



## The Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSRs)

While most enthusiasts are aware of the Australian Design Rules (ADRs), very few have ever heard of the companion Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSRs). The following provides details on these, and how they affect you.

Vehicles manufactured in, or imported into, Australia are required to comply with the ADRs. These are rules for designing and manufacturing vehicles, and are administered by the Commonwealth's Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. However, the ADRs have certain gaps in their application. In particular they do not cover :

- vehicles built before 1969
- combinations of vehicles (road trains etc)
- every safety feature for vehicles built between 1969 and 1988
- aftermarket modifications
- certain standards made by bodies outside Australia
- ongoing maintenance requirements

To cover these gaps, the AVSRs were created. The AVSRs are model standards that **ALL** vehicles must comply with to be operated on roads in Australia; in other words, the rules for the day-to-day operation of these vehicles. They apply to both light and heavy vehicles and are implemented as laws in each state and territory. They also require that a vehicle subject to the ADRs when built or imported is to continue to comply with the ADRs. The AVSRs used the ADRs as their basis.

The AVSRs were approved for use by the Australian Transport Council (ATC) in January 1999. As well as covering the gaps noted, they also brought consistency to the way that state jurisdictions legislated, implemented and enforced the requirements of vehicle standards. All jurisdictions implemented the AVSRs into their own legislation in a relatively consistent way.

Interestingly, some enthusiasts talk about their 'pre-ADR' vehicles as if they are somehow exempt. As explained above, all of these loopholes were filled by the AVSRs, fifteen years ago!

More information on the AVSRs can be found on the National Transport Commission's website at :

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/roads/rules-compliance/australian-vehicle-standards-rules/>. As noted, these are only the 'model rules' and the actual legislation is the responsibility of the states. Queensland's Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation is the local legislation that contains both the AVSRs and ADRs. It is available here : <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TrantOpRUVSSR10.pdf>

## e-Petition to protect Queensland Motorsport Venues

A response was received on 1 October from the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning regarding the petition. It recognised the strong support as well as confirming the Government's appreciation of the benefits provided by recreational motorsport facilities. It will now be used as a submission to a review of new Planning legislation. The full response is at <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/closed-e-petitions> under number 2261-14 (click on 01/10/2014 to download).



## e-Bulletin 19

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