# Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

## V32(lv) – Light Vehicle Modifications

### Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to assist persons who wish to modify an existing production vehicle, build an individually constructed vehicle (ICV) or street rod for their own use.

Modified vehicles (including ICVs and street rods) may be registered in the NT provided they conform to acceptable safety standards and are approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Any approval is specific to a vehicle and does not necessarily set a precedence.

It is recommended that vehicle owners ensure that proposed modifications can be approved in principle prior to carrying out those modifications. Vehicle owners should also check with their insurance company prior to making any alterations to their vehicle as some modifications may affect insurance cover.

Owners of approved modified vehicles intending to move interstate are advised to check with that jurisdiction's registration authority to ensure the vehicle will be acceptable for registration.

Modified vehicles and ICVs may be subject to periodic inspections at Motor Vehicle Registry Vehicle Standards Centres.

### Modification standards for Light Vehicles (not more than 4.5t GVM)

The department uses the National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification, Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) 14 as a guide when assessing modified vehicles and the construction of ICVs – refer to weblink
https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx

VSB 14 has been endorsed by all state and territory registration authorities.

Vehicle modifications which are not fully described or fall outside the scope of the National Codes of Practice may still be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The National Guidelines for the Construction and Modification of Street Rods in Australia provides a consistent set of technical specifications for the construction and modification of street rods (pre 1949). The department uses this manual as a guide when assessing street rods.

These standards are publically available on a website hosted by the Commonwealth department responsible for road transport via the following link:
https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx

GPO Box 530, Darwin NT 0801
**Telephone:** 1300 654 628 **Facsimile:** 08 8999 3103
**Email:** mvr@nt.gov.au **Web:** www.nt.gov.au

## Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC assess applications for Significant Modifications, Extensive Modifications, ICVs and street rods. The TAC provides recommendation to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles with regard to approval and any conditions associated with approval.

The TAC comprises representatives from various motor vehicle enthusiast groups, departmental officers and NT Police.

The TAC meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except January), and the closing date for applications is the close of business on the last Wednesday prior to the scheduled meeting.

Applications submitted to the TAC are required to be completed **in full** on the approved form (VS32(lv) Application to Modify a Light Vehicle – attached) and should include any additional information which will assist with the assessment of the application. Examples of additional information include photographs and certification documentation. There is no application fee. Applicants will be formally responded to in writing notifying of assessment outcomes. When all conditions have been met, a modification certificate will be issued.

## Approval Processes for Modified Vehicles

The following is an overview of the various approval processes for modified and individually constructed vehicles. The approval process is specific to the type of vehicle and its modification or construction.

### Minor Modifications

Minor modifications may be carried out without obtaining approval. Generally, these modifications may include fitment of optional equipment for the vehicle concerned and would not affect the level of safety, strength or reliability of vital systems such as brakes and steering. Examples may include the fitment of car audio, bullbars, towbars, additional lighting, manufacturer's wheel/tyre options etc.

### Basic Modifications

Basic modifications can be defined as modifications that do not affect the level of safety, strength and reliability of vehicle systems and may be assessed and approved at a Motor Vehicle Registry Vehicle Standards Centre without the requirement for written application or assessment by the TAC. Some modifications that require certification under the Code may also be discretionally assessed as a Basic modification.

Common examples of this would be (but not limited to) the following:

- Engine substitution as per table LA1 of Section LA
- Fitment of super/turbo chargers and other engine modifications as per Section LA
- Transmission and rear axle modification and substitution as per Section LB
- Substitute seating as per Section LK and VSB 5
- Fitment of seat belts as per Section LK and VSB 5
- Fitment of child restraint anchorages as per Section LK and VSB 5
- Fitment of roll bars/cages as per Section LK
- Those motorcycle modifications outlined in Section LL
- Fitment of fuel tanks/cells as per Section LM
- The raising of vehicles up to 100mm (overall lift*) as per Section LS**

*Overall lift is measured from the highest point of the vehicle roof to the ground, and includes any lift obtained from suspension modifications, body lift and taller wheels and tyres.

