

VIB81 Conditional registration for special purpose vehicles (SPV)

Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin

Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline the assessment, inspection and initial conditional registration process in the Northern Territory (NT). The conditional registration scheme is for vehicles designed for specific work purposes that do not comply with recognised vehicle safety standards (Australian Design Rules (ADR)) that apply to road vehicles.

A special purpose vehicle (SPV) can generally be described as a non-road vehicle and cannot be granted unconditional registration for normal road use.

SPV examples: agricultural tractors, construction cranes, backhoes and all terrain off road vehicles.

Policy

The conditional registration scheme provides a mechanism to register vehicles that do not fully comply with road vehicle standards. SPVs that require access to public roads, public streets and road related areas to carry out operational tasks, may be eligible for conditional registration. SPVs are generally not suitable for unrestricted registration.

Under the conditional registration scheme, approved vehicles are allocated condition codes (refer to Annexure A) to ensure the safe interaction with other road users by restricting the operation of the vehicle when used for operational tasks on public roads, public streets and road related areas.

A completed application for Conditional Registration "Form VS47" is required for all applications for conditional registration and approval is at the discretion of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. You can get the VS47 apply for assessment for conditional registration form on the NT Government website¹.

Vehicle types considered for work related conditional registration include (but not limited to) the following:

- all-terrain vehicles (ATV)
- quad bikes
- ride on mowers
- forklifts
- all-terrain cranes
- backhoes / tractors
- light plant equipment.

¹ <https://nt.gov.au/driving/industry/vehicle-information-bulletins-and-forms>

There are two categories for conditional registration: general use and restricted use.

General use

General use category vehicles are built for a purpose or a specific task and are subject to generic assessment. These vehicle types include (but may not be limited to) the following:

- forklifts
- ride on mowers
- all-terrain cranes
- tractors / backhoes
- light plant equipment
- towed implements.

General use conditional registration codes

Conditional registration codes (refer Annexure A for codes) will be added against the vehicles registration record by Department.

Conditional registration codes may vary depending on the use of the vehicle, however the codes below are a mandatory minimum.

Vehicle type	GO	LO	SP	TR	OL	SL	OS
Forklifts		LO3 LO5		TR1	OL1 OL2	SL1	
Ride on mowers		LO5		TR1	OL1 OL2	SL1	
Tractors/ Backhoes	GO5			TR1	OL1 OL2	SL1	OS1 - if applicable
Light plant equipment		LO3 LO5		TR1	OL1 OL2	SL1	
Towed implements	GO1	LO2 LO3	SP	TR1 TR2	OL1 OL2	SL1 SL3 SL5	OS1 - if applicable

General use letters

A letter for each vehicle type will be issued by the Department for each application approved under the general use category. This letter specifies the vehicle identification number and outlines the conditional registration codes that are applicable to the approved application.

A copy of this letter is to be kept in the vehicle at all times and produced on request by either a transport inspector or police officer.

Restricted use

Restricted use vehicles require individual assessment by the Department and are subject to specific and explicit conditions. Restricted use vehicles include (but may not be limited to) the following vehicle types:

- all-terrain vehicles (ATV)
- ATV utility vehicles.

Restricted use conditional registration codes

If approved, conditional registration codes are to be added against the vehicles registration record by the Department.

Conditional registration codes may vary depending on the use of the vehicle, however the codes below are a mandatory minimum.

Vehicle type	GO	LO	SP	TR	OL*	SL
ATV		LO3		TR1	OL1 OL2	SL1
ATV utility vehicles		LO3		TR1	OL1 OL2	SL1

Restricted use letters

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and if approved, a letter will be issued to the applicant outlining specific conditions for registration.

Where the customer has more than one conditionally registered vehicle, a schedule of approved vehicles may be offered.

A copy of this letter is to be kept in the vehicle at all times and produced on request by either a transport inspector or police officer.

Application / Assessment process

Step 1

Applicant to complete VS47 – Apply for conditional registration form² and submit to mvrtestshed.darwin@nt.gov.au

A Transport Inspector will contact you within 5 business days once they receive your form.

You may be asked to provide more information to support your application.

Step 2

If approved, you will receive an approved VS47 application form with codes that will list the conditions for your registration.

At this stage, you may proceed and seek a roadworthy inspection from an Authorised Inspector – refer to Vehicle Standard and Inspection Requirements section.

The Vehicle Inspection Facility in your region may have to conduct a compliance inspection on top of the registration inspection on the vehicle in question.

Step 3

On approval of your conditional registration, you will receive a conditional registration conditions letter. You can go to an MVR office to pay the fees and collect your plates.

Oversize overmass SPVs

Maximum vehicle dimension limits in the NT are nationally consistent and are set out in the *NT Motor Vehicle (Standards) Regulations 2003*³ which incorporate the AVSRs and ADRs.

