



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Cities and Regional Development

Road Vehicle Standards

RVSA Implementation Consultation Framework

Combined Consultation Group

Information Paper CG1 – Circulars Review

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Introduction

The *Road Vehicle Standards Legislation Amendment Act 2019* has postponed the commencement of the substantive provisions of the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation to a date to be fixed by Proclamation, or 1 July 2021 if not fixed before this date. In preparation for commencement of the legislation, the Department is currently undertaking policy and procedures development to ensure an effective transition.

The Department has continued to consult with stakeholders and is aware that some industry participants remain concerned about how certain aspects of the legislation will work in practice. The Road Vehicle Standards Act (RVSA) Implementation Consultation Framework (the framework) was established as a mechanism to continue to engage with the road vehicle industry and in-service regulators to identify and develop practical solutions to issues relevant to the administration of the RVS legislation.

The Department met with stakeholders in Sydney on 2 May 2019 and put forward a proposed approach to the review of MVSA administrator's circulars in the light of the commencement of RVSA. This paper describes how the Administrator's Circulars will transition to RVSA guidance material.

Key points


Administrator's Circulars provide additional information to guide compliance under the *Motor Vehicles Standards Act (MVSA)*. This includes the Department's expectations for acceptable standards and formats of evidence to be provided, and guidance in application procedures. In future, information to assist stakeholders to apply for approvals and meet their ongoing obligations under the RVSA will be provided as external guidance.

A review of all Administrator's Circulars has commenced to confirm that applicable information contained in the circulars has been transferred into RVSA policy and identified for inclusion in guidance material planning.

During the transitional period, both Administrator's Circulars and RVSA guidance material will be available. In addition, some interim guidance may be provided for specific transitional circumstances. All guidance will be appropriately labelled.

Specific ADR Circulars under RVSA

Specific ADR Circulars are Administrator's Circulars that directly relate to Australian Design Rule (ADR) compliance. Specific ADR Circulars will continue to be available under the RVSA where applicable. These circulars will be updated on a case by case basis to support ongoing development of ADRs and the supporting evidence collection systems.



Where circulars have been updated or replaced due to a change in ADRs, previous versions of Specific ADR Circulars that could be applicable to Model Report applications will continue to be made available as archival copies. They will be marked to indicate that they can not be used to guide compliance with current ADRs.

Guidance material structure

Guidance material requirements have undergone a preliminary analysis, and a structure for managing guidance material has been developed. Under the RVSA, guidance material will be maintained for each of the following topic areas:

1. Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV)
2. Vehicle Type Approvals (VTA)
3. Concessional RAV Entry
4. Registered Automotive Workshops (RAWs)
5. Model Reports
6. Authorised Vehicle Verifiers (AVVs)
7. Testing Facilities
8. Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicles (SEVs)
9. Non-RAV Entry Approvals
10. Reimportation Import Approvals
11. Component Type Approvals (CTA)
12. Recalls
13. Compliance Activities
14. Enforcement Responses
15. Is it a road vehicle?
16. Financial Management
17. Miscellaneous

Each of the topic areas 1 – 11 listed above will include as standard the following subtopics:

1. Overview
2. How to apply
3. Compliance with conditions of approval
4. Payments

Additional subtopics have been and will continue to be identified for specific topic areas as guidance material is developed.

Example: A subtopic identified for development within topic 2, Vehicle Type Approvals (VTA), is 2.5.01 *Campervans and Motorhomes – type approval*

External guidance numbering

The Department recognises that stakeholders currently appreciate being able to reference a specific circular by number. Document numbering conventions assist with document version control, and so RVSA guidance material will follow the following numbering convention:

<high level topic number>.<sub topic number>.<version> <descriptive title>

Example 1: 1.1.01 *Guide to the Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV)*

Example 2: 7.2.01 *Guide to becoming an Approved Testing Facility*

Review process

Administrator's Circulars, with the exception of Specific ADR Circulars, have been distributed to operational policy and certification areas for review. Each circular has been reviewed to ensure that any material that remains relevant under the RVSA has been captured in policy and identified for inclusion in guidance material.

For example, reviewers have confirmed that all RVSA relevant material from Administrator's Circular 0-12-0 *Test Facility Inspection (TFI)* has been captured within the Testing Facilities policy and incorporated into 7.1.01 *Guide to Testing Facilities*.

In some instances, content from a single circular has been incorporated into more than one RVSA topic area. For example RVSA relevant material from Administrator's Circular 0-4-8 *Registration and use of Evaluation Vehicles* has been captured across two policy areas, Vehicle Type Approvals and Non-RAV Entry Approvals, and guidance material will be provided under each policy area.

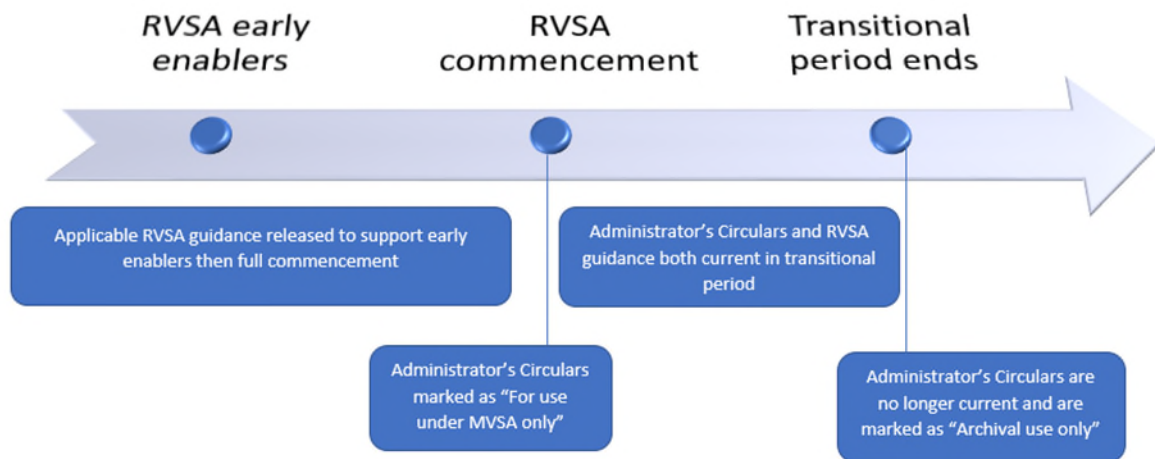
Transition from Administrator's Circulars to RVSA guidance material

During the transitional period from the commencement of the RVSA until the end of all MVSA approvals, both Administrator's Circulars and RVSA guidance material will be current.

Before the commencement of RVSA, RVSA specific guidance material will be provided. In the case of early enabled RVSA functionality, guidance material will be provided in advance of the date of application availability. With the exception of relevant ADR Specific Circulars, Administrator's Circulars do not provide guidance for RVSA applications and approvals.

During the transitional period, guidance from Administrator's Circulars will **only** be applicable to MVSA approvals. MVSA approvals will expire either before or at the end of the transitional period. At this time, Administrator's Circulars will no longer be current and will be appropriately archived. During the transitional period, Administrator's Circulars will be marked as "For use under MVSA only" and referral to RVSA guidance material will be provided.

Where necessary to support any additional interim arrangements, guidance material will be provided through the continuation of provisions in Administrator's Circulars, early provision of RVSA guidance material, or the development of interim specific guidance.



Conclusion

Administrator's Circulars, with the exception of ADR Specific Circulars, will be replaced by RVSA guidance material. Administrator's Circulars will continue to be available as archived documents.