**Vehicles with an overall lift up to 100mm that incorporates wheel/tyre, body and suspension modifications generally do not require a lane change test but does require a satisfactory wheel alignment report to ensure the steering geometry is within manufacturer's specifications. Vehicles with an overall lift over 100mm requires assessment by the TAC and engineering certification to include a lane change test.

**Note** – vehicles subject to multiple Basic modifications may still require assessment by the TAC.

### Significant Modifications and Extensive Modifications

Significant modifications and Extensive modifications have the potential to seriously affect the safety of the vehicle and may affect the vehicle's strength, structural integrity and handling characteristics. These modifications include all modifications not classed as a Basic modification or a Minor modification, and applications are assessed by the TAC. In some instances, engineering certification may also be required. Further information regarding the NT engineering signatory scheme can be found in the department's Information Bulletin V79 – Northern Territory Engineering Signatory Scheme.

### Individually Constructed Vehicles (ICVs)

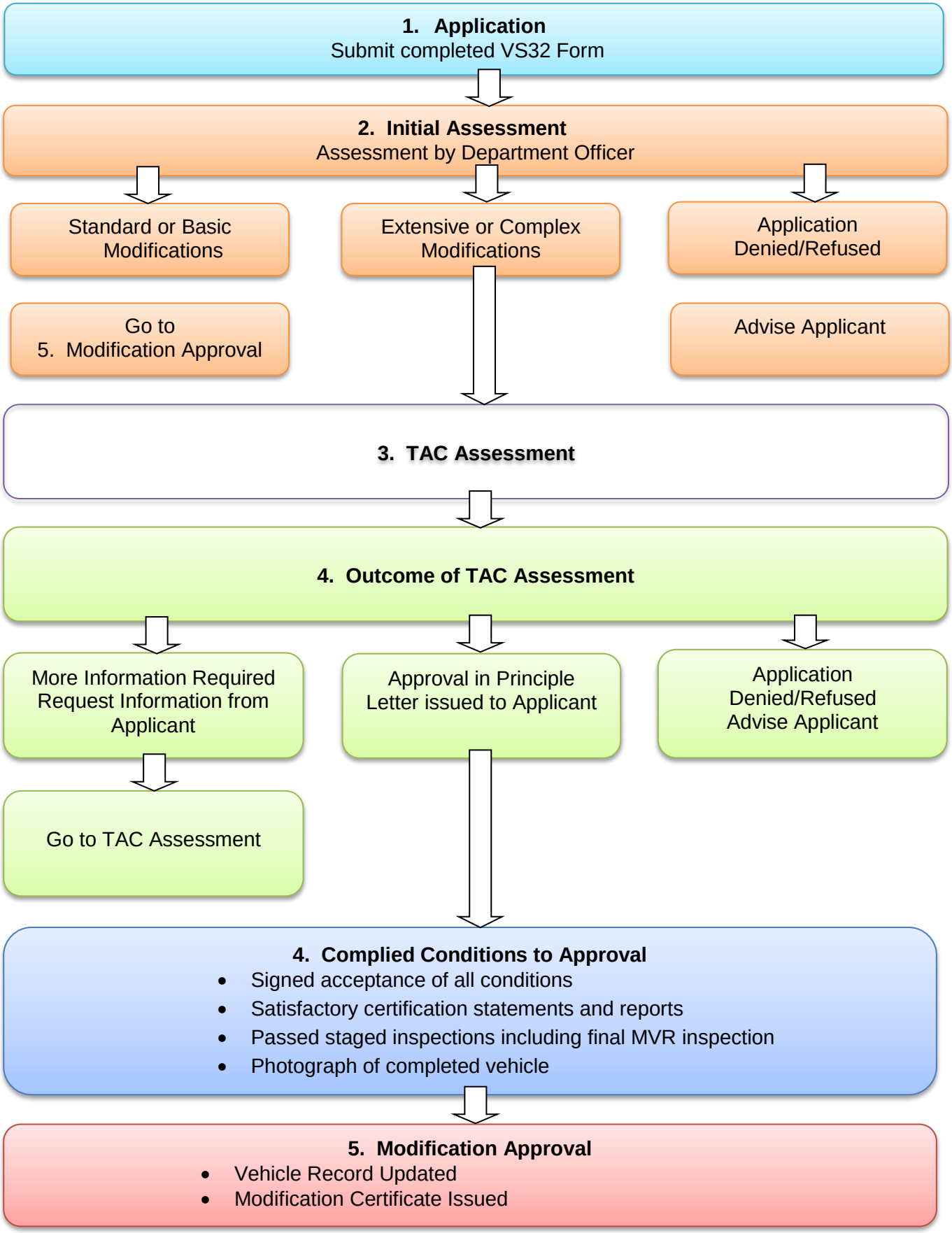
Applications to build an ICV are assessed by the TAC. ICVs are required to be certified by an engineering signatory to all Australian Design Rules (ADRs) applicable to the vehicle's given build date (the build date is taken as the date the vehicle is first assessed by the TAC).

