

V32(lv) Light vehicle modifications – not more than 4.5t Gross Vehicle Mass

Information Bulletin

Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline the Northern Territory (NT) light vehicle modification scheme for production vehicles, individually constructed vehicles (ICV) or street rods, for the purpose of NT vehicle registration.

The NT modified vehicle scheme does not supersede a vehicle manufacturer or component manufacturer's modification guidelines. If a vehicle manufacturer or component manufacturer has published guidance on how a modification is to be performed, it must be followed.

All modified vehicles must continue to comply with standards and regulations applicable to the vehicle.

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

Proposed modifications must be approved in principle prior to carrying out those modifications.

Vehicle owners/operators should also check with their insurance company prior to making any alterations to their vehicle as some modifications may affect insurance cover.

Owners/operators 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 may be subject to periodic inspections at Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) vehicle inspection facilities.

NT vehicle owners/operators must be a customer of the Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR). To become an MVR customer, refer to [Evidence of identity and residency: licence and registration | NT.GOV.AU](#)

Modification standards for light vehicles

The National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification, Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) 14 is the modification standard used by all Australian state and territory registration authorities.

In the NT, VSB 14 is used as a guide. Vehicle modifications which are not fully described or fall outside the scope of VSB 14 may still be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The National Street Rods Guidelines (NSRG) provides a consistent set of technical specifications for the construction and modification of street rods (pre 1949). The NT uses the NSRG as the approved framework 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: [Vehicle standards bulletins | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

Classification

Minor modifications

Minor modifications may be carried out without obtaining formal approval. Generally, these modifications may include fitment of optional equipment for the vehicle 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, bull bars, 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 by department Transport Inspectors without the requirement for formal assessment. Some modifications that require certification under VSB 14 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 (Sec LA - VSB 14)
- Fitment of super/turbo chargers and other engine modifications (Sec LA - VSB 14)
- Transmission and rear axle modification and substitution (Sec LS - VSB 14)
- Substitute seating (Sec LK - VSB 14, VSB 5*)
- Fitment of seat belts (Sec LK - VSB 14, VSB 5*)
- Fitment of child restraint anchorages (Sec LK - VSB 14, VSB 5*)
- Fitment of roll bars/cages (Sec LK - VSB 14)
- Those motorcycle modifications (Sec LL - VSB 14)
- Fitment of fuel tanks/cells (Sec LM - VSB 14)
- The raising of vehicles up to 100mm (overall lift**) (Sec LS*** - VSB 14)

*Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) 5 – National Code of Practice – Manufacture and installation of additional seats.

**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 a formal assessment and engineering certification to include a lane change test.

Note – vehicles subject to multiple **Basic** modifications may require formal assessment.

Significant 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 formal assessment is required. In some instances, engineering certification may also be required.

Further information regarding the NT engineering signatory scheme is in the department's [Information Bulletin V79 – Northern Territory Engineering Signatory Scheme](#).

Individually Constructed Vehicles (ICVs) and Street Rods

Applications to build an ICV or street rod requires formal assessment as a significant and extensive modification.

ICVs are to be certified by an engineering signatory for compliance with all Australian Design Rules (ADRs) applicable to the vehicle's given build date (the build date is taken as the date the vehicle is formally assessed).

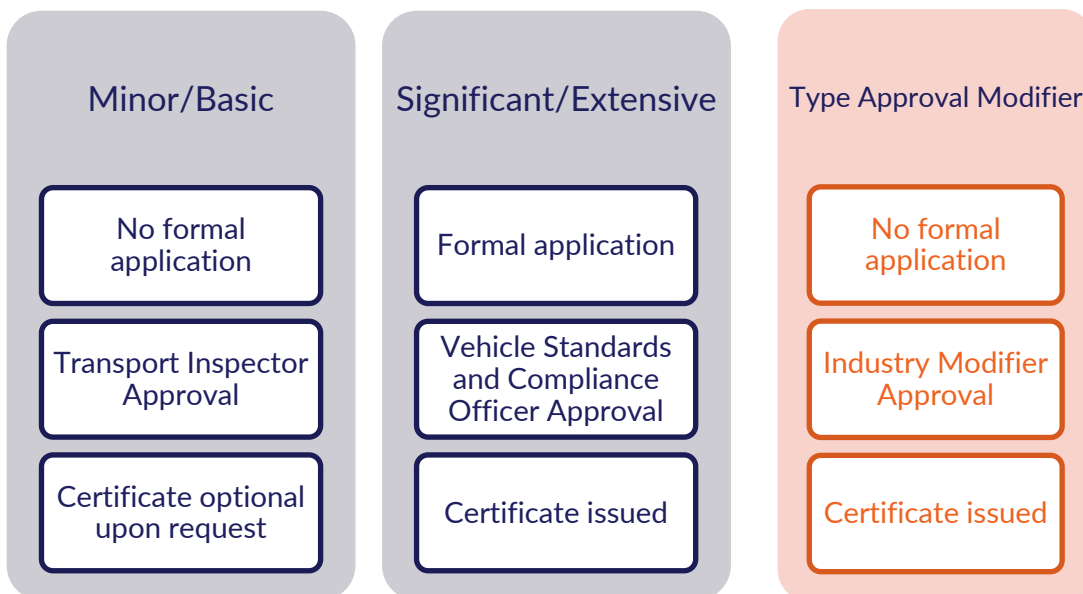
Street rods are to be certified to comply with the National Street Rod Guidelines. Engineering certification may be required if requested.

