



Supplier's guide to vehicle recalls

Vehicle recalls have changed under the new Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation. If you supply vehicles or vehicle components, it's important you keep up to date.

Vehicle and component recalls are critical in keeping vehicles safe. Under the new [RVS legislation](#), in effect from 1 July 2021, the Department has assumed regulatory responsibility for road vehicle and approved road vehicle component recalls.

What is a recall?

All road vehicles and approved road vehicle components in the Australian market must comply with standards under the RVS legislation. If they do not comply, or there is an issue with their safety, vehicle and component suppliers should undertake a voluntary recall to either fix the issue or remove it from the market as soon as possible. Recalls can be either voluntary or compulsory depending on their nature.

What is the difference between voluntary and compulsory recalls?

A voluntary recall is action taken by vehicle and component suppliers to fix a safety or non-compliance issue with a road vehicle or approved road vehicle component.

A compulsory recall is when the responsible Commonwealth Minister issues a compulsory recall notice to suppliers if it appears that they have not taken satisfactory action to either:

- › prevent injury, or
- › rectify non-compliance with applicable standards

Who is responsible for taking voluntary recall action?

You are responsible for undertaking recall action if you supply road vehicles or approved road vehicle components to the Australian market. You are considered a supplier if you manufacture, import, distribute, retail, supply or resupply road vehicles or approved components to the Australian market by sale, exchange, lease, hire or hire purchase.

What is changing under the RVS legislation?

The RVS legislation has streamlined the process for road vehicle and approved road vehicle component recalls by providing a one-stop-shop for suppliers to work with us on recall issues.

All vehicle and approved road vehicle component recalls will be listed on our new Vehicle Recalls website. We've also launched a new online portal called [ROVER](#) which allows suppliers to notify us about a recall.

What is the process for a recall?

If you determine a vehicle or vehicle component presents a safety issue, a potential safety issue or does not comply with applicable standards, you should commence voluntary recall action as soon as possible to prevent possible injury or even death and rectify non-compliance.

The process for you to follow is similar to what you may be familiar with already. The requirements and suggested inclusions for each step in the process is outlined in our [Recalls Policy: Road Vehicles and Approved Road Vehicle Components](#). These steps are a quick summary and are not in a strict order. Some may be completed at the same time, or some may not apply to you.

1. **Notify** – You must notify us, on behalf of the Commonwealth Minister, within **2 days** of taking recall action if the vehicle or component was supplied in Australia. You must notify those you supplied outside of Australia as soon as practicable and give notice to us, on behalf of the Commonwealth Minister, within **10 days** after giving the notice. You can do this through our [ROVER portal](#). See our full [Recalls Policy](#) for what information to include in the notice.
2. **Prepare** – You should develop and submit:
 - › **A Recall Strategy** through [ROVER](#). The strategy should include an explanation of the issue, how the defect occurred, the number of affected units, any known injuries and the proposed actions to rectify the issue. This allows us to work with you to ensure the issue is resolved.
 - › **A Communication Strategy** outlining how you intend to reach affected owners or operators as quickly and effectively as possible. The strategy and communication approach should be appropriate to the level of risk.

You may use an Industry Code to guide your notification and recall process if it provides sufficient information, in line with our [Recalls Policy](#).

3. **Action** – The action chosen is at the discretion of the Supplier as is the remedy.
4. **Report** – You will be required to submit regular progress reports to us throughout the process. The frequency will be agreed based on the level of risk. This will help us to determine if there is anything we can do to support the recall.

I import vehicles or components. Am I responsible?

If you import and sell vehicles or components outside of normal distribution channels, you may have no relationship to the manufacturer of the vehicle or component. Concessional vehicle importers and Registered Automotive Workshops (RAW) have an obligation to undertake recall action if they meet the definition of a 'Supplier'.

Our role

We are responsible for administering the RVS legislation. In general, our role will be to work with you throughout the recall process and to support you where we can. We will monitor the progress of the recall through to completion.

All recall notices will be published on the [vehicle recalls website](#). We will use content from the recall notice provided to us and will ask that you review the content before we publish it. Our notice will clearly outline what action should be taken and who consumers and operators can talk to if they have questions or concerns about the voluntary recall.

We may also issue suppliers with a disclosure notice where we reasonably believe a person can provide information, documents or evidence about vehicles or components that may cause injury or do not comply with national road vehicle safety standards. There are serious consequences for not complying with a disclosure notice, or for providing false and misleading information in response to one, including significant financial penalties, criminal prosecution and imprisonment.

How does the Australian Consumer Law fit in?

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is responsible for product safety of consumer goods under the Australian Consumer Law. This includes vehicle-related consumer products, not covered by the RVS Legislation, such as quad bikes, golf carts, personal mobility devices and power-assisted pedal cycles.



Find out more

- › **Visit:** vehiclerecalls.gov.au/guidance-suppliers
- › **Email:** recalls@infrastructure.gov.au
- › **Phone:** 1800 815 272 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm AEST, within Australia), or, +61 2 6274 7444 (calling from overseas)

Disclaimer

Please note this information is a brief summary of the Recalls Policy and RVS Legislation, which should be read in full to understand your responsibilities and requirements.