All vehicles travelling on the road network in the NT must comply with the maximum dimensional limits unless the vehicle is carrying a permit of exemption issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Permits of exemption may be issued in special cases for vehicles carrying indivisible loads or for non-complying vehicles that, by design, exceed mass or dimension limits. Permits will generally have conditions of operation on the vehicle (i.e. route restrictions) to enable it to safely travel on the road network.

- Dimension limits⁴
- Apply for an oversize or overmass permit⁵

Note: Overmass vehicles require Transport Inspector verification or weighbridge documentation for individual axle group masses.

² <https://nt.gov.au/driving/industry/vehicle-information-bulletins-and-forms>

³ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/MOTOR-VEHICLES-STANDARDS-REGULATIONS--AUSTRALIAN-VEHICLE-STANDARDS-RULES>

⁴ <https://nt.gov.au/driving/heavy/oversize-or-overmass-vehicles/dimension-limits>

⁵ <https://nt.gov.au/driving/heavy/oversize-or-overmass-vehicles/oversize-or-overmass-permit>

Vehicle standards and inspection requirements

All vehicles shall have a **roadworthy inspection** and/or **compliance inspection** (as determined by the age of the vehicle) by a suitably appointed Authorised Inspector or a Transport Inspector.

Minimum roadworthy requirements are:

- audible warning device (horn)
- one mirror
- a rotating amber light, or lights, visible from all directions from a distance of at least 200 metres in fine daylight conditions must be operating while the vehicle is in use on a public street and in public places
- reflectors:
 - red to the rear, located on both sides
 - amber to the side
 - white to the front, located on both sides
- brakes operational to the required standard
- the steering arms and connections shall be of sufficient strength and length and as far as possible protected from damage by collision
- tyres and rims to a roadworthy or serviceable condition
- suitable occupant protection
- lighting requirements (subject to vehicle design):
 - brake lights
 - left and right hand side indicator lights
 - low beam headlights.

Annexure A – Conditional registration codes

Detailed below are the codes and their descriptions, and it is expected that only up to three codes will apply to any vehicle, at any one time. The codes applied, will be endorsed on the registration certificate.

GO – General operation

GO1 - Towing limitations (as specified)

GO2 - Pilot vehicle(s) (as specified) mandatory

GO3 - Passenger/observer required

GO4 - Escort with authority to direct traffic required

GO5 - Use only when required and by the shortest suitable routes between depots and worksites

GO6 - Occupant protection required

GO7 - Potentially hazardous projections to be covered by rigid material (e.g. by metal cage) when travelling or standing on any public street / public place

GO8 - Only to be driven on any public street / public place when unladen

LO – Location limitation

LO1 - Not to be used on the formed portion of any street / public place except when crossing

LO2 - Excluded from built up areas, i.e. where 60 km/hr or lower speed zones apply

LO3 - Restricted to designated area / routes

LO4 - Not to be left standing on the paved part of any street / public place

LO5 - Only to be used on a street / public place within a defined (signed) work area or construction zone and to be transported (not driven) between sites

OL – Ownership limitations

OL1 - Ownership cannot be automatically transferred

OL2 - Conditions only apply while in current ownership

OL3 - The registered owner must be a member of an authorised motoring club and the vehicle must only be used in conjunction with an authorised club event

OM – Overmass

OM1 - Not to be driven over or used on any bridge or culvert

OM2 - Only to be used in accordance with the relevant Notice(s) [e.g. as published under the (proposed) Oversize and Overmass regulations by the responsible jurisdiction]

OM3 - Only to be used in accordance with route specific permits issued to the vehicle operator by the responsible jurisdiction

OS – Oversize

OS1 - Only to be used in accordance with the relevant Notice(s) [e.g. as published under the (proposed) Oversize and Overmass) regulations by the responsible jurisdiction]

OS2 - Only to be used in accordance with route specific permits issued to the vehicle operator by the responsible jurisdiction

SL – Signs and lights (conspicuity)

SL1 - Special lamps lit during specified use only, i.e. when the vehicle is an unusual hazard

SL2 - Special delineation of protrusions by way of lamps, signs, marking boards or reflectors required
SL3 - Delineation of over width or over length extremities, by for example: stripes in contrasting colours
SL4 - Special lamps (as specified) for travel between sunset and sunrise

SL5 - 'Slow vehicle' sign

SL6 - 'Left hand drive' or 'dual control' sign

SP – Speed limited

SP - Governed to maximum speed as specified, (e.g. SP30, SP50)

ST - Maximum speed specified when towed (e.g. ST30)

TR – (Time of day) restrictions

TR1 - Not to travel during darkness or poor visibility

TR2 - Not to travel on any road when clearway conditions apply