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

Modification approval pathways

Modification approval may be offered by department officers or by industry type approval modifiers.

1. Minor or basic modifications or modifications authorised by the vehicle manufacturer
2. Significant and extensive modifications requires formal assessment
3. Various pre-assessed modifications undertaken by approved industry Type Approval Modifiers



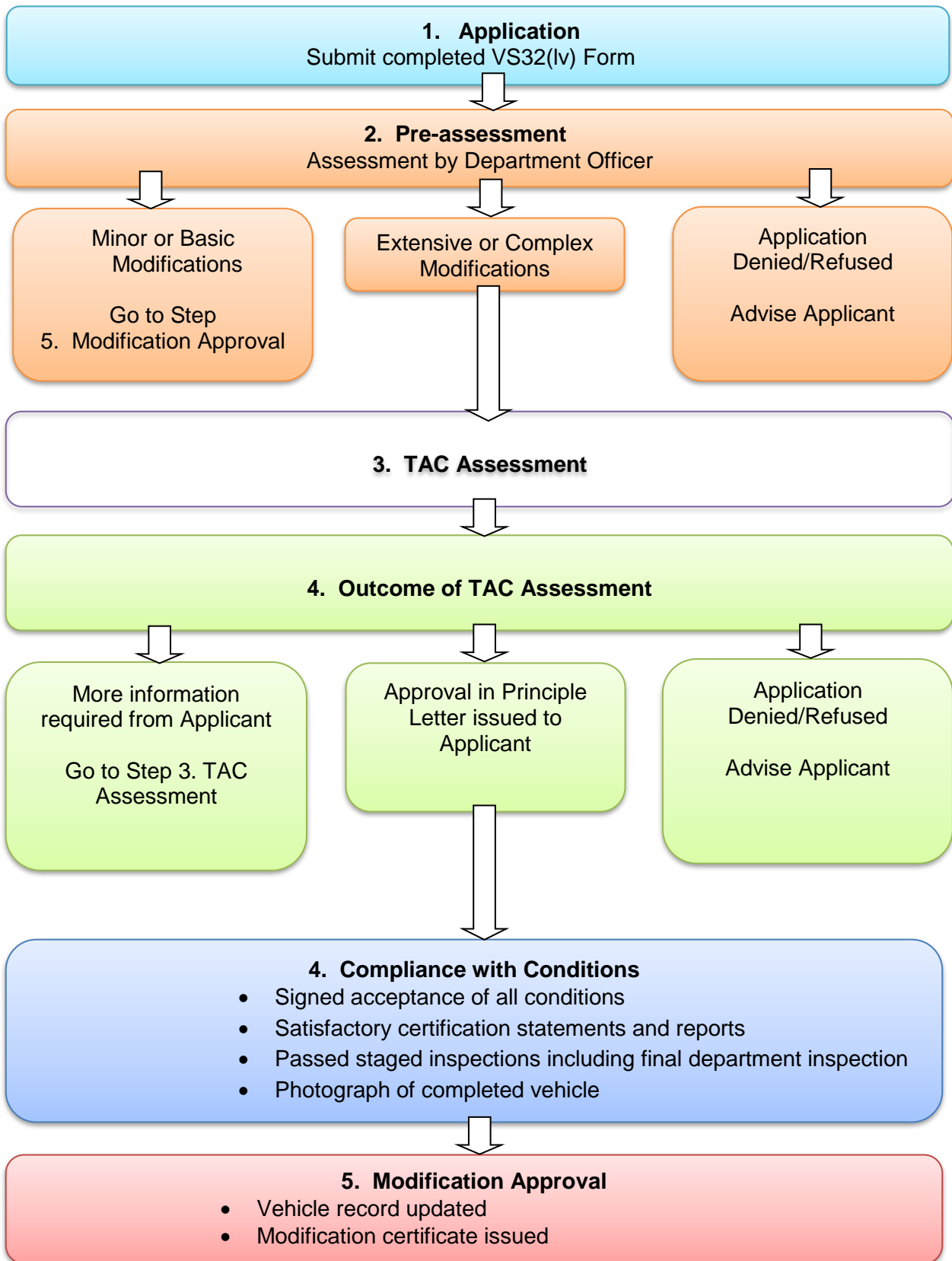
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC assess applications for significant modifications, extensive modifications, ICVs and street rods.

