

# Advice to Approved Persons

## Certification of light trailers/caravans under heavy vehicle modification code S7

TMR regularly conducts desk top audits of certificates of modification. These audits are one of the tools used to determine compliance with the Approved Person's (AP) conditions of approval.

Through this audit process, it has been identified that some confusion exists regarding the S7 modification code, specifically how and when the S7 modification certification can be applied to a light trailer/caravan.

From **1 September 2017** the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is implementing Version 3 of the *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6): National Code of Practice for Heavy Vehicle Modifications (VSB6)*. VSB6 will become the new national standard for heavy vehicle modifications, replacing the current version that has been in use since July 2015.

**From 1 September 2017 Queensland APs must use VSB6 Version 3 when assessing and certifying light trailer/caravan ATM/GTM re-rating under the S7 modification code, until advised otherwise by TMR.**

### General S7 information

The purpose of this code is to allow an accredited S7 AP to certify ATM/GTM rating changes to modified trailers/caravans. Examples of modifications that might require rating changes include adding or removing axles from an existing axle group and replacing suspensions or control systems with alternative components of a different rating.

### The modified trailer/caravan can be re-rated in accordance with:

- a design certificate issued by an AP accredited with the S12 modification code, or by
- an existing **trailer/caravan manufacturer's specification**, if that trailer/caravan has the same ATM/GTM rating as the modified trailer/caravan after it is modified. This **must be the trailer/caravan manufacturer's specification NOT** the chassis or other component manufacturer.

Modifications covered under this code are:

- ATM/GTM rating changes for trailers modified to conform to specifications for a trailer/caravan at the revised ATM/GTM rating assigned by the trailer/caravan manufacturer, **provided the AP has written evidence of the specifications from the trailer/caravan manufacturer.**
- ATM/GTM rating changes for a trailer **inspected and confirmed to a design certified by an accredited S12 AP.**

Certification procedure as per VSB6 **must** be adhered to when certifying light trailers or caravans using the S7 modification code.

The certification procedure for modification code S7 – ATM/GTM re-rating is as follows:

1. Modifier determine if the ATM/GTM re-rating is **within the trailer/caravan manufacturer's specifications for the trailer/caravan or a similar trailer/caravan from the same manufacturer.**
  - a. If yes, proceed to step 2.
  - b. If no, proceed to step 4.
2. Modifier obtain written evidence of the **trailer/caravan manufacturer's specifications.** (This document **must** be presented to the S7 certifying AP.) Proceed to step 3.
3. Modifier determine if the trailer/caravan is to be modified to change the ATM/GTM.
  - a. If yes, proceed to step 6.
  - b. If no, proceed to step 7.
4. Modifier to contact an accredited S12 AP to supply trailer/caravan specifications or organise trailer/caravan inspection by an accredited S12 AP.
5. S12 AP to provide design certification to modifier (**This document must be presented to the S7 certifying AP.**)
6. Modifier to consult with an AP who is accredited to certify each modification for guidance on how any modification is required to be performed. Follow the certification procedure in each applicable modification code. For example, where a suspension modification is required to re-rate the ATM/GTM, refer to an accredited F2 AP and VSB6 Modification Code F2.
7. Modifier organise approval inspection by an accredited S7 AP.
8. S7 AP to perform inspection and ensure all modifications have been certified (if applicable), complete S7 checklist and determine if compliance has been achieved.
  - a. If yes, proceed to step 9.
  - b. If no, do not proceed, advise modifier rework is required to ensure compliance. Return to step 6.
9. S7 AP to issue a modification certificate, affix modification plate listing the changed ATM/GTM, and submit all paperwork as required by the relevant AP registration scheme. (The AP must keep copies of **trailer/caravan manufacturer's specifications** or the **S12 AP design certification.** These documents must be retained by the accredited S7 AP for the required record keeping period of 7 years).

**APs must be satisfied that the vehicle modification requirements are being met. It is advised that before modifications are carried out they be discussed with the certifying AP.** An Approved Person is required to keep copies of checklists and supporting documents for all modification certifications and in the instance of S7 modification certifications, this **must include written evidence of the trailer/caravan manufacturers specification and/or S12 design certification.**

As an Approved Person, considerable reliance is placed on the inspection process you are authorised to conduct for the modification certificates you issue. These certificates affect public safety, legal compliance and the efficient discharge of the department's statutory obligations.

TMR will continue to audit modification certificates for the correct use of the S7 modification code, on light trailers/caravans. If incorrect certifications are detected after 1 September 2017, or alternatively, if the required documentation is not included as part of a desktop audit, appropriate sanctions will be applied. This may result in the imposition of substantial fines of up to \$630 per incorrect certification and/or the amendment, suspension or cancellation of your AP accreditation.

For technical advice and information for light vehicles (up to 4.5t GVM) including vehicle standards and modification advice, please contact the Vehicle Standards team:

Ph: 13 23 80 (Ask for Vehicle Standards)

Email: [vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:vehiclestandards@tmr.qld.gov.au)

For non-technical advice, please email the Approved Person Policy team at

[AP\\_policy@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:AP_policy@tmr.qld.gov.au)