

This document creates Rules for the purposes of clause 70 of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2017. It is a condition of an authority that an examiner or proprietor must comply with the Rules.

# Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin 78

## Inspecting Trailers Manufactured from 1 July 2021

Revision 1 July 2023

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to:

- implement amendments to Identity Check Rule 221 Trailers and Caravans, and
- implement amendments to Design Check Rule 361 Trailers and Caravans

Section 3 of this notice adds general information and rule 221.04 to Rule 221 of the AIS Identity Check Standards.

Section 4 of this notice adds general information and Rule 361.03 to Rule 361 of the AIS Design Check Standards.

### 2. Background

On 1 July 2021 the Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 (RVSA) was implemented to replace the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 (MVSA), and a transitional period commenced allowing vehicles to be supplied under the provisions of each act.

The transitional period ends on 30 June 2023, and the RVSA will be in full effect on 1 July 2023.

The RVSA 2018 introduces the [Register of Approved Vehicles \(the RAV\)](#) which contains compliance information for individual vehicles and is a publicly searchable database.

**All trailers built from 1 July 2023 must have an entry on the RAV or they will not be eligible for registration.**

#### Definitions

Type Approved RAV entry	Trailers with a Type Approved RAV entry will be complied under a Vehicle Type Approval (VTA) which the manufacturer has obtained from The Commonwealth.
Concessional RAV entry	Trailers with a Concessional RAV entry will generally be manufactured by individuals manufacturing or importing less than 4 trailers every 12 months.
Low-ATM Trailer (Also known as a light trailer)	a trailer with an Aggregate Trailer Mass of 4500kg or less.

### 3. Identity Check Rule 221 Trailers and Caravans

#### Determine the rules applicable to inspection of a trailer

When performing a 2<sup>nd</sup> tier identity check on a trailer with a date of manufacture from 1 July 2021 the examiner must perform a search on the Register of Approved Vehicles for the trailers VIN number.

Establish which Identity check rule to utilise:

Build date before 01/01/1989?	Build date between 01/01/1989 and 01/07/1990?	Build date between 01/07/1990 and 30/06/2021?	Build date between 01/07/2021 and 30/06/2023?	Build date after 30/06/2023?	Identity check rule
✓					221.01
	✓				221.02
		✓			221.03
			✓ <sup>1</sup>		221.03
			✓ <sup>2</sup>		221.04
				✓	221.04
✓	No VIN/Chassis Number			AIS Notice 37	

1. Fitted with Vehicle Plate bearing MVSA Certification Statement

2. Issued with an entry on the RAV

#### Rule 221.04 Trailers complied under the Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018

##### Vehicle Plates

Trailers provided under the RVSA 2018 are required to be fitted with a Vehicle Plate that bears the following required information:

- Manufacturers name
- Trailer model
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Date of manufacture
- Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM)
- Gross Trailer Mass (GTM)
- Tare Mass

All details found on the vehicle plate must match the information given on the trailer's RAV entry.

Vehicle Plates fitted to trailers complied under the RVSA 2018 must not bear an MVSA Certification Statement.

A tyre placard may be incorporated into the vehicle plate or may be attached to the trailer separately.

##### Visually inspect the trailer

- 1) Locate and obtain the VIN, and enter the VIN into the Register of Approved Vehicles (the RAV) Search
- 2) For all trailers with a "Concessional - low-ATM Trailer" RAV entry, the examiner must apply for Identity Approval for the trailer using the procedure outlined in this rule

- 3) Review the reasons for rejection entering any which are applicable on the Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Report

### Obtaining Identity Approval

If a low-ATM trailer:

- has a Concessional RAV entry, and
- has not previously been registered in NSW

Then the examiner must obtain [Identity Approval](#) from Transport for NSW prior to issuing the trailer with a passed inspection report.

Once the application is received, Transport will assess the trailer's identity and proof of origin. If successful, Transport will provide the examiner with confirmation that the trailer's identity has been positively assessed and will also upload the trailer's make, model and variant details to be used in the AIS Online application. This information is to be used by the examiner to produce an e-AUVIS Inspection Report, eliminating the need to utilise a manual "blue slip" for these trailers.

- 1) Input the trailers VIN into AIS Online. If AIS online recognises the vehicle, then details should be automatically populated and the examiner may proceed with the inspection without obtaining an Identity Approval.
- 2) Where no results are returned, the examiner is to ask the customer to provide evidence that the trailer has previously been registered in NSW. If this evidence can be provided, contact the Help Desk for further instruction on how to proceed.
- 3) If the customer cannot provide evidence of prior registration in NSW, the examiner must apply to Transport for an Identity Approval by emailing the following documents to [trailer@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:trailer@transport.nsw.gov.au):
  - A completed [Apply for Identity Approval form \(5703\)](#)
  - 4 photographs, one of each side, front and back of the trailer
  - 1 photograph of the trailer's Vehicle Plate
  - 1 photograph of the trailer's drawbar
  - A weighbridge ticket showing the tare weight and VIN of the trailer

Together with **one** of the following

- Receipts proving the origin of the materials used to construct a new trailer,  
or
- Evidence of prior interstate registration for a used trailer

**Note:** all required documents must be submitted with the application, or the application will be rejected.

- 4) Once the application is approved, Transport will provide the trailers make and model details to the examiner, and the examiner must produce an electronic inspection report for the trailer.
- 5) If the application is not approved, Transport will provide further instruction to the examiner on how to proceed. If Identity Approval is not given, the examiner must record the inspection as an ID Check fail on the Inspection Report (this report may be a manual report) using rule 221.04 Reason for Rejection d)

### Reasons for rejection

Trailers manufactured from 1 July 2023 or complied with the RVSA 2018:

- a) The vehicle plate is not completely visible without removing one or more vehicle parts.

