



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Road Vehicle Standards

Regulatory changes for the trailer industry – low ATM trailers

The [Road Vehicle Standards \(RVS\) legislation](#) comes into effect for road vehicles from 1 July 2021, replacing current arrangements under the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989. There is a transitional year (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022) where trailers with an aggregate trailer mass (ATM) of 4.5 tonnes or less (low ATM trailers) may be provided to the Australian market under either legislative framework.

Under the RVS legislation, manufacturers and importers of low ATM trailers will need either a vehicle type approval or a concessional Register of Approved Vehicle (RAV) entry approval before they can provide a trailer type to the Australian market. These trailers will also need to have vehicle and compliance information listed on the [\(RAV\)](#) online database. The two approval pathways to the RAV is explained in a diagram on the [RVS legislation, guides and resources](#) page.

Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (Revision 6)

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications has released [Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 \(VSB 1\) – Revision 6](#) outlining the national standards applicable to low ATM trailers under the RVS legislation.

Vehicle type approvals

Most trailer manufacturers and importers will need to apply for a [vehicle type approval](#). This type of approval allows the holder to provide vehicles in unlimited numbers. A vehicle type approval application must include a declaration that trailers provided to the Australian market will comply with the relevant national road vehicle standards. Vehicles must be new and applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- have information demonstrating the vehicle complies or substantially complies with applicable national road vehicle standards
- have control or access to information about the design, componentry and manufacturing process of the road vehicle type
- can ensure the design, componentry and manufacturing process will consistently produce the type of road vehicle
- can arrange for an inspector to inspect the premises where the road vehicle or componentry for the road vehicle is manufactured
- can ensure the supporting information for the approval is kept up-to-date and can access and provide original and subsequent versions of supporting information, and
- will comply with conditions of the approval.

Concessional RAV entry approvals (four trailers or less in any 12 month period)

Manufacturers or importers can apply for a concessional RAV entry approval for up to four new or used low ATM trailers in a 12-month period, declaring that the trailer complies or will substantially comply with national road vehicle standards. Concessional approvals are available for applicants unable to meet the eligibility requirements for vehicle type approvals and the approvals are granted on a vehicle by vehicle basis.

To apply

Go to [ROVER and create an account now](#). Apply for a vehicle approval from 1 July 2021. Application fees apply.

For more information

- Visit the department's [low ATM trailers](#) web page.
- Email RVSA for general information: RVSAimplementation@infrastructure.gov.au
- Phone: 1800 815 272 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm AEST, within Australia), or +61 2 6274 7444 (calling from outside Australia)
- [Subscribe to our RVS News Update](#) newsletter for the latest news on the RVS legislation implementation.