

VIB25 Temporary/Permanent removal of seats

Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin

Purpose

It is common for four wheel drive and people mover vehicle owners to remove seats to gain additional luggage or load space for work or recreational purposes (i.e. road trip holidays, camping).

The purpose of this bulletin is to outline the assessment of temporary or permanent removal of second and third row seats and seatbelts for vehicle registration and roadworthy purposes.

Definition

Temporary removal of seats

Removal of seats using original quick release mechanisms or simple tools is for a short period of time.

Permanent removal of seats

Removal of seats and seatbelts results in the permanent reduction of the seating capacity affecting the Australian Design Rule (ADR) category of the vehicle.

Requirements

The temporary removal of seats does not require a verification inspection by a department Transport Inspector, providing:

- The seats are fitted with original equipment quick release mechanisms.
- Removal of the seats is achieved by simple tools only.
- There are no structural modifications involved.
- No seat belt or child restraint **anchorages** are permanently removed or modified.
- The removal of seats and/or seatbelts does not interfere with the vehicle's Supplementary Restraint System (SRS).
- Seatbelts need not be removed unless integrated into the seat.
- The seating configuration is returned to standard.
- All vacant body work holes must be sealed.
- Sufficient load restraint is used to prevent injury to occupants.

The permanent removal of seats requires the modification to be assessed by the Vehicle Standards Section; for example:

- The permanent reduction in seating capacity resulting in a change of vehicle category (ADR category), must be certified by an approved engineering signatory.
- Any removal of seats and/or seatbelts to achieve a reduction in seating capacity must not interfere with the vehicle’s Supplementary Restraint System (SRS).
- Any seat that cannot be put back into the vehicle due to modifications that are permanently mounted (i.e. addition of internal roll-over protection system).
- Any seating position that has had the seatbelt or child restraint anchorage removed that changes the ADR category of the vehicle.
- All vacant body work holes must be sealed.
- Sufficient load restraint is used to prevent injury to occupants.

Further information

| Contact | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Vehicle Standards Section | |
| Telephone | 08 8924 7157 |
| Email | vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au |
| Web | https://mvr.nt.gov.au/ |