

## Motor Vehicle Registry Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin

# VIB22 – National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (NT Implementation)

### Introduction

On 1 June 2017, the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (NHVIM) version 2.1 will become the inspection standard for all heavy vehicles in the Northern Territory.

The NHVIM will replace 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 will align 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 1 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>

## Differences between NTHVIM and NHVIM

Generally, the NHVIM is very similar in layout to the NTHVIM with both documents based on the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (2004) outlining reasons for rejection for roadworthiness.

Differences are minor in nature and are based around ensuring inspection criteria are clear and to reflect advances in vehicle design and construction. There are no significant changes in the inspection process or the failure criteria used in those inspections.

Enhancements to the NHVIM include a modernised layout with updated graphics, updated references to various standards and inclusion of new sections (i.e. motorhomes, caravans and campervans; vehicle dimensions).

## NT application of specific issues

- a) **Any reference to the NHVR does not apply to the Northern Territory.**
- b) **Section 12 LPG and NG Vehicles** – In the Northern Territory, installation and maintenance of LPG/NGV/CNG 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 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.
- d) **The NHVR vehicle modification process does not apply to the Northern Territory.**
- e) **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>  
Inquiries 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)

Telephone (08) 8999 3127

Region	Telephone	Fax
Darwin	8999 3133	8999 3187
Katherine	8973 8791	8973 8762
Alice Springs	8951 5297	8951 5313