Interim arrangements
Guidance for importing a road vehicle that is at least 25 years old into Australia
VERSION CONTROL

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>29/11/2019</td>
<td>First version of guidance</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<td>Cover page – Department name updated.</td>
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<td>Page 7 – ‘How do I apply’ information updated.</td>
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<td>Page 13 – contact details updated.</td>
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Introduction

The Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation will replace the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (MVSA) to implement the Australian Government’s reforms to the regulatory framework for the safety, environmental and anti-theft performance of all road vehicles being provided to the Australian market for the first time – both new and used. The reforms will deliver modernised legislation to increase community safety and remove unnecessary processes for businesses.

The Government has extended the commencement date of the RVS legislation—initially set to begin on 10 December 2019—to ensure that governments, manufacturers and importers have sufficient time to prepare for the transition to the new arrangements. The Government will continue to work with all affected stakeholders to agree on and set a new commencement date, which will be no later than 1 July 2021.

The Government recognises some stakeholders may be adversely affected by this decision and it is not the Government’s intention to unnecessarily disadvantage businesses or individuals. The Government is therefore implementing a range of measures to minimise the negative impact of the postponement on affected stakeholders.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development (the Department) has developed interim arrangements for access to road vehicles that are at least 25 years old and this guidance explains how to apply for the importation of these vehicles into Australia.

Currently, under the Motor Vehicle Standards Regulations 1989, an application for the importation of a vehicle can be made if a vehicle was manufactured before 1 January 1989—that is, made during 1988 or earlier (in 2019 this means a vehicle 31 years or older). This is commonly referred to as the ‘Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option’.

From 10 December 2019 this option was expanded to allow for the importation of vehicles that are at least 25 years old, that would have been available under the RVS legislation had it commenced as originally intended.

These interim arrangements began on 10 December 2019 and will continue until commencement of the RVS legislation.
Eligibility requirements

Under the interim arrangements the category of vehicle that may be eligible for importation is limited to nine categories. This is different to the 'Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option' where there is no limitation on the vehicle category.

A vehicle must meet one of the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle category (description)</th>
<th>Category code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passenger car</td>
<td>MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward-control passenger vehicle</td>
<td>MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road passenger vehicle</td>
<td>MC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moped – 2 wheels</td>
<td>LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moped – 3 wheels</td>
<td>LB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor cycle</td>
<td>LC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor cycle and side-car</td>
<td>LD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor tricycle</td>
<td>LE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light goods vehicle</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information about these vehicle categories is provided at Attachment A — Road vehicle categories.

The vehicle must have a **build date** that is at least 25 years old. The relevant build date is the later date of either:

- the month and year that assembly of the vehicle was first completed/manufactured; or
- if significant modifications have been made to the vehicle, the date the last significant modification was completed.

Where only the year of manufacture can be identified, the month will be taken to be December of that year.

The tables below illustrate how the year of manufacture or build date of a vehicle affects whether the interim arrangement or the ‘Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option’ will apply.

---

The following table is for **2019**:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of manufacture or build date</th>
<th>Age of vehicle</th>
<th>Option to apply under</th>
<th>Relevant vehicle categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Neither option applies – consider other importation options</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Interim option</td>
<td>MA, MB, MC, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE AND NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Interim option</td>
<td>MA, MB, MC, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE AND NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option</strong></td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>32</td>
<td><strong>Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option</strong></td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table is for **2020**:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of manufacture or build date</th>
<th>Age of vehicle</th>
<th>Option to apply under</th>
<th>Relevant vehicle categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Neither option applies – consider other importation options</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Interim option</td>
<td>MA, MB, MC, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE AND NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Interim option</td>
<td>MA, MB, MC, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE AND NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>32</td>
<td><strong>Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option</strong></td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>33</td>
<td><strong>Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option</strong></td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following links and information are available on our website explaining these eligibility requirements and how to apply.

