

V50 Bicycle carrying racks and other rear-mounted carrying devices

Information Bulletin

Introduction

When fitted to a motor vehicle, any load-carrying device that is roof-mounted, towbar-mounted or rear-vehicle mounted must comply with the requirements of this bulletin.

For the purpose of this bulletin, a load-carrying device includes (but is not limited to) bicycle/motorcycle carrying racks (roof and towbar-mounted) and wheelie bin carriers (towbar-mounted).

A bicycle carrying rack may be fitted to the towbar and/or boot (rear-mount) or roof rack (roof-mount) of a motor vehicle for the purpose of transporting bicycles.

A wheelie bin carrier may be fitted to the towbar of a motor vehicle for the purpose of transporting household refuse.

General requirements

The following requirements apply to all load-carrying devices:

- Ensure the load-carrying device is fit for purpose and is fitted and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- All welding carried out in the manufacture of a steel load-carrying devices must be in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard, AS/NZS 1554.1 Structural Steel Welding - Welding of Steel Structures;
- The load-carrying device must be secure and suitable for its load;
- Ensure that the load is adequately secured to the load-carrying device when transporting and that the load-carrying device is adequately secured to the vehicle;
- Ensure the load-carrying device and its attachment to the vehicle is suitable for the weight of the load; and
- Ensure the load-carrying device is free of sharp edges and protrusions.

Fitment (rear mount)

The following guidelines apply to load-carrying devices attached to the rear of a vehicle:

- Ensure the load-carrying device and its load:
 - does not project excessively behind the rear of the vehicle;
 - does not exceed rear overhang limits (60% of the vehicle's wheelbase); and
 - does not protrude more than 150mm beyond the extreme width of either side of the vehicle.

For further information regarding dimensional limits please refer to Motor Vehicle Registry “Information Bulletin V13 Vehicle Dimensional Limits (Including Load)”, a link to which is below;

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

Vehicle lighting visibility

Ensure that the load-carrying device or its load does not obscure any vehicle lights.

Additional lighting may be required – i.e. temporary lighting such as a removable light board.

Number plate visibility

Ensure the number plate is not obscured.

It may be necessary to re-locate the number plate when using a load-carrying device, or alternatively, an additional number plate (an identical number as the vehicle) can be obtained from a Motor Vehicle Registry Office (fees may apply) and fitted to the load-carrying device or its load.

Where the number plate is relocated or an additional number plate is fitted, consideration should be given to the requirement of a number plate light.

For further information regarding correct number plate fitment, please refer to Motor Vehicle Registry “Information Bulletin V24 Vehicle Number Plates”, a link to which is below;

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

Driver vision

Ensure the driver has adequate vision to the rear of the vehicle.

Safety

The load-carrying device should be removed when not in use to lessen the potential hazard to other road users who might pass behind the vehicle.

More information

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