The TAC provides recommendation to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, including the application of conditions associated with approvals.

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

Modified vehicle formal application process



Step	TAC modified vehicle process
1	<p>Formal applications are required to be completed in full on the approved form (VS32(lv) Application to Modify a Light Vehicle – see attached) and must include any additional information which will assist with the assessment of the application.</p> <p>Examples of additional information include photographs and certification documentation.</p> <p>There is no application fee.</p>
2	<p>Completed applications must be forwarded to the department Vehicle Standards and Compliance Officer in preparedness for pre-assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email applications to vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au • Post to Road Safety and Compliance – Engineering and Vehicle Standards Unit PO Box 2520 Darwin NT 0801 • Delivered to Road Safety and Compliance – Engineering and Vehicle Standards Unit Level 2, Energy House 18 - 20 Cavenagh Street Darwin NT 0800
3	<p>Formal applications are assessed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).</p> <p>The TAC meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except January).</p> <p>The closing date for applications is the close of business on the last Wednesday prior to the scheduled monthly meeting.</p> <p>Applicants will be formally responded to in writing notifying of assessment outcomes.</p>
4	<p>When all conditions have been met, a modification certificate will be issued</p>

Type approval modifications

Where industry modifiers hold type approval agreements with the department, vehicle owners/operators can seek the direct assistance of the modifier for pre-assessed and certified modifications specific to the modifier. No final validating inspection of the modified vehicle is required by department officers.

The modifier can issue a modification certificate and notify the department of the completed modification for the update of the vehicle registration records.

Commercial Passenger Vehicles (CPV)

Hire or reward vehicles are known as Commercial Passenger Vehicles.

Where an application form is required, CPV operators are to indicate on the form that the vehicle is intended to be used for “hire or reward”.

CPV vehicles may require additional conditions for hire or reward use – refer to CPV In-service maintenance standards - [Vehicle standards for CPVs | NT.GOV.AU](#)

More information

For more information, contact the department on 08 8924 7157 or email vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au

Application to Modify a Light Vehicle (not more than 4.5t GVM)

Fields marked with asterisk (*) are mandatory VS32(lv)

<i>Office use only</i> [^]	Vehicle Id [^]		File Reference [^]		Date received [^]	
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Section 1 - Owner/Applicant details

Owner/Applicant*	NT Residence (✓) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Address*

Postal address*

Contact Person*
(including authorised representative, where applicable)

Name	Phone*	Email*
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Notes for guidance

- (1) This application form should be read in conjunction with Information Bulletin V32(lv) – Light Vehicle Modifications
- (2) NT vehicle modification scheme is only available to vehicle owners/operators who meet NT residency requirements for vehicle registration
- (3) 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
- (4) Applicants should NOT commence work until they receive written approval in principle to proceed with modifications
- (5) "tick" the appropriate box as required
- (6) Where an agent/contact person is the representative of the vehicle owner, written authorisation of authority is required from the owner
- (7) Modern production vehicles approved for use in Australia will be issued a Commonwealth vehicle approval number known as an Identification Plate Approval (IPA) or Compliance Plate Approval (CPA) or Vehicle Type Approval (VTA). This number is required in Section 2, if known

Type of modification - tick categories that apply to this application

Street Rod <input type="checkbox"/>	Individually Constructed Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>	Motorhome/Campervan <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Passenger Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>
Imported Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>	Driver Training/Adaptive System Controls <input type="checkbox"/>	Wheelchair Accessible <input type="checkbox"/>	Production Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>

Section 2 - Vehicle details

Registration Plate Number*	State*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Registered*	CPA/VTA*
Make*	Model*	Vehicle Identification/Chassis/Serial Number*		
Body Style*	Date of Manufacture*(mm/yyyy)	Gross Vehicle Mass	Braked Towing Capacity	Engine Number*

Manufacturers safety options – is the vehicle fitted with any of the following features?

