

# Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin



# 53

Issued  
October 2003

## Inspection of vehicles operated by the Rural Fire Service

### Background

Vehicles owned by the Rural Fire Service (RFS) that are used to attend and fight fires are exempt from NSW registration provisions ie. not required to display number plates.

At the request of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) the Roads and Traffic Authority has for several years conducted annual inspections on vehicles owned by the RFS that are over 5 tonnes tare weight. Vehicles under 5 tonnes tare weight may be taken to any Authorised Inspection Station (AIS) to obtain an inspection certificate (*pink slip*). Because of the convenient location of some Heavy Vehicle Authorised Inspection Station (HVAIS) the RFS has requested that the annual inspection be carried out at HVAIS in some instances.

### Procedure

When the RFS requests an AIS to inspect one of its vehicles to obtain a *pink slip*, the normal Safety Check Rules apply. As some anomalies may arise in the Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations, listed below are requirements unique to RFS.

- In place of recording a registration number on the inspection certificate, the accreditation or approved number is to be taken from the Approved Operations Plate (see Figures 1 & 2) and written in the comments box.
- No other identity check or design check is to be carried out.
- Air Brake hoses may be protected by the fitment of lagging. There is no requirement to remove this lagging to inspect the brake hose condition except if the hose shows any sign of leakage, damage or abrasion penetrating the outer protective covering.
- Light vehicles are to be inspected in line with the Safety Check Rules only.
- Heavy vehicles (GVM greater than 4.5 tonnes) are to be inspected by an HVAIS in line with the Safety Check rules therefore a complying vehicle is to be issued the pink copy only.
- Existing RFS vehicles are permitted in left hand drive configuration.

For: • RTA Inspectors Vehicle Regulation • AIS Proprietors & Examiners • Engineering Signatories  
• RTA Registry Service Managers • HVAIS Proprietors & Examiners • AUVIS Proprietors & Examiners

Figure 1. Approved Operations Plate dimensions & layout (fitted prior to September 1997) *(not to scale)*

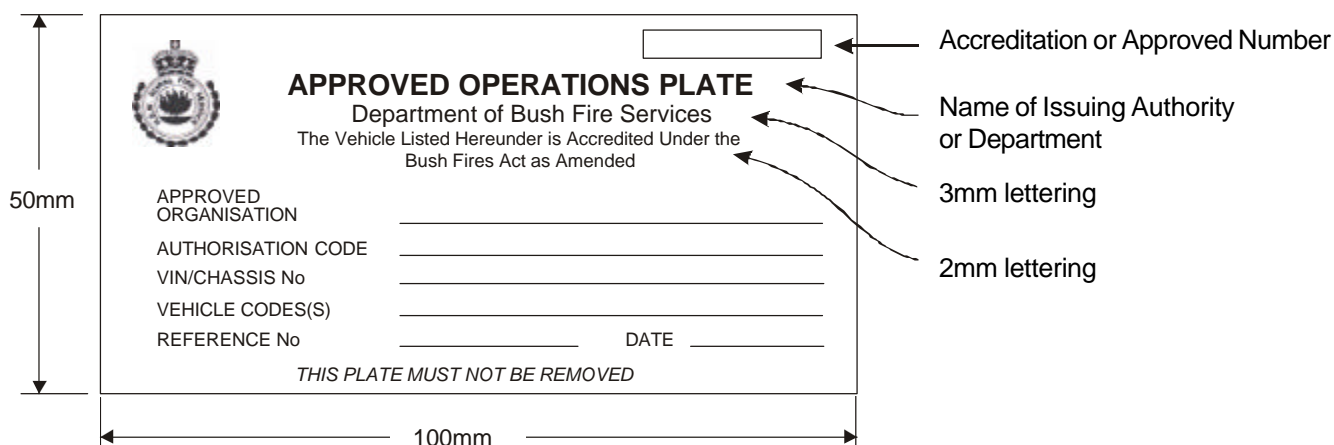
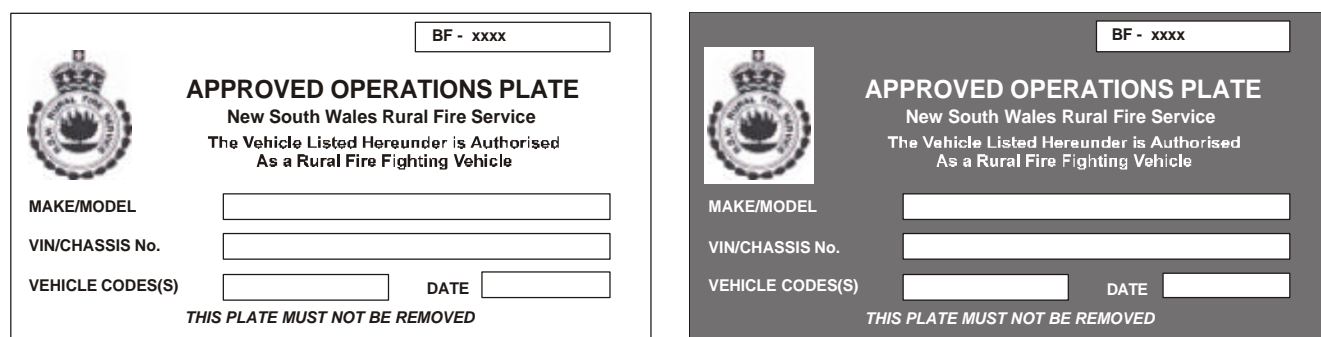


Figure 2. Current Operations Plate styles (fitted after September 1997)



- Note
- Plates fitted after Sept 1997 may refer to the Rural Fire Service in lieu of Bush Fire Services.
  - The plate will be as shown in Figure 2, and coloured orange or red.
  - There will be no mistakes allowed on the plate.
  - The lettering will be stamped or engraved into the plate.
  - Lettering stamped on the plate will be 3mm or 7mm in height.
  - "Approved Organisation" is the organisation in charge of the vehicle (could be a Council or a Brigade), however this information does not appear on the current style plate.
  - "Reference No" is a reference the RFS may want to insert if required (not mandatory).
  - "Date" is the date the Approval Number was issued.
  - The plate should be fitted to the front (A) pillar on the passenger side of the vehicle or the adjacent pillar towards the rear of the vehicle on the passenger side, either on the front side or inside face of the pillar.



#### Further information:



Tel: 1300 137 302

Fax: (02) 9843 3821



[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

Email: [tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au)



RTA Technical Enquiries

PO Box 1120 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124