Advancements in electronics have seen a number of visual display units made available for use in vehicles. A number of these visual display units are designed to assist the driver of the vehicle and are therefore considered a drivers aid. Other units are designed for entertainment purposes, which can cause dangerous distractions to the driver and other vehicle operators.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads allows the fitting of visual display units in a position visible by the vehicle operator provided it is classified as a driver aid. All other visual display units must be positioned so no part of the screen is visible to the vehicle operator unless the screen cannot be operated when the vehicle is moving.

The following visual display units are considered driver aids:

- Dispatch systems
- Navigational or intelligent highway and vehicle system equipment e.g. GPS
- Rear view screens
- Ticket-issuing machines
- Vehicle monitoring devices

Other visual display units not considered driver aids include:

- DVD players
- Television receivers
- Gaming systems.

When fitting a visual display unit it is important to consider the following guidelines.
When fitted the unit must not:

- reduce the vehicle operator’s field of vision less than the allowable 11m vision from the driver’s seating position when the seat is in the rearmost position

- encroach upon the deployment area of any of the vehicle’s Safety Restraint System (Air bags, seatbelts, head restraints, etc)
- impede the movement of occupants in the vehicle
- be fitted in a location which will contact occupants in the event of a crash
- be fitted in a location where any image on the screen is likely to distract other drivers
- dislodge in a crash or with the sudden application of brakes etc. It must be fitted securely.

Please note that modifications that adversely affect the safety of a vehicle and driving or parking an unsafe vehicle on a road are breaches of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010.

Related Documents
Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010

Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulation 2009

Further Information
For further information, please contact the Vehicle Standards and Regulation unit on (07) 3114 5844 Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm (from 9:30am on Wednesday).