

Advice to Approved Persons

Introduction of new light vehicle modification codes LS11 and LS12

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (the department) is introducing 2 new Queensland light vehicle modification codes, LS11 and LS12. These new codes will be implemented on 1 March 2017.

The qualification requirements for these new codes are for qualification 1 & 2 as per the Business Rules for an Approved Person (Vehicle Modifications).

Approved persons who meet the qualification requirement can apply for these 2 new codes prior to the implementation date but **will not be able to certify any modifications under these new modification codes until 1 March 2017.**

The description of the new codes are:

LS11 – Gross Vehicle Mass Rating of Light Vehicles

The LS11 is designed to allow a light vehicle's Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) to be increased and certified under the Approved Person scheme. It will replace the existing procedures of applying to TMR for individual approval for manufacturer's GVM options, or for Second Stage Manufacture (SSM) holders to apply for a new type approval each time they obtain a new SSM.

The LS11 modification code will allow Approved Person engineers to certify the following modifications under a modification code:

- Increase a vehicle's GVM where an additional axle has been fitted;
- Increase in a vehicle's GVM to a manufacturer's optional GVM
- Increase in a vehicle's GVM up to 10% where a physical modification (springs, shock absorbers, and so on) has been performed
- Increase in a vehicle's GVM in accordance with a SSM, approval where permission from the SSM holder has been provided in writing.

Modifications which **will not** be acceptable under the new GVM modification code include:

- GVM increase to a vehicle with unitary/monocoque construction.
- Reduction in GVM rating (unless in accordance with a manufacturer's option).
- Increase in Gross Combination Mass (GCM) rating or, if no GCM is specified, the maximum towing mass at GVM, except in accordance with an SSM approval or manufacture's option.
- Increase in vehicle's towing capacity, except in accordance with an SSM approval or manufacture's option.

LS12 - Light Trailer Modification

The LS12 modification code will allow a wide range of modifications on light trailers to be certified under the Approved Person scheme.

Currently the only light trailer modifications which can be certified using a modification code is an aggregate trailer mass (ATM) increase, which relies on a heavy vehicle modification code. Other light trailer modifications require individual application to be made to the department.

The LS12 modification code will allow:

- Modifications to suspension, brakes, tow couplings, drawbars, wheels (rims & tyres) and trailer chassis, providing that the trailer continues to comply with Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (VSB1).
- Rerating of the trailer's ATM such that the trailer continues to comply with VSB-1 and revised ATM does not exceed 4500 kg.

Modifications which will not be acceptable under the LS12 modification code include:

- Changes resulting in a trailer that does not comply with VSB1.
- Modifications to a trailer with an ATM greater than 4500 kg.
- Modifications resulting in a change to the trailer's category (such as semi, pig, or dog trailer) as defined in Administrator's Circular 0-7-5.
- A change to a trailer's registration category (box trailer, boat trailer, caravan)
- Increase in a trailer's ATM which exceeds 4500 kg.

With the implementation of the new modification code LS12, heavy vehicle modification codes S7 and S12 will no longer be able to be used for light trailers/caravans.

The department issued *Information for Approved Persons No 31* in February 1999, which allowed approved persons to certify commercial light trailers (not relevant for homemade trailers) using the S7 and S12 modifications.

This information sheet states 'The Commercial Vehicle Modification Scheme for vehicles greater than 4.5 tonnes ATM/GVM allows for the upgrading of the ATM of a trailer under Codes S7 and S12 and approval is subsequently given for these codes to be applied to light trailers under 4.5 tonnes ATM.' **This information bulletin will be rescinded on 1 March 2017.**

A transition period of 3 months from 1 March 2017 to 31 May 2017 will be granted to allow partially completed certifications to be completed, but approved persons are reminded that S7 certification for a trailer/caravan can only be done with an S12 design certification or within manufacturers' specification.

From 1 June 2017, approved persons will no longer be able to certify S7 and S12 modifications on trailers/caravans with an ATM of equal to or less than 4.5 tonnes.

These 2 modification codes will be included in the *Queensland Code of Practice Vehicle Modifications* and will be available to download free of charge from the TMR website www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Vehicle-standards-and-modifications/Vehicle-modifications/Light-vehicle-modifications#qcop prior to the implementation date.