

Vehicle Standards Instruction (Light 24.0)

Approval of modifications to vehicle controls

Released November 2013

As part of Queensland Government's commitment to reducing red tape and regulation, the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) will introduce changes to the way that modifications to vehicle controls for persons with disabilities, and also vehicles used for driver training, are certified. These changes will commence from 1 January 2014.

Under the previous certification system:

- Systems designed and installed to comply with Australian Standards (AS) 3954 Motor vehicle controls- Adaptive systems for people with disabilities, or covered by a Type Approval issued by TMR, could be installed without the need to affix a modification plate or issue a modification certificate; and
- For other types of vehicle control modifications, individual approval was required by TMR, which may have required final inspection by a Transport Inspector.

Under the new scheme, vehicle owners will need to have these modifications certified by the Approved Person network rather than by TMR. This will make the process of certifying these modifications quicker, easier and more transparent for persons with disabilities and driver trainers.

New Technical Requirements

To allow vehicle control modifications to be assessed and certified by Approved Persons, TMR has produced a new LC - Vehicle Controls section in the Queensland Code of Practice—Vehicle Modifications that sets out the requirements for these modifications. The new LC section will be available to review from the light vehicle modification website from the end of November 2013. A new version of the Queensland Code of Practice—Vehicle Modifications will be published on 1 January 2014.

Similar to the way other complex modifications are certified, the certification process is broken into two stages:

Stage 1: Design Certification

This stage requires the certification of the design of a vehicle control system by an Approved Person (Engineer). This process is to ensure that the design of a system meets the necessary requirements and any impacts on other vehicle systems have been considered by a person with automotive or mechanical engineering qualifications.

This stage does not apply to systems that were covered by a current TMR Type Approval on 31 December 2013, as the type approval will be accepted as a suitable design.

For dual control systems for driver trainer vehicles, LC1 is the relevant design code. For vehicle control systems for persons with disabilities, LC3 is the relevant code.

Stage 2: Modification Certification

This stage is required to certify the installation of a system to a vehicle that has been approved under stage one, or was covered by a current Type Approval on 31 December 2013.

For dual control systems for driver trainer vehicles, LC2 is the relevant design code. For vehicle control systems for persons with disabilities, LC4 is the relevant code.

Systems complying with Australian Standard (AS) 3954

Previously, TMR has allowed systems that complied with AS3954 to be installed in a vehicle without the need for formal certification. This system has resulted in issues for some vehicle operators seeking subsidies from various government departments due to the lack of certification documentation. This system also resulted in confusion in relation to disabling of safety systems (e.g. knee airbags) fitted to some late model vehicles.

To ensure that all vehicle control modifications are certified in the same manner, and a plate is affixed to the vehicle, all modifications to vehicle controls for persons with disabilities must be approved under the LC section.

The previous approval issued by TMR that exempted the requirement for formal certification for installing AS3954 compliant systems is now repealed.

Qualifications for New Modification Codes

The following minimum qualification requirements apply to be eligible for accreditation for LC section codes:

LC1 Dual-controls for Driver Trainer Vehicles (Design) and LC3 Vehicle controls for persons with a disability (Design)

- Qualification 1 - A Registered Professional Engineer (RPEQ) as defined by the Queensland Professional Engineers Act 2002.

LC2 Dual-controls for Driver Trainer Vehicles (Modification) and LC4 Vehicle controls for persons with a disability (Modification)

- Qualification 1 - A Registered Professional Engineer (RPEQ) as defined by the Queensland Professional Engineers Act 2002; or
- Qualification 2 - A recognised and acceptable Diploma or Degree in Mechanical Engineering or A recognised and acceptable Diploma or Degree in Automotive Engineering; or
- Qualification 3 - An "Approved Examiner" appointed under the provisions of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Accreditation and Others Provisions) Regulation 2005*; or
- Qualification 4 - Cert III in Automotive Mechanical Technology (Light Vehicle) or equivalent; or
- Qualification 5 - Cert III in Automotive Mechanical Technology (Heavy Vehicle) or equivalent; or
- Qualification 6 - Cert III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Diesel Fitting) or equivalent; or
- Qualification 7 - Cert III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting & Turning) or equivalent.

A person wishing to apply for accreditation to certify any of the four new modification codes, and who meets the minimum qualification requirements, must complete an *Approved Person Application Form* (F1855) and submit it with any necessary supporting documentation. This form, along with other information about applying for accreditation can be found on-line at <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Accreditations/Approved-Person-Scheme.aspx>.

Related Documents

Queensland Code of Practice—Vehicle Modifications

Available on-line from the Department of Transport and Main Roads' website

<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Vehicle-standards-and-modifications/Vehicle-modifications/Light-vehicle-modifications.aspx>

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

Available on-line from the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel's website

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

Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2005

Available on-line from the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel's website

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TrantOpRUAcR05.pdf>

Further Information

- For further information about accreditation as an Approved Person, please contact the Approved Person Administrator by email at AP@tmr.qld.gov.au.
- Vehicle Operators seeking technical advice on vehicle control modifications should contact an Approved Person accredited to certify modifications of this type. For contact details of Approved Persons in your area, please contact TMR on 13 23 80.
- Should an Approved Person require further assistance, they should contact Vehicle Standards and Modification Advice.