

## Vehicle Standards Instruction (General 12.4)

### Use of Heavy Vehicle Modification Codes on Light Vehicles (not exceeding 4.5 tonnes GVM / ATM)

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The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has previously permitted the use of specific modification codes from the *National Code of Practice – Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB 6)* for the certification of modifications carried out on light vehicles, that is motor vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), or trailers with an Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM), not exceeding 4.5 tonnes.

The introduction of the *National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (the NCOP)* now provides light vehicle modification codes for a number of these modifications and the following information sets out which heavy vehicle codes may still be used to certify those modifications to light vehicles not covered by the NCOP.

#### Section 1: Use of Heavy Vehicle Codes on Light Motor Vehicles

Vehicles listed in Table 1 are permitted to be modified using the codes listed in Table 2. The H code modifications mentioned in Table 2 only apply to vehicles that have a full separate chassis.

Vehicle Type	Vehicle Category (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition ADR)
<b>Forward Control Passenger Vehicle</b>	MB
<b>Off Road Passenger Vehicle</b>	MC
<b>Light Omnibus</b> (up to 3.5 tonnes GVM, up to 12 seats) (up to 3.5 tonnes GVM, over 12 seats) (over 3.5 tonnes GVM, up to 4.5 tonnes GVM)	MD MD1 MD2 MD3
<b>Light Goods Vehicle</b>	NA
<b>Medium Goods Vehicle</b> (over 3.5 tonnes GVM, up to 4.5 tonnes GVM)	NB NB1

Table 1

Where appropriate light vehicle codes are available, light vehicles modifications must be certified using those codes. Certification using heavy vehicles when a light vehicle code is appropriate is not permitted.

#### Sections of Heavy Vehicle Codes Permitted

The Table below lists which heavy vehicle codes can be used on light vehicles, subject to the conditions listed for each code within Table 2 and any Special Conditions listed directly after Table 2.

VSB 6 Section	Conditions
<b>Section G – Brakes</b>	
G1 – Air Brake System – Relocation of Air Brake Components	-
G4.a – G4.e Brake System Certifications	These codes are only permitted to be used on vehicle categories listed in Table 1.
G5 – Fitting of Auxiliary Brake – Engine, Exhaust or Retarder Type	-

VSB 6 Section	Conditions
G6 – Air Operated Accessories	-
<u>Section H – Chassis and Frame</u>	
H4 – Chassis Frame Alteration	<p>This code is only permitted to be used on vehicle categories listed in Table 1.</p> <p>May only be used for chassis modifications <i>not</i> covered by NCOP14 e.g.: Chassis shortening behind original rear suspension mounts.</p> <p>Any reinforcements should be designed to be compatible with the light vehicle's chassis.</p>
<u>Section K – Cabin</u>	
K5 – Wheelchair Occupant Restraint System Installation	-
<u>Section Q – Truck Mounted Lifting Systems—Slewing</u>	
Q1 – Installation of Truck Mounted Lifting Systems—Slewing	-
<u>Section R – Vehicle Mounted Lifting Systems—Non-slewing</u>	
R1 – Goods Loading Device Installation	-
R2 – Wheelchair Loader Installation	-

**Table 2**

**Special Requirements:**

- A number of the codes in Table 2 require approval for tail shaft modifications. This is not a normal requirement for light vehicles but is included in the checklist for Code LB1 in the NCOP. Note: This modification can be undertaken using the Heavy Vehicle Modification Code (VSB 6) C1, as a guide only.
- For codes which alter or install braking systems, compliance must be demonstrated to the LG section of the NCOP (where applicable).
- Where conditions are not listed for a VSB 6 code in Table 2, the code may only be used provided that all requirements of that code are met.
- Where conditions are listed for a VSB 6 code in Table 2, these apply over and above those stated in the code.

Only the codes listed in Table 2 are acceptable to certify modifications on light motor vehicles, provided the modification(s) meets all requirements of the code (with variations listed in this document) and are performed to recognised engineering practices.

**To ensure the issue is beyond any doubt, the use of any code within the S section of the National Code of Practice—Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB 6) on a light vehicle is prohibited without the express written permission of the Chief Executive of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.**

**Please Note:**

If modifications to light vehicles are certified using the appropriate and permissible heavy vehicle codes, all the relevant requirements set out in the heavy vehicle codes must be met. Partial compliance is not acceptable.

Any heavy vehicle codes not listed above cannot be used for certifying modification to light vehicles without the express written permission of TMR. To seek such approval, a completed 'Motor Vehicle Modification Application' (Form F1854) must be submitted to TMR for consideration. This form can be downloaded from the TMR website at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au).

Under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*, the owner of a modified vehicle must ensure that a modification that requires approval, has been approved before the vehicle is used on a road. Modifying a vehicle in a way that adversely affects its safety, or driving or parking an unsafe vehicle on a road, are breaches of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*.

#### **Further Information:**

For further information, please contact a suitably qualified Approved Person. For details of Approved Persons in your local area, please contact Department of Transport and Main Roads on 13 23 80.

#### **Additional Information:**

##### **National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (Vehicle Standards Bulletin 14)**

[http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle\\_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx)

##### **National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications (Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6)**

[http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle\\_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx)

##### **Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010**

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TrantOpRUVSSR10.pdf>