, riveted or otherwise permanently affixed to the vehicle. All required information, including additional information for certain vehicle categories, must be embossed, indented, etched, engraved or otherwise printed indelibly on the plate.

## Registration plates

Registration plate mounts are required on vehicles to ensure the standard dimension of number plates can be easily affixed and appropriately located on all vehicles, so they can be readily identified while in use. See section 9 of [ADR 61/03](#) for more detail.

**Important:** An SVI Marking must be in Latin alphabet letters, Arabic numerals (or a combination) and all at least 2.5 mm in height.

## Visibility of tray

Improved visibility from the rear of certain vehicles is required. For every vehicle that is 2.2 metres, or more wide and has a body of the tray type, and not fitted with conspicuity markings in accordance with ADR 13/... - Installation of Lighting and Light Signalling Devices on other than L-Group Vehicles, there must be displayed by painting or otherwise across the full width of the rearmost portion of the tray, a horizontal band having uniform thickness of at least 75mm and being white or silver in colour and clearly visible.

## What identification marking do I need for my vehicle?

The table below explains the vehicle categories and their identification marking requirements.

Vehicle category	Description	Form of marking	Information required	Additional features	Vehicle plates
<b>Two-wheeled and three-wheeled vehicles</b>					
LA	Moped – 2 wheels	Durable self-adhesive label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer or vehicle make</li> <li>• VIN</li> </ul>	None	Not applicable
LB	Moped – 3 wheels				
LC	Motor cycle				
LD	Motor cycle and side car				
LE	Motor tricycle				
<b>Passenger vehicles (other than omnibuses)</b>					
MA	Passenger car	Durable self-adhesive label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer or vehicle make</li> <li>• VIN</li> </ul>	None	Not applicable
MB	Forward-control passenger vehicle				
MC	Off-road passenger vehicle				
<b>Omnibuses</b>					
MD	Light omnibus (Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) not exceeding 5.0 tonnes)	Durable self-adhesive label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer or vehicle make</li> <li>• VIN</li> </ul>	None	Not applicable
ME	Heavy omnibus (GVM exceeding 5.0 tonnes)	Durable self-adhesive label <b>OR</b> Durable metal plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer or vehicle make</li> <li>• VIN</li> <li>• ADR category code</li> <li>• Seating capacity</li> <li>• Maximum towing capacity in kg</li> </ul>	All letters must be UPPERCASE or BLOCK letters If single-deck for more than 16 passengers and is not certified to ADR 59/..., it must include words 'THIS	Single plate can be affixed including SVI Marking and other required information

Vehicle category	Description	Form of marking	Information required	Additional features	Vehicle plates
				VEHICLE DOES NOT COMPLY WITH ADR 59/... OMNIBUS ROLLOVER STRENGTH'	
<b>Goods vehicles</b>					
NA	Light goods vehicle (GVM not exceeding 3.5 tonnes)	Durable self-adhesive label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer or vehicle make</li> <li>• VIN</li> </ul>	None	
NB	Medium goods vehicle (GVM exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12.0 tonnes)	Durable self-adhesive label <b>OR</b> Durable metal plate			
NC	Heavy goods vehicle (GVM exceeding 12.0 tonnes)				
<b>Trailers</b>					
TA	Very light trailer (GVM not exceeding 0.75 tonne)	Durable metal plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer or vehicle make</li> <li>• VIN</li> <li>• ATM in kg</li> <li>• GTM in kg</li> <li>• A trailer type <b>up 4.5 tonnes</b> ATM must include the Tare Mass in kg</li> <li>• Trailers above 4.5 tonnes ATM must include 'BRAKE SYSTEM COMPONENT TYPE APPROVAL NUMBERS'</li> </ul>	All letters must be UPPERCASE or BLOCK letters Any trailer over 4.5 tonnes ATM not fitted with an 'Antilock System' must include the words 'THIS VEHICLE IS NOT FITTED WITH ANTILOCK BRAKES' If certified to ADR 63/..., must include 'ROAD TRAIN TRAILER'	Single plate can be affixed including SVI Marking and other required information.
TB	Light trailer (GVM not exceeding 3.5 tonnes, but not TA)				
TC	Medium trailer (GVM exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 10.0 tonnes)				
TD	Heavy trailer (GVM exceeding 10.0 tonnes)				

## Further information

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