**Note** – some concessions are given from demonstrated compliance with certain ADRs (i.e. crash testing).

### Commercial Passenger Vehicles

Formal approval from the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Branch must be sought prior to modifying a Commercial Passenger Vehicle - regardless of the extent of the modification.

**Flow Chart of Processes for Modified Light Vehicles**



GPO Box 2520, DARWIN NT 0801
Phone: 1300 654 628
Fax: (08) 8924 7009
Email: vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au
Website: www.nt.gov.au

*Official Use Only*

*Date Received* ...../...../.....

*File Reference* TAC .....

*Vehicle Id* .....

*MOVERS Mod File Ref:* .....

VS32(lv)

# Application to Modify a Light Vehicle (not over 4.5t GVM)

**Applicant Details**

Surname / Company Name

Given Name/s / Trading As

Contact Name

Contact Number

Email

Postal Address

Postcode

NT Resident/Company (must be NT Resident/Company)

☐ Yes ☐ No

NT Drivers Licence Number / ABN whichever is applicable

**Notes for Guidance**

(1) This application form should be read in conjunction with MVR Information Bulletin V32(lv) – Light Vehicle Modifications
(2) Please attach any drawings, sketches, engineering approvals, kit approvals, photographs or any other information that you consider will assist in assessing this application. The more information you supply with this application, the less likelihood of delays
(3) Applicants should NOT commence work until they receive written approval in principal
(4) If original equipment detail is not known, write "As Original" in appropriate fields or "tick" the appropriate box ☑

**Vehicle Details**

Registration Number

State

Compliance Plate Approval No

Vehicle Make

Vehicle Model

VIN / Chassis Number

Body Type

Engine Number

Month and Year of Manufacture /

GVM (kg)

GCM (kg)

**Manufacturers Safety Options -** Is the vehicle fitted with any of the following safety features?

☐ ESC (Electronic Stability Control) ☐ SRS (Supplementary Restraint System) ☐ EBS (Electronic Brake Distribution)

☐ ABS (Anti-Lock Braking System) ☐ Other (please specify) .....

| **Adaptive Hand or Foot Controls** | **Dual Control Fitment** | **Operation** | Additional Information |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Push/Pull Hand Control | ☐ Accelerator | ☐ Cable | |
| ☐ Spinner Knob | ☐ Brake | ☐ Mechanical | |
| | ☐ Clutch | ☐ Hydraulic | |
| ☐ Other ..... | | ☐ Electronic | |

