



Road Vehicle Standards

Second stage of manufacture of vehicles – Overview

What is second stage of manufacture?

Second stage of manufacture (SSM) involves modifying or adding to a new vehicle that has met the requirements of the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) laws (the base vehicle) to create an alternate vehicle (SSM vehicle). For example, adding an ambulance, motorhome or fire tender body to a new chassis cab.

Under the RVS laws the base vehicle that will undergo SSM must be a new vehicle not already provided to the Australian market, covered by a relevant RVS approval and entered on the [Register of Approved Vehicles](#) (RAV), before work is performed under the relevant SSM approval as detailed below.

One of the requirements to enter vehicle details on the RAV is that the vehicle must be in Australia. However, an application for a vehicle type approval may request that certain vehicles be permitted, in certain circumstances, to be entered on the RAV while outside of Australia. For example, the vehicle is intended for SSM activities in an overseas country.

SSM under the road vehicle type approval pathway

SSM can be performed under a vehicle type approval if the criteria for obtaining a type approval are met. The [Guide to vehicle type approvals](#) (pages 16-18) provides more details about SSM vehicle type approvals and the importance of the SSM vehicle complying with the national road vehicle standards (Australian Design Rules).

RVS SSM vehicle type approval holders can modify base vehicles that are either on the RAV or base vehicles fitted with a *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (MVSA) identification plate that have not yet been supplied to the market.

All RVS vehicle type approval holders are responsible for entering the vehicle details on the RAV when all requirements and conditions under the approval have been met. When entering SSM vehicles on the RAV it is important to record the correct RAV details and entry pathway where:

- the base vehicle is on the RAV, the SSM RAV entry pathway sub-category **must** be:
 - **Type Approval – Second Stage Manufacture**
- the base vehicle is NOT on the RAV but is fitted with an identification plate by a MVSA approval holder, the SSM RAV entry pathway sub-category **must** be:
 - **Type Approval – Standard**, or
 - **Type approval – Non-Standard**, as applicable.

Further information about entering vehicle details on the RAV using a SSM vehicle type approval can be found in the [Guide to the RAV for vehicle type approval holders](#).



Please note: it is the SSM vehicle type approval holder's responsibility to ensure the base vehicle has already been correctly entered on the RAV, (including liaising direct with the vehicle type approval of the base vehicle if required), **before** entering the SSM vehicle details on the RAV under **type approval – second stage of manufacture**.

SSM under the concessional RAV entry approval pathway – vehicle to be modified by a RAW

SSM is performed on single vehicles, including by a [registered automotive workshop](#) (RAW). In this instance the base vehicle must be covered by a vehicle type approval and already entered on the RAV.

Under the RAW framework all SSM modifications must be made in accordance with an approved [Model Report](#) and verified by an [authorised vehicle verifier](#) (AVV). See more information in the [Overview of vehicles to be modified by a RAW](#).

If the AVV is satisfied the vehicle's modifications have been made in accordance with the Model Report Verification Checklist the AVV will enter the SSM vehicle details on the RAV. More information is available in the [Guide to the RAV for AVVs](#).

Where a SSM vehicle has met all of the requirements under the concessional RAV entry approval (including any conditions), has been modified by an approved RAW and verified by the AVV, the AVV will enter the details on the RAV using the entry pathway sub-category – **Concessional – RAWS - Second Stage Manufacture**.

Note: the AVV must check the base vehicle details are already on the RAV, has and has met requirements under the concessional RAV entry approval before entering the SSM vehicle details on the RAV.

SSM under the RVS transitional arrangements

MVSA identification plate approvals

Under the [RVS transitional arrangements](#) SSM performed according to an identification plate approval (IPA) granted under the MVSA can continue in accordance with the MVSA IPA until June 2023 as long as the IPA remains in force. All MVSA plated vehicles must be supplied before 1 July 2023.



Please note: MVSA approval holders cannot fit an identification plate to a base vehicle that has been added to the RAV. The SSM vehicle must also be entered on the RAV (see below).

SSM by MVSA approval holder under the RVS

When an SSM is performed under a MVSA approval, where the base vehicle has been entered on the RAV and not provided to a consumer, the IPA the approval holder will need to apply through [ROVER](#) for a **concessional RAV entry approval – vehicle to be modified by a RAW**, using the Single Road Vehicle application icon, to have the Second Stage vehicle also added to the RAV.

The application will be considered under section 41 of the [Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019](#) – as a **vehicle otherwise suitable for entry on the RAV** – on the basis the vehicle is modified in accordance with the MVSA IPA for SSM held by the applicant.

Note: Vehicles covered by a MVSA IPA can be entered on the RAV via this transitional arrangement until MVSA IPA expires at the end of 30 June 2023.

SSM questions, answers and tips

What happens if I opted-in my MVSA IPA for SSM?

If you opted-in for a vehicle type approval for SSM you can modify vehicles in accordance with that approval. Your MVSA IPA approval ceased on the day your opted-in vehicle type approval took effect.

What if the base vehicle is on the RAV and the RAW has completed modifications in accordance with the Model Report and the concessional RAV entry approval?

You will need to ensure the vehicle meets the requirements of ADR 61/03 – vehicle marking and has the relevant [secure vehicle identification](#) before arrangements are made for AVV verification.

What if I'm not yet ready to apply for a vehicle type approval for SSM but hold a MVSA IPA for SSM?

You can continue to use your MVSA IPA for SSM until the end of 30 June 2023, noting that only MVSA IPA plated vehicles can be modified in accordance with the MVSA IPA for SSM. The SSM vehicle must be plated and provided before the end of 30 June 2023.

If I want to continue to use my MVSA IPA for SSM but the base vehicle has been entered on the RAV, what can I do?

You can continue to use the MVSA IPA for SSM until the end of 30 June 2023, however where the base vehicle is entered on the RAV you will need to use the single road vehicle application for a concessional RAV entry approval – vehicle to modified by a RAW. Use the comments section of the application to provide details of your MVSA IPA for SSM so the vehicle can be considered for entry on the RAV using section 41 of the RVS Rules instead of being plated.

What happens if I hold a vehicle type approval and have given authority to someone else to submit the SSM vehicle details on the RAV?

The approval holder is responsible for all activities under the approval. When authorising someone else to enter SSM vehicle details on the RAV, that entity must be aware of the need to provide accurate details on the RAV. Where an error has occurred, it is a condition of the approval that when you become aware of an error in information entered on the RAV, the department is notified as soon as practicable. It is also your responsibility to rectify the error through ROVER.

What happens if I have entered a SSM vehicle on the RAV ahead of the base vehicle being entered on the RAV?

Your RAV submitter procedures should include steps for SSM vehicles to firstly ensure the base vehicle is already entered on the RAV by searching via the VIN. Always pay attention to the error messages that will guide you to rectify the issue required to complete an accurate RAV submission.

You can notify the department of an error on the RAV via the [ROVER portal](#). See also: [RAV tips for submitting SSM vehicles](#).

Further information

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