- Click on **Import options** and then **Vehicles Manufactured more than 25 years ago** for the following information to display:

```plaintext
Interim measure: applying to import vehicles older than 25 years

As per the Department's recent announcement, a range of measures are being implemented to assist with the adverse consequences of postponing the commencement of the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation.

One of these measures is to allow early import of older vehicles (vehicles older than 25 years), which would have been available under the RVS legislation had it commenced. Applications for older vehicles will be able to be made from 10 December 2019.

**Please note:** applications for vehicles manufactured before 1989 must use **Vehicles Manufactured Before 1989 Option**.
```
Eligibility

To be eligible under this option, the vehicle must meet the eligibility criteria under section 36 of the Road Vehicle Standards Rules 2019.

The vehicle must meet one of the following categories:

- Passenger Car (MA)
- Forward-control Passenger Vehicle (MD)
- Off-road Passenger Vehicle (MC)
- Moped – 2 wheels (LA)
- Moped – 3 wheels (LB)
- Motor cycle (LC)
- Motor cycle and side-car (LD)
- Motor tricycle (LE), or
- Light Goods Vehicle (NA)

The vehicle must have a relevant build date that is at least 25 years before the date of the application. The relevant build date is the later of:

- the date that assembly of the vehicle was first completed, or
- if there are significant modifications, the date that the last of any significant modifications were completed.
How do I apply?

Until full commencement of the RVS legislation, you should follow the application process under the Motor Vehicle Standards (MVS) legislation for Vehicles Manufactured before 1989.

You will need to provide the following documents to support your application.

- A purchase document for the vehicle in your name (a purchase document can be a pro-forma invoice, receipt for a deposit or full payment.)
- A recent photo of the vehicle (in its current condition) including:
  - Clear color picture of Front, Rear, Side, Engine Bay and full Interior
  - Picture of the VIN or Chassis number on the vehicle
- If the vehicle is a light goods vehicle evidence of the GVM
- Details which help us to assess the vehicle, including:
  - Evidence of the year of manufacture, VIN Plate, Japan De-rego certificate, manufactures confirmation,

Where modifications have been made to a vehicle you will also need to provide:

- details of the modification(s) including supporting evidence that documents the date(s) the work was undertaken, component(s) installed and the person(s) or businesses that completed the work.
- clear high definition, colour photos of the vehicle, in a well-lit area, displaying the:
  - entire underside of the vehicle on a hoist including front and rear bumper, engine, exhaust, transmission, tail shaft, differential, front and rear suspension components, and front and rear brakes with the wheels off
- engine, engine bay and engine number
- chassis number and chassis modification(s)

**If you are unable to attach all of the required documents in the application process you will during the assessment stage be sent an email requesting the documents that are missing.**

These documents are in addition to the documents required when you register on the portal.

Detailed guidance on this interim arrangement, including how to apply: [insert guidance document]

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us on 1800 815 727 (within Australia) or +61 2 62/4 7444 (outside Australia), or via email to vimports@infrastructure.gov.au.
How to apply online


- If you are not yet registered with the Department to use VIS click on the [Register for VIS Online](https://vis.infrastructure.gov.au/_layouts/VISBranding/VISLogin.aspx) link as highlighted below:

![Vehicle Import System login screen](image1)

- Click on [Client Portal: Enter New Application](https://vis.infrastructure.gov.au/_layouts/VISBranding/VISLogin.aspx) and the following screen will display:

![Vehicle Imports application screen](image2)
• Select ‘I want to import a vehicle manufactured before 1989’ as highlighted above and complete the confirmation.

• When asked whether you are eligible select ‘No’.

• This will prompt the field:
  ‘You have indicated that you are not eligible to import a vehicle under one or more of the prescribed options. For each of these vehicles, are you prepared to explain why you think an import approval should be issued and attach additional supporting information’.
  o Select ‘Yes’.

• Enter the build date of your vehicle.

• If your vehicle build is post 1988 you will receive the following message:
  o ‘You have stated that your vehicle was manufactured after 1 January 1989. As such your vehicle is not eligible under this scheme. If you want to try another scheme press back. If you want to continue, please make a statement explaining why you think an import approval should be issued for your vehicle’.
  o State you are applying to import a vehicle under the ‘Older than 25 year’ option.

