

FACT SHEET

F.I.R.S. vehicles face suspension of vehicle registration for repeated breaches of road transport law

Introduction

Recent changes to the Commonwealth Interstate Road Transport Regulations 1986 enable all registering authorities, including the RTA, to suspend a Federal Interstate Registration Scheme (FIRS) vehicle's registration for repeated breaches of road transport laws.

Reason for Change

The need for these changes has arisen because of the inability of State and Territory governments to take similar enforcement action against the owners of FIRS vehicles as they take against State or Territory registered vehicles.

For example, in NSW, vehicles registered in NSW can be suspended for repeated contravention of road transport laws as detected by Safe-T-Cam cameras that are used on the main transport routes. Vehicles registered in other States and territories have their visiting vehicle rights suspended. These changes to Commonwealth regulations ensure that the RTA is now able to take direct action (including suspension of registration for repeat offences) against FIRS vehicles in the same way as it deals with NSW registered vehicles.

Application to all States and Territories

These changes allow State and Territory Registration Authorities to suspend for up to 3 months the registration of a FIRS vehicle that has been driven in contravention of certain road transport laws more than 3 times in any 3 year period. These laws include:

- ▶ driving hours,
- ▶ driving speed,
- ▶ use of vehicle lights,
- ▶ safe distances between vehicles while driving,
- ▶ driving of vehicles within a lane on a road, and
- ▶ obscuring or damaging a registration plate.

More information on FIRS

- ▶ Copies of all FIRS Information Bulletins are available on the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services website at <http://www.dotrs.gov.au/land/firs.htm> or <http://www.dotrs.gov.au/land> - and follow the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme link.

OR

- ▶ The FIRS hotline on: 1800 026 170.