**Section 1: Vehicle Rating**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **GVM** | | |
| **GCM** | | |

**Comments**

**Section 2: Engine**

| | Original ❑ | | | | Proposed | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Capacity/Cylinders** | **ml** | | **Cyl** | | **ml** | | **Cyl** | |
| **Make** | | | | | | | | |
| **Year of Manufacture** | | | | | | | | |
| **Type (inline, V8, Rotary)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Fuel Induction** | **Naturally Aspirated** | **Turbo Charged** | **Supercharged** | **Fuel Injected** | **Naturally Aspirated** | **Turbo Charged** | **Supercharged** | **Fuel Injected** |
| **New Engine Number** | **N/A** | | | | | | | |
| **Engine Weight (kg)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Fuel Type** | | | | | | | | |

**Comments**

**Section 3: Transmission**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Type** | | |

**Comments**

**Section 4: Driveline**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Type** | | |

**Comments**

**Section 5: Front Suspension** **Original** ❑ **Proposed**

| **Type** | | |
|---|---|---|

**Comments**

**Section 6: Front Axle** **Original** ❑ **Proposed**

| **Type** | | |
|---|---|---|

**Comments**

**Section 7: Rear Suspension** **Original** ❑ **Proposed**

| **Type** | | |
|---|---|---|

**Comments**

**Section 8: Rear Axle** **Original** ❑ **Proposed**

| **Type** | | |
|---|---|---|

**Comments**

| Section 9: Braking System | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| Master cylinder make | | |
| Master cylinder type (ie Dual/Single) | | |
| Brake booster unit make | | |
| Brake booster unit type | | |
| Front brakes disc/drum | | |
| Rear brakes disc/drum | | |
| Handbrake | | |
| Proportioning valve details | | |

| Comments |
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| Section 10: Steering | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| Box/Rack | | |
| Column | | |

| Comments |
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| Section 11: Front Wheels | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| Diameter | | |
| Rim width | | |
| Rim offset (Positive/Negative) | | |
| Material (Steel/Magnesium/Alloy/other) | | |

| Comments |
|---|
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**Section 12: Front Tyres**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Size / Rating** | | |
| **Construction (Radial/x ply)** | | |

**Comments**

**Section 13: Rear Wheels**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Diameter** | | |
| **Rim width** | | |
| **Rim offset (Positive/Negative)** | | |
| **Material (Steel/Magnesium/Alloy/other)** | | |

**Comments**

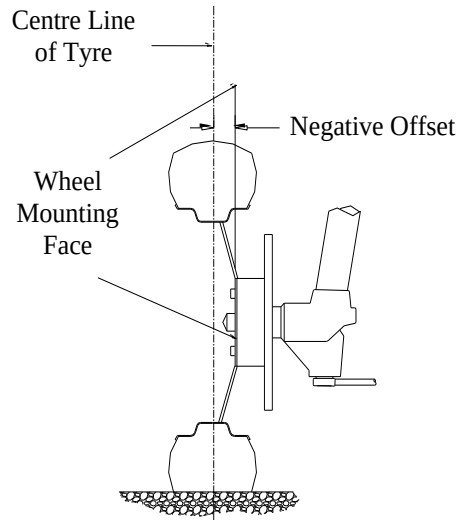
**Section 14: Rear Tyres**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Size / Rating** | | |
| **Construction (Radial/x ply)** | | |