<input type="checkbox"/> ESC (Electronic Stability Control)	<input type="checkbox"/> SRS (Supplementary Restraint System)	<input type="checkbox"/> EBS (Electronic Brake Distribution)
<input type="checkbox"/> ABS (Anti-lock Braking System)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____	

Adaptive hand/foot/electronic controls – driver training/specialised driving equipment

Adaptive hand/foot controls	Dual controls	Operation	Additional information
<input type="checkbox"/> Push/pull hand control	<input type="checkbox"/> Accelerator	<input type="checkbox"/> Cable	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Spinner knob	<input type="checkbox"/> Brake	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clutch	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic	_____

Section 3 – Vehicle rating/category

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed	
GVM				
ADR category				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 4 - Engine

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed					
Capacity/Cylinders	ml	cyl	ml	cyl				
Make								
Year of manufacture								
Type (inline, v8, rotary)								
Fuel type								
Fuel induction (<i>circle</i>)	Naturally Aspirated	Turbo charged	Supercharged	Fuel injected	Naturally Aspirated	Turbo charged	Supercharged	Fuel injected
New engine number	N/A							
Engine weight (kg)								
Comments	_____ _____ _____							

Section 5 – Transmission

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed	
Type				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 6 – Driveline

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed	
Type				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 7 – Front axle and suspension

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed	
Axle type				
Suspension Type				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 8 – Rear axle and suspension

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed	
Axle type				
Suspension type				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 9 - Brakes

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed	
Master cylinder make				
Type (circle)	Dual	Single	Dual	Single
Brake booster make				
Front brakes (circle)	Disc	Drum	Disc	Drum
Rear brakes (circle)	Disc	Drum	Disc	Drum
Handbrake type				
Proportioning valve				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 10 – Steering

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>		Proposed	
Type (circle)	Box	Rack	Box	Rack
Column				
Comments	_____ _____ _____			

Section 11 – Front wheels and tyres

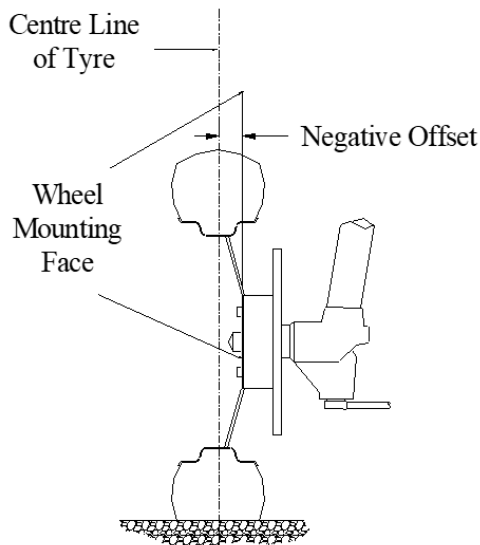
(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed
Wheel diameter			
Rim width			
Rim offset (-neg/+pos)			
Tyre size/rating			
Comments	_____ _____ _____ _____		

Section 12 – Rear wheels and tyres

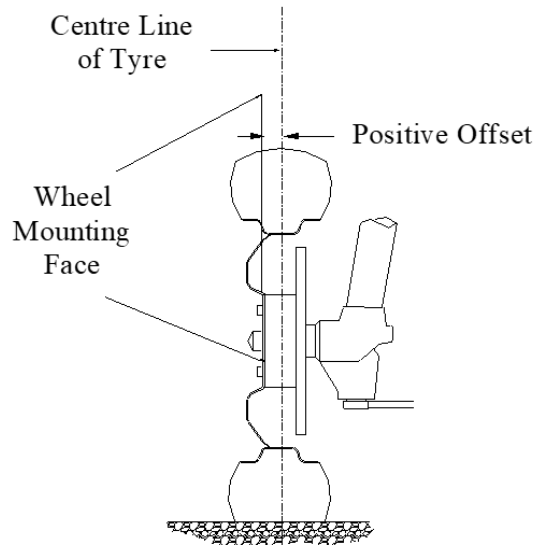
(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed
Wheel diameter			
Rim width			
Rim offset (-neg/+pos)			
Tyre size/rating			
Comments	_____ _____ _____ _____		

