



# vehicle registration

## NT REGO APP

NT REGO is the free official NT Government app for your smartphone/tablet helping you check the registration of an NT registered vehicle, set renewal reminders and securely manage your NT vehicle registration.

## Vehicle registration and compulsory third party insurance

To make sure that compensation for victims of road trauma is available, all Australian jurisdictions require compulsory third party insurance (CTPI) cover for registered vehicles.

**Compulsory third party insurance does not cover damage to your vehicle or damage to other people's property in the event of a crash, theft or fire.**

In the NT, when a vehicle is registered, the CTPI cover is paid at the same time as the registration fee. The CTPI is covered under *Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act 1979* and is administered by the Motor Accidents Compensation Commission (MACC) on behalf of the NT Government.

The no-fault scheme compensates all people injured in a motor vehicle crash in the NT regardless of where they reside (NT, interstate or overseas) and regardless of where their vehicle is registered (NT or interstate).

An injured person may include pedestrians, drivers, passengers, motorcyclists and cyclists as long as their injuries were caused by, or arising out of, the use of a motor vehicle.

The scheme is funded by motor vehicle owners, who pay a compensation contribution when they register their Northern Territory vehicle. It provides compensation for medical and hospital care, rehabilitation services, permanent impairment (loss of the use of a limb), loss of earning capacity benefits. In the event of a death, the scheme will also contribute to the funeral expenses, pay benefits to surviving spouse, dependent or orphaned children and, where appropriate, dependent parents.

Benefits may be reduced if the injured person did not obey certain traffic regulations. For example, a 25% reduction for not wearing a seat belt will apply, and zero loss of earning benefits or whole person impairment if driving an unregistered vehicle or if your licence had expired, been cancelled or suspended.

No benefits are payable if you were using the vehicle unlawfully or without the consent of the owner, using the vehicle in the commission of an indictable offence, escaping lawful apprehension or intending to inflict death or injury on yourself or others.

No compensation is payable if the injuries sustained are compensable under workers' compensation legislation.

If your NT-registered vehicle (regardless of who is driving the vehicle) is involved in a crash interstate and the NT vehicle is deemed to be at fault, your CTPI cover will indemnify you. That means that if you or the driver of the NT-registered vehicle is sued for personal injuries sustained by a third party, MACC will cover these costs.

If you or the driver of the NT-registered vehicle was charged with a serious driving offence as a result of the crash, MACC may have the right of recovery against the driver for all monies paid to the injured third party.

For more information, please visit [www.ntmacc.com.au](http://www.ntmacc.com.au).

## Driving an unregistered vehicle

It is an offence to stand or drive a motor vehicle on a road or road-related area if it is not registered.

It is also an offence to cause or allow another person to stand or drive an unregistered motor vehicle on a road or road-related area. There could be large fines and other penalties for the driver and/or owner of the vehicle.

If you are driving an unregistered vehicle and are involved in a crash, you could be held personally liable for compensation to any person injured as a result of the crash.

**There are severe penalties for driving an unregistered vehicle.**

## Vehicle inspections

### Registration renewal

The MVR sends a courtesy renewal notice to the last known mailing address or nominated email address of the owner approximately five weeks before registration expiry. It is the responsibility of the driver to make sure that the vehicle they are driving is registered.

If your registration renewal notice shows that the vehicle needs to be inspected, it must pass a roadworthiness inspection before the registration can be renewed.

Roadworthiness inspections for registration renewal can be completed by an Authorised Inspector. After the vehicle passes the inspection your authorised inspector will update your vehicles record online and/or provide you with an inspection report to show that it has passed.

If the vehicle fails the inspection you will get a copy of the inspection report listing the faults that must be fixed. You will not be able to renew the registration until the vehicle passes an inspection.

You do not need to attend an MVR office to renew your vehicle registration. Once your authorised inspector has updated your roadworthiness inspection online, you can complete your registration renewal via the NTREGO app or via the [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) website. Alternatively, completed inspection reports can be sent to MVR via fax or email, and your registration renewal completed by calling 1300 654 628, going online or via the NTREGO app.

For a list of Authorised Inspectors, visit the [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) website or call **1300 654 628**.

### Other inspections

Most vehicle inspections can be completed by an Authorised Inspector. If you are unsure whether your vehicle needs an inspection or who is authorised to do the inspection, contact MVR on **1300 654 628** or email [mvr@nt.gov.au](mailto:mvr@nt.gov.au)

### Vehicle number plates

Northern Territory-issued number plates are required on the front and back for cars, trucks and public vehicles (buses, taxis), and on the back only for motorcycles and trailers.

When the vehicle registration has expired, or the vehicle registration is transferred interstate, the NT number plates must be returned to the MVR.

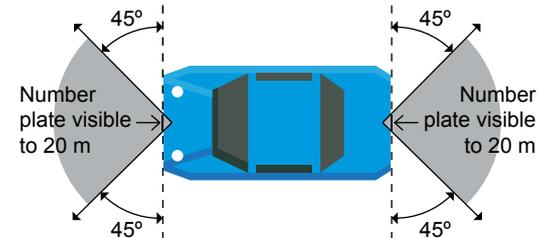
### Number plates on the vehicle you drive or own:

- must be issued by the registration authority (MVR)
- must be clearly readable-not dirty, faded or damaged
- must have a light at the rear number plate so that it is clearly visible at night
- must be able to be seen and read clearly from anywhere within a 45-degree arc of the vehicle's centreline, at a distance of at least 20 metres (see diagrams below).