• What type of vehicle are you applying for:
  o Select ‘other’
  o Type in the ‘Vehicle Category’ of your vehicle.

• If your vehicle is a light goods (commercial) vehicle, provide the gross vehicle mass (GVM) of the vehicle.
  o You may be asked to provide further evidence to support a vehicle’s claimed build month/year, the GVM, the VIN/Chassis or vehicle category.

• Provide photographs of the vehicle’s:
  o VIN or chassis number
  o engine bay
  o front, rear, side and interior of the vehicle

• Note – all photographs need to be uploaded in a maximum of three separate documents (noting the combined file upload limit of 15 MB for each application).
• Select whether the vehicle is in original condition or not.

• If a vehicle has been **modified** the following additional information and photographs will be required:
  
  o Details of the modification(s) including supporting evidence that documents the date(s) the work was undertaken (including the date the lastest modification was completed), component(s) installed and the person(s) or businesses that completed the work.
  
  o Clear, colour photos of the vehicle, taken in a well-lit area, displaying the:
    
    ▪ entire underside of the vehicle on a hoist including front and rear bumper, engine, exhaust, transmission, tail shaft, differential, front and rear suspension components, and front and rear brakes with the wheels off.
    
    ▪ engine, engine bay and engine number.
    
    ▪ chassis number and chassis modification(s).
  
• Upload evidence of ownership (e.g. registration or insurance documents, receipts).

• Complete the remaining questions.

• The following screen will then display:

  ![Image](image.png)

**Do not enter another application using the + sign:**

One vehicle per application: under the interim arrangements only **one vehicle** can be imported per application.

Do not mix applications: applications under the interim arrangement cannot be combined with applications under the pre-1989 option. You need to submit separate applications for
pre-1989 and post-1989 vehicles.

- Check your application summary and submit your application – you will then be directed to an online payment form to pay the $50 application fee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Import</td>
<td>Number of Imports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Manufactured before 1989</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of imports</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fee payable</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submission of your application

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development is collecting the information on this form, and any supporting documentation you provide, to assess your application to import your vehicle. This is authorized by the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 and the Motor Vehicle Standards Regulations 1989. The Department usually gives some or all of this information to state and territory registering authorities, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, policing agencies and fair trading agencies. Personal information provided to the Department is covered by the Privacy Act 1988. The collection, storage, use and disclosure of personal information are subject to the Information Privacy Principles.

The Department reserves the right to seek additional information to facilitate assessment of your application.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. Offences are set out under Part 7.4 of the Criminal Code for giving false or misleading information in applications or documents. Maximum penalties of imprisonment for 12 months are provided.

Please note that information submitted to the Department may be provided to other government agencies.

By ticking Submit Application you are declaring that:

- The information provided is true and correct, and
- You are the applicant or the nominated agent of the applicant

Upon submission of your application a fee of AUD $50 will be payable to the Department to finalise your lodgement, this is a fee for lodging an application. Please note that refunds will not be given, even if an application is withdrawn before a decision is made.

Submission is limited to 15 MB, therefore you should ensure your documents do not exceed this requirement.
Frequently asked questions

The build plate on my vehicle only refers to the year. How do I tell when my vehicle is at least 25 years old?
To import a vehicle under this option you must have year and month of manufacture (or date of the last significant modification).

You may be able to retrieve the month of manufacture by:

- contacting the relevant manufacturer;
- entering the VIN / Chassis number into a decoding website (e.g. https://www.vindecoder.net/); or
- referring to first vehicle registration paper.

Where the month of manufacture cannot be determined, the month will be taken to be December of that year.

My vehicle does not have a build plate. What evidence can I provide?
You will need to provide a letter from the manufacturer or the first registration paper.

How many vehicles can I import at a time under this option?
One vehicle per application.

What sort of evidence should I provide if my vehicle has been modified?
Types of evidence that can show the date of completion of the most recent modification include an engineering certificate, receipt for services, or the original advertisement of the modified vehicle. Notarised statements and statutory declarations from either a buyer or seller will not be accepted. Receipts for individual parts should also be provided.

