



For:

April 2000

- RTA Inspectors, Vehicle Regulations
- RTA Motor Registry Managers
- AIS/AUVIS Examiners
- AIS/AUVIS Proprietors
- Engineering Signatories

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Downgrading or Upgrading of GVM or GCM

Background

Investigations carried out by the RTA have identified a number of vehicles that have had their Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) or Gross Combination Mass (GCM) rating downgraded or upgraded without actually being modified or changed in any way.

Requirement

A manufacturer's GVM or GCM rating can only be altered where the vehicle has been modified and certification has been issued.

This certification must identify the vehicle and nominate the re-rated GVM or GCM and is only acceptable if prepared and signed by:

- * a person authorised by the manufacturer to issue a letter of compliance on an official company letterhead, i.e. the certifying or homologation engineer;

Note: A letter issued & signed by a dealer or distributor is not acceptable.

OR

- * a recognised RTA Engineering Signatory who is authorised to certify heavy motor vehicles and trailers. Refer to Vehicle Standards Information No 15 (VSI.15)- *Engineering Signatories*.

Note: An Engineering Certificate must be in the correct format as shown in VSI.15.

The certificate must describe the modifications that have been made and also detail the specifications of the revised or new equipment that has been fitted (i.e. engine size/power rating, transmission, steer axle/axle group mass rating, suspension capacity & tyre ratings, drive axle/axle group mass rating and suspension capacity & tyre ratings) to justify the mass rating change.

In cases where a vehicle has been modified by other than its original manufacturer, the certificate must also include details of testing conducted to demonstrate that the vehicle's roadholding and roadworthiness are acceptable.

Action

When inspecting any vehicle for the purpose of making an amendment to its registered GVM or GCM rating, ensure that the vehicle has been modified in accordance with the supplied certification from either the manufacturer's representative or an engineering signatory.

Where this documentation does not meet the above requirements or contains any irregularity, the vehicle should be rejected in the normal manner.

Under no circumstances must a reduction or increase in GVM or GCM be accepted, unless a modification has been carried out on the vehicle. Replacing the tyres with a lower/higher load rating does not constitute a modification under these requirements.

Procedures for adjustment of records and engineer certified modifications can be found in Rules 235 & 302 of the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations and Rule 701 of the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations - Heavy Vehicles.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Fax: (02) 9831 0913

RTA Wollongong:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
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WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Tel: (02) 4226 7007
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RTA Newcastle:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
59 Darby Street
Locked Bag 30
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Tel: 1 800 049 920
or (02) 4924 0240
Fax: (02) 4323 9905

RTA Parkes:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
PO Box 334
PARKES NSW 2870

Tel: 1 800 809 388
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