- b) No vehicle plate is fitted to the trailer, or the vehicle plate does not bear the VIN
- c) The trailer does not have a RAV entry
- d) The trailer has a Concessional – Trailer entry on the Register of Approved Vehicles, has not been registered in NSW previously, and an Identity Approval has not been obtained from Transport for NSW
- e) The Vehicle Plate does not bear the required information, or the information does not match the information given on the trailers RAV entry
- f) The vehicle plate bears an MVSA Certification Statement
- g) The vehicle plate is not durable or permanently attached to the trailer
- h) The VIN is not embossed, indented, etched or engraved on the vehicle plate in English block letters not less than 2.5mm high

**For the following reasons you must refer the vehicle to the Vehicle Identity and Inspections Unit (VIU) using [Vehicle Identification Referral form 1625](#):**

- i) The vehicle plate has been defaced, damaged or removed.
- j) The VIN does not have the correct amount (17) of characters.
- k) One or more characters in a VIN are illegible or have been interfered with, altered, defaced, removed, concealed or is non-original in any way.
- l) The VIN on the Vehicle Plate does not match the VIN impressed on the trailer chassis.
- m) There is localised or inappropriate welding, grinding, filing, body filler or paintwork at a VIN location on the trailer chassis.

## 4. Design Check Rule 361 Trailers and Caravans

### Determine the rules applicable to inspection of a trailer

Before proceeding with inspection of a trailer, first establish which design check rule to utilise:

Build date before 01/07/1990?	Build date between 01/07/1990 and 30/06/2023?	Compliance date from 01/07/2023	Design check rule
✓			361.02
	✓ <sup>1</sup>		361.01
	✓ <sup>2</sup>		361.03
		✓	361.03
1. Fitted with Vehicle Plate bearing MVSA Certification Statement 2. Issued with an entry on the RAV			

Where a trailer with a date of manufacture from 1 July 2021 is presented for an establish registration inspection, the examiner must perform a 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Identity Check on the trailer – including a search on the RAV for the trailers VIN number.

Trailers manufactured from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 2023 and bearing an MVSA certification statement on their vehicle plate may continue to be inspected using rule 361.01 and VSB1 Revision 5.

### Rule 361.03 Trailers complied under the Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018

#### Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (VSB 1)

Trailers complied under the RVSA 2018 must comply with the minimum construction requirements set out in VSB 1 Revision 6 (or any subsequent revision).

### Visually inspect the trailer

- 1) Locate and obtain from the trailer its VIN number, and enter the VIN number into the Register of Approved Vehicles Search
- 2) Determine the trailers appropriate GTM and ATM using Table 1, and record this on the relevant inspection report and application for registration (form 1009)
- 3) If an applicable NSW Trailer Certification is not available for the trailer, request that the customer provide a weighbridge ticket for the trailer displaying its VIN and Tare Weight
- 4) Perform a design check of the trailer against the relevant Revision of VSB 1
- 5) Review the reasons for rejection entering any which are applicable on the Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Report

#### Rule 361.03 Table 1 Determining trailer GTM and ATM

What is the sum of the tyre load capacities?	a)
What is the couplings marked ATM rating?	b)
What is the maximum permissible ATM for the type of safety chain/s fitted?	c)
What is the maximum permissible GTM for the type of brakes fitted to the trailer?	d)
Determined GTM	The lessor of a), b), c), d)
Determined ATM	The lessor of b), c)

A trailers Vehicle Plate/RAV entry GTM and ATM ratings must be equal to or less than the GTM/ATM determined by Table 1. Where they are not, the trailer is to be rejected using reason for rejection b).

**Note:** *a trailer's rated ATM may be higher than its GTM, as load may be imposed through its coupling onto the tow vehicles towbar. It is the responsibility of the trailers operator to ensure that the trailer is loaded within the determined mass limits when in use.*

Where a trailers GTM / ATM is in dispute, certification should be sought from a VSCCS Licensed Certifier.

### Reasons for rejection

Trailers manufactured on or after 1st July 2023 or complied with the RVSA 2018

- a) the trailer does not comply with the construction requirements of the relevant revision of Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1
- b) the GTM or ATM recorded on the trailer's Vehicle Plate is not appropriate
- c) where a trailer data sheet is not available for the trailer, a weighbridge ticket has not been supplied that shows the trailer's tare mass and VIN number

## 5. RVSA Trailer Checklist

The following checklist can be used to help an examiner determine the compliance of an RVSA trailer to VSB 1 Revision 6. The checklist is not exhaustive, and examiners should make themselves familiar with the requirements found in VSB 1.

#### Checklist for Trailers Manufactured from 1 July 2023 or complied with the RVSA 2018

Does the trailer have a vehicle plate attached?	YES / NO
Are the vehicle plate details complete?	YES / NO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manufacturer's name</li> <li>• trailer model</li> <li>• vehicle identification number</li> <li>• date of manufacture</li> <li>• Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM)</li> <li>• Gross Trailer Mass (GTM)</li> <li>• Tare Mass</li> </ul>	
Do the vehicle plate details match those given on the RAV entry?	YES / NO
Is a tyre and rim placard fitted?	YES / NO
Does the coupling display the manufacturer's name or mark?	YES / NO
<i>(trailers up to 3.5t ATM ONLY)</i> does the coupling display an ATM rating?	YES / NO
Are the safety chain/s marked to comply with AS 4177.4?	YES / NO
<i>(trailers over 750kg GTM ONLY)</i> does the trailer braking system comply with the requirements in VSