

## Review of Vehicle Standards Bulletin 5- Manufacture and Installation of Seats

Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) 5A *Commercial Manufacture and Installation of Additional Seats* and VSB 5B *Construction and Installation of Additional Seats by Individuals*, are Codes of Practice that may be used for the manufacture and installation of additional seats in motor vehicles. These were introduced in Dec 1996.

During a recent crash test program conducted at NSW's test facility, Crashlab, several occupant protection deficiencies were identified for seats manufactured using VSB 5A. In light of these results the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board (AMVCB) decided it was necessary to revise these Codes of Practice.

As a part of this revision, VSB 5A and VSB 5B have been combined into the single document- VSB 5 *Manufacture and Installation of Seats*. A copy of the draft code with explanatory appendix is attached for your consideration.

You have received this draft Bulletin since you may have an interest or expertise in this area. The AMVCB is keen for your feedback on this document. You are not obliged to comment, however are free to do so. You are also encouraged to forward these documents onto other parties that you think may have similar expertise or interest.

When submitting a proposal, stakeholders are requested to explain the thoughts behind their position and, where relevant, provide supporting evidence or documentation. Please enter your feedback into the supplied VSB5 comment form and submit to the following email address: [vsb5.feedback@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vsb5.feedback@transport.nsw.gov.au).

Submissions close 17:00 AEDT on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014.

The proposed Bulletin specifies a range of design and performance requirements for additional seats to provide protection to the occupant in the event of a crash.

Major proposed revisions include:

- a) Combining the requirements in VSB 5A and VSB 5B into a single document.
- b) Removal of side-facing seats due to the risk they pose to their occupants.
- c) Introduction of shoulder marking labels to indicate the range of occupants who can use the seat based on their shoulder heights.
- d) Changes to the categorisation of Category 2 and Category 3 seats to revise the lower age ranges of occupants allowed to use the seats.
- e) Introduction of anti submarining feature(s) to be installed in seats.
- f) Removal of child safety harnesses due to difficulties in using them correctly and their likelihood of promoting submarining.
- g) Introducing that Category 2 and 3 seats must have seatbelts that are integrated into the seat structure.

A full text of the major revisions to this Bulletin along with their explanatory section is attached as Appendix B in the draft VSB.