

Vehicle Standards Information

VSI.40 | Rev 4 | 1 June 2021

40

Left-hand drive vehicles up to 4.5 tonnes GVM

Purpose

This Vehicle Standards Information sheet (VSI) No. 40 is intended to provide information on the NSW requirements for the registration of motor vehicles not exceeding 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass* in left-hand drive configuration.

*Gross vehicle mass (GVM) is the maximum laden mass of a motor vehicle as specified by the vehicle's manufacturer.

Introduction

Generally, motor vehicles registered in NSW must be right-hand drive. This means that the centre of at least one steering control of the vehicle is to the right of, or in line with, the longitudinal centreline of the vehicle.

Under the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2017*, a motor vehicle with a GVM not over 4.5 tonnes must have right-hand drive if the vehicle is:

- Less than 25 years old
- Required by the law to have right-hand drive.

This means that vehicles at least 25 years old and no more than 4.5 tonnes GVM may be registered with left-hand drive.

Some other types of vehicles may also be eligible for registration in left-hand drive – see 'Other left-hand drive vehicles' on page 2.

The age limit for light vehicles allowed to be registered as left-hand drive in NSW changed on 1 July 2021 to coincide with the introduction of the [Commonwealth] *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (the RVSA) and the expansion of the 'pre-1989' vehicle import scheme to encompass 'older vehicles' that are 25 years and older vehicles.

Vehicles, less than 25 years old, imported via the Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicles Scheme (SEVS), using the "Rarity" criteria are not permitted to be registered in left-hand drive configuration.

Compliance with vehicle standards

Vehicles that are eligible to be registered as left-hand drive may need to be modified to adapt them to the Australian driving environment. At the very least, they must have:

- Headlights, that when dipped from high-beam to low-beam, deflect the beam downwards, or downwards and to the left
- External rear vision mirrors on both sides of the vehicle that give the driver a clear view of the road behind, and of any following or overtaking vehicles.

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements above, left-hand drive vehicles must meet all current NSW vehicle standards requirements and be suitable for safe use.

If the vehicle has been imported and is being registered in NSW for the first time, it must also meet the requirements of [VSI.04 'Registering imported vehicles in NSW'](#).

To ascertain whether a particular left-hand drive vehicle meets the requirements, it may be necessary to seek advice from a licensed certifier on the Transport for NSW Vehicle Safety and Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS).

Licensed certifiers are persons experienced in vehicle design, construction and standards requirements who, for a fee, will provide advice, undertake assessments, and if appropriate, issue a compliance certificate. For more information refer to [VSCCS Bulletin No 1 'Licensed certifiers'](#).

If a vehicle is not eligible for registration as left-hand drive it will be necessary to convert it to right-hand drive in order for it to be registered. In this case it will need to have a compliance certificate issued by a licensed certifier.

For information on steering conversions applying to passenger cars and other light vehicles refer to [Vehicle Standards Bulletin No. 4 \(VSB.04\) Steering conversions for left-hand drive vehicles](#) issued by the [Commonwealth] Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC).

Any vehicle modifications must be assessed prior to registration.

A sign at the rear of the vehicle displaying the words 'LEFT-HAND DRIVE' is optional.

Other left-hand drive vehicles

Certain evaluation vehicles may be eligible for registration in left-hand drive. These vehicles are used for development of vehicle components and systems. They may be prototype or pre-production vehicles substantially different from any vehicle in current production. This option is only available to vehicle manufacturers, who may contact TfNSW's Vehicle Standards via email ysc@transport.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Dedicated rally vehicles may be eligible for conditional registration in left-hand drive under the Rally Vehicle Scheme. A person applying for rally vehicle registration must be a member of an authorised motoring club. For more information go to the [Rally Vehicle Scheme](#) on the TfNSW website.

Documents required for registration

To register a left-hand drive vehicle the following will need to be provided:

- A completed 'Application for Registration' form (Form No. 1009)
- Proof of identity
- Proof of registration entitlement (e.g. current certificate of registration, bill of sale etc.)
- An inspection report from an Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Station (AUVIS)*
- A Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance certificate
- A weighbridge certificate*.

* Contact Transport for NSW Customer Service on 13 22 13 for your nearest AUVIS or weighbridge station.

The vehicle may also be required to undergo a Transport for NSW identity inspection.

Further information

NSW Legislation

- *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2017*
legislation.nsw.gov.au

Service NSW (SNSW)

To register a vehicle, apply for a permit and to apply for a driver or rider license

To locate your nearest SNSW office

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/> | T 13 77 88

Transport for NSW

For Information & advice related to vehicle registration, permits & driver/rider licenses

roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au | T 13 22 13

TfNSW Technical Enquiries

For Information & advice related to vehicle construction, modification and registration requirements in NSW

PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

E technical.enquiries@transport.nsw.gov.au | T 1300 137 302 | F (02) 8837 0037

TfNSW Vehicle Safety and Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS)

For Information & advice related to VSCCS Licensed Certifiers.

VSCCS | E vscs@transport.nsw.gov.au | T 1300 336 206

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

For information related to building or importing road vehicles for use in road transport within Australia; also for information on & to access Australian Design Rules (ADRs) & associated Circulars; Vehicle Standards Bulletins (VSBs)

GPO Box 594 Canberra ACT 2601

infrastructure.gov.au | T 1800 815 272 | F (02) 6274 6013

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

For Information & advice related to the construction and modification of heavy vehicles (ie those with a GVM or ATM exceeding 4.5tonnes); requirements for heavy vehicle permits & exemptions.

PO Box 492, Fortitude Valley Q 4006

nhvr.gov.au E info@nhvr.gov.au | T 1300 696 487 | F (07) 3309 8777