Wheel Rim Offset

Negative Offset



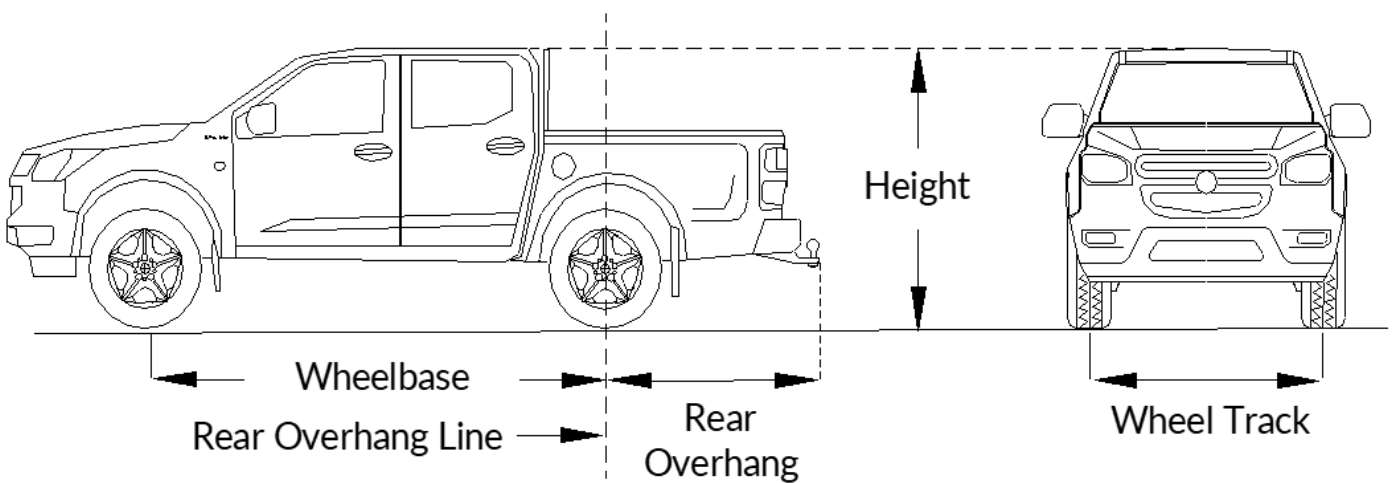
Positive Offset



Section 13 – Wheel track

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed
Front (mm)			
Rear (mm)			
Comments	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

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)
- Minimum ground clearance dimensions apply
- 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 14 – Wheelbase and overall height

(✓ as appropriate)	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed
Wheelbase (mm)			
Rear overhang (mm)			
Overall height (mm)			
Comments	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

Section 15 – Chassis and body

(✓ as appropriate) Details of proposed changes and materials	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
		
		
		
		

Section 16 – Seating

(✓ as appropriate) Seat type (front) Seat manufacturer (front) Seat attachment method (front) Seat type (other) Seat manufacturer (other) Seat attachment method (other) Comments	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed
		

Section 17 – Seatbelts

(✓ as appropriate) Seat belt type (front) Seatbelt manufacturer (front) Seatbelt compliance /approvals (front) Seatbelt attachment method (front) Seatbelt type (other) Seatbelt manufacturer (other) Seatbelt compliance /approvals (other) Seatbelt attachment method (other) Comments	Original <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed
		

Section 18 - Applicant declaration

*I/we,

.....
(name of vehicle owner/s)

of

.....
(address)

Solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- All information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge by virtue of the *Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 2010*; and
- I/we have read and understood the information contained in this application; and
- I/we am/are 18 years or older; and
- I/we know that it is an offence to make a declaration that is false in any material particular.

*This declaration is made at

.....
(location)

on

.....
(date)

.....
(applicant/s signature)

Note: Under the *Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 2010* a person wilfully making a false statement or altering a statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of a crime and is liable to a penalty or imprisonment, or both.

Section 19 –Authorisation of representative

As the applicant/s, I/we hereby grant the following person authorisation to act on my/our behalf for the purpose of this application - *“Contact person” to be noted on the front page of this application form.*

.....
Name of authorised representative

.....
Signature of authorised representative

.....
Date

Section 20 –Submit application and enquiries

1. Email completed application form to vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au
2. Postal address – Vehicle Standards and Compliance Officer
Road Safety and Compliance - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
PO Box 2520
Darwin NT 0801
3. Office address - Vehicle Standards and Compliance Officer
Road Safety and Compliance - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
Level 2, Energy House
[18 - 20 Cavenagh Street](#)
Darwin NT 0800
4. Vehicle Standards and Compliance Officer - telephone (08) 8924 7157
5. Monthly meeting assessments of modified vehicle applications on first Wednesday of every month – except January
6. Applications received less than 7 days prior to monthly meeting will be deferred to next meeting
7. See “Notes for guidance” on form

Section 21 - Privacy statement

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 1949*. The Registrar adheres to the department’s privacy statement and the *Information Act 2002*.

Further information on privacy can be found at www.dipl.nt.gov.au