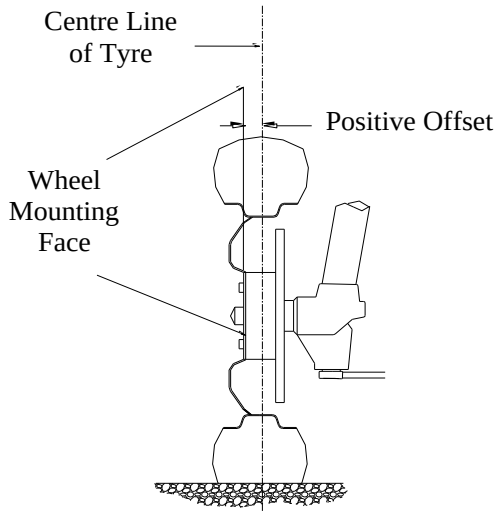
**Comments**

**Wheel Rim Offset**

**Negative Offset**




**Positive Offset**

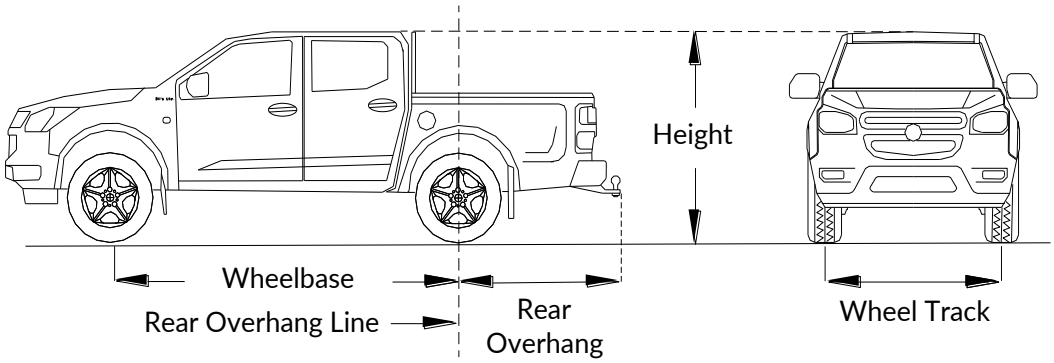


**Section 15: Wheel Track**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Front** | **mm** | **mm** |
| **Rear** | **mm** | **mm** |

**Comments**

**Wheel Track – Wheelbase – Overall Height**




**Note:**

- **Wheel Track is measured from the centre of the tyre to the centre of the opposite tyre on the same axle**
- **Wheelbase is measured from the centre of the front axle to the centre of the rear axle (rear overhang line)**
- **Rear Overhang is the distance measured from the rear overhang line to the rearmost part of the vehicle**
- **Overall height is measured from the ground to the highest rigid point of the roof (excluding vehicle accessories)**
- **For further information on vehicle dimension limits including load, refer to Information Bulletin V13 Vehicle Dimension Limits - https://nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/374335/v13-vehicle-dimensional-limits.pdf**

**Section 16: Wheelbase and Overall Height**

| | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| **Wheelbase** | **mm** | **mm** |
| **Rear Overhang** | **mm** | **mm** |
| **Overall Height** | **mm** | **mm** |

**Comments**

**Section 17: Chassis & Body** **Original** ❑ **Proposed**

**Details of proposed changes:**

**Details of proposed materials to be used:**

**Section 18: Seating** **Original** ❑ **Proposed**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Seat Type – Front** | | |
| **Manufacturer** | | |
| **Seat Type – Other** | | |
| **Manufacturer** | | |
| **Seat attachment method** | | |

**Comments**

| Section 19: Seat Belts | Original ❑ | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| Seat Belt Type – Front | | |
| Manufacturer/Standards Approval No. | | |
| Seat Belt Type – Other | | |
| Manufacturer/Standards Approval No. | | |
| Seat belt attachment method | | |

| Comments |
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**Note:**

**For any seat belts or harness belt assemblies, ensure that you supply the manufacturer's name and contact details as well as the standards approval number in the space provided.**

## Privacy Statement

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to collect information for Registrations, Licenses and Permits under section 92 of the *NT Motor Vehicles Act*. The Registrar adheres to the Northern Territory Government's Privacy Statement and the *Information Act*.

## Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

**Applicant's Signature and Date**

| | |
|---|---|
| | ……../……../…….. |

**Note: Where an agent is representative of the vehicle owner, written authorisation of authority is required from the vehicle owner.**

**Completed applications may be:**

**Submitted in person:** **to Any Motor Vehicle Registry Office**

**By Mail:** **Vehicle Standards Officer**
**Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**
**GPO Box 2520**
**DARWIN NT 0801**

**Via E-mail:** **vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au**