

# VIB 22 – Heavy vehicle inspection manual

## Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin

### Introduction

In June 2017, the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (NHVIM) was adopted as the inspection standard for all heavy vehicles in the Northern Territory.

The NHVIM is the Northern Territory Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual used by vehicle operators, Transport Inspectors, Authorised Inspectors and Police Officers as the inspection criteria for roadworthiness.

Adopting the NHVIM aligns the Northern Territory heavy vehicle inspection standards with other states and territories (except Western Australia).

### Background

To be considered roadworthy, a vehicle must comply with the requirements of relevant Northern Territory legislation, which incorporates the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSRs) and relevant Australian Design Rules (ADRs). These rules contain mandatory requirements for the safe design, construction and maintenance of vehicles, and for the control of emissions and noise.

In 2004, the Northern Territory Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (NTHVIM) was introduced as the inspection criteria for roadworthiness of in-service heavy vehicle. The manual was based on the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (2004) prepared by the National Road Transport Commission (NRTC) as part of its task to develop consistent principles and practices for the safe and efficient operation of road transport in Australia.

In 2014 the National Transport Commission (NTC) – previously NRTC - and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) commenced a joint review of roadworthiness through consultation with state and territory registration authorities and industry groups as part of the National Heavy Vehicle Roadworthiness Program.

Version 1 of the NHVIM was published on 15 December 2015 with most jurisdictions adopting the manual by July 2016. The NHVIM is a living document, subject to ongoing review due to advances in vehicle manufacturing and testing.

Though the Northern Territory and Western Australia are not participating jurisdictions with the NHVR, the Northern Territory is supportive of national consistency for heavy vehicle roadworthiness.

### The NHVIM

The NHVIM will be updated from time to time. When an updated version is published by the NHVR, that version shall take precedence over previous versions. Any information which cannot be incorporated into the inspection manual will be issued in the form of an annexure as a Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin.

The NHVIM can be accessed via the following weblink: <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/vehicle-standards-and-modifications/national-heavy-vehicle-inspection-manual>

## NT application of specific issues

- a) **Any reference to the NHVR does not apply to the Northern Territory.**
- b) **Section 12 LPG, NG, Hydrogen and Electric Vehicles** – In the Northern Territory, installation and maintenance of gas fuelled vehicles must be carried out in accordance with NT regulations and licensing requirements by other authorities (i.e. NTWorkSafe). Validation of appropriate approvals forms part of the roadworthiness inspection. A gas system inspection is required for every scheduled roadworthy inspection.
- c) **Section 12 LPG, NG, Hydrogen and Electric Vehicles - labels** – From February 2023, H label requirements apply. From March 2023, EV labels requirements apply. For H and EV powered vehicles, label requirements will apply to vehicles built or modified after 1 January 2019. For H and EV powered vehicles built or modified prior to 1 January 2019, label requirements are voluntary however, if labels are fitted, label requirements apply.

For guidance on the fitment of EV and H labels – refer to Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin VIB 29 EV/H Number plate labels – mandatory fitment <https://nt.gov.au/driving/industry/vehicle-information-bulletins-and-forms>

*Label requirements were legislated via Government Gazette S65 dated 20 December 2022 with Rules 154A to 154L (inclusive) of the AVSR, Schedule 6 of the Motor Vehicle (Standards) Regulations 2003  
EV label implementation via Government Gazette G2 dated 19 January 2023*

- d) **Section 15 Motorhomes Caravans and Campervans** – Internal fitouts designed for accommodation purposes may require authorisation by other authorities (i.e. Electrical Licensing). These fitouts will not require inspection for roadworthiness in the Northern Territory. Any seating or structural modifications may require approval – see Vehicle Modifications below.
- e) **The NHVR vehicle modification process does not apply to the Northern Territory.**
- f) **Vehicle Modifications** - For information on heavy vehicle modifications, refer to Information Bulletin V32(hv) Heavy Vehicle Modifications <https://nt.gov.au/driving/industry/vehicle-information-bulletins-and-forms>  
Enquiries on vehicle modifications requiring Motor Vehicle Registry approval should be directed to a Motor Vehicle Registry Vehicle Standards Centre.

## Contacts

For the clarification of issues or situations that may not be covered by this manual, or clarification of particular Australian Design Rule or legislative requirements, contact the Vehicle Standards Officer, Authorised Inspectors or your nearest Motor Vehicle Registry, Vehicle Standards Centre.

Email [MVR.Authorisedinspectors@nt.gov.au](mailto:MVR.Authorisedinspectors@nt.gov.au)

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