What do you mean by a ‘significant modification’?
Information about what the Department considers to be a significant modification can be found at the following webpage
Contact details

If you have any questions or require any help please contact us on 1800 815 727 (within Australia) or +61 2 6274 7444 (outside Australia), or via email to vimports@infrastructure.gov.au.
Attachment A — Road vehicle categories

Road vehicles that meet any of the following categories are eligible for application for importation into Australia—this information has been taken from the *Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule – Definitions and Vehicle Categories) 2005* and can be found at [https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00487](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00487).

A two-character vehicle category code is shown for each vehicle category. This code is used to designate the relevant vehicles in the vehicle standards, as represented by the Australian Design Rules and in related documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PASSENGER CAR</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>A passenger vehicle, not being an off-road passenger vehicle or a forward-control passenger vehicle, having up to 9 seating positions, including that of the driver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORWARDED CONTROL PASSENGER VEHICLE</td>
<td>MB</td>
<td>A passenger vehicle, not being an off-road passenger vehicle, having up to 9 seating positions, including that of the driver, and in which the centre of the steering wheel is in the forward quarter of the vehicle’s ‘Total Length’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| OFF-ROAD PASSENGER VEHICLE | MC | A passenger vehicle having up to 9 seating positions, including that of the driver and being designed with special features for off-road operation. A vehicle with special features for off-road operation is a vehicle that:
- Unless otherwise ‘Approved’ has 4 wheel drive; and
- has at least 4 of the following 5 characteristics calculated when the vehicle is at its ‘Unladen Mass’ on a level surface, with the front wheels parallel to the vehicle’s longitudinal centreline, and the tyres inflated to the ‘Manufacturer’s’ recommended pressure:
  - ‘Approach Angle’ of not less than 28 degrees;
  - ‘Breakover Angle’ of not less than 14 degrees;
  - ‘Departure Angle’ of not less than 20 degrees;
  - ‘Running Clearance’ of not less than 200 mm;
  - ‘Front Axle Clearance’, ‘Rear Axle Clearance’ or ‘Suspension Clearance’ of not less than 175 mm each. Alternatively, a vehicle that meets the definition of CATEGORY G - OFF-ROAD VEHICLES under Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (R.E.3) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and is in category M1. |
| MOPED - 2 Wheels | LA | A 2-wheeled motor vehicle, not being a power-assisted pedal cycle, with an engine cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 ml and a ‘Maximum Motor Cycle Speed’ not exceeding 50 km/h; or a 2-wheeled motor vehicle with a power source other than a piston engine and a ‘Maximum Motor Cycle Speed’ not exceeding 50 km/h. |
| MOPED - 3 Wheels | LB | A 3-wheeled motor vehicle, not being a power-assisted pedal cycle, with an engine cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 ml and a ‘Maximum Motor Cycle Speed’ not exceeding 50 km/h; or a 3-wheeled motor vehicle with a power source other than a piston engine and a ‘Maximum Motor Cycle Speed’ not exceeding 50 km/h. |
| MOTOR CYCLE | LC | A 2-wheeled motor vehicle with an engine cylinder capacity exceeding 50 ml or a ‘Maximum Motor Cycle Speed’ exceeding 50 km/h. |
| MOTOR CYCLE AND SIDE-CAR | LD | A motor vehicle with 3 wheels asymmetrically arranged in relating to the longitudinal median axis, with an engine cylinder capacity exceeding 50 ml or a ‘Maximum Motor Cycle Speed’ exceeding 50 km/h. |
| SIDE-CAR | | A car, box or other receptacle attached to the side of a motor cycle and for the support of which a wheel is provided. |
| MOTOR TRICYCLE | LE | A motor vehicle with 3 wheels symmetrically arranged in relation to the longitudinal median axis, with a ‘Gross Vehicle Mass’ not exceeding 1.0 tonne and either an engine cylinder capacity exceeding 50 ml or a ‘Maximum Motor cycle Speed’ exceeding 50 km/h. |
| LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE | NA | A goods vehicle with a ‘Gross Vehicle Mass’ not exceeding 3.5 tonnes. |