Number plates must not be hidden by anything, such as a tow bar or anything being carried in or on the vehicle.

If you carry bicycles on a bike rack that hides the rear number plate in any way, you must either move the rear number plate to a position where it can be clearly seen or buy a bike rack number plate to attach to the bike rack.

A bike rack number plate has the same number as your car's number plates, and can be ordered from the MVR.



**It is an offence to:**

- alter number plates in any way
- attach a number plate to any vehicle other than the plates issued by MVR
- use a number plate cover that is not flat, clear or untinted (number plate covers that have lines across them are not considered to be clear).

**Take special care with tow balls and bike racks. Do not block any part of your number plate – heavy penalties apply.**

**Roadworthiness**

Before you drive you need to make sure that your vehicle is roadworthy. A roadworthy vehicle is one that is safe to drive and meets the standards required by law.

The items below are just some of the things you should check regularly; these are not the full requirements for all vehicles. If you have any doubt about the rules that apply to your vehicle, contact the MVR.

**Tyres**

Your vehicle's tyres, including the spare tyre, must be in good condition and have a tread at least 1.5 mm deep across the entire tread surface.

Keep the tyres inflated to the pressure recommended by the manufacturer or they could overheat or wear prematurely and fail. The sidewalls of the tyres should not have any cracks or bumps.

If your tyres wear unevenly, there might be a problem with the steering or suspension.

**Brakes**

The brakes on your vehicle must be working properly and capable of stopping the vehicle in a reasonable distance if you need to stop suddenly.

If your brakes are not working properly you might not be able to slow or stop the vehicle and you will put yourself and others in danger.

**Lights**

The lights on your vehicle help you to see the road and areas around it. They also help other road users to see you and know what you are planning to do.

The lights on your vehicle must be working properly at all times, even if you are not driving in the dark.

Generally, all motor vehicles must be fitted with:

- white headlamps at the front of the vehicle
- red stop lamps at the rear of the vehicle
- front and rear position lamps (parking lights)
- a number plate lamp
- orange turn signal lamps (indicators).

### Seatbelts

Seatbelts must be available for all passengers. They should be securely fitted, and all components, including retractors where fitted, must function correctly.

Seatbelt webbing must be firmly secured to its end fittings and must not be damaged, cut, knotted or frayed.

### Windows, windscreen and wipers

The glazing (windows and windscreen) on your vehicle must be in good condition. Cracks, scratches and other damage to the windows could stop you from being able to see the road and other road users.

Your vehicle must have a windscreen wiper or other device for removing rain and other moisture from the windscreen in front of the driver. The windscreen wiper must be able to be operated from the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Any tinting on your vehicle's windows must not prevent you from being able to see out properly. There are specific requirements for the level of tint that is allowed, check the MVR website for more information at [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au)

### Smoke and oil

Your vehicle should not leak oil or put out excessive amounts of smoke.

Oil leaks and blowing smoke could be hazardous to other road users and could indicate a mechanical problem with the vehicle.

### Protrusions on the front of vehicles

Some vehicles are fitted with accessories and equipment such as bull bars, spotlights, fishing rod holders and bonnet scoops. If not designed and fitted correctly, these types of accessories could interfere with the driver's vision or have sharp protrusions that could be dangerous for other road users.

A defect notice can be issued to a vehicle if its accessories or equipment are likely to be a source of danger to the public.

**Fishing rod holders, spotlight mounts and winches could be illegal protrusions on the front of your vehicle if not fitted correctly.**

## Defect notices

Police or a transport inspector can stop and inspect your vehicle and give you a defect notice if the vehicle does not meet the roadworthiness standard required under the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*. For example, if your car is too noisy, drips oil or blows too much smoke it will be given a defect notice.

Infringement notices (fines or other penalties) can also be issued for seriously defective or missing equipment at the same time as a defect notice is issued.

If your vehicle gets a defect notice, it must be repaired, have a full roadworthy inspection by a police officer or transport inspector and officially cleared. Sometimes you are not allowed to drive the vehicle at all until it has been repaired and the defect notice cleared. In this case you will need to have the vehicle towed if it needs to be moved.

It is an offence to drive a defective vehicle contrary to the conditions on the defect notice, even if you are not the person responsible for having it repaired.

## Before driving on the road, check:

- the registration is current
- number plates are the ones that are recorded on the vehicle's registration
- brakes are working
- tyres are not worn
- horn is working
- seatbelts are in good working order
- system lights and indicators are working (do not drive if there is a warning light on)
- windscreen and mirrors are clean
- wipers and washers are working
- headlights and brake lights are working and are clearly seen (you must not drive at night if your lights are not working)
- steering wheel and driver's seat is adjusted so that you have a clear view of the road and can reach the controls easily.

When looking for a new car that's right for you, a good place to start is with the ANCAP safety rating. Cars with 5-star ratings provide much better protection in a crash than those with a lower rating.

[www.ANCAP.com.au](http://www.ANCAP.com.au)



**ANCAP**

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Always make sure your vehicle is roadworthy and registered.

A road worthy vehicle is one that is safe to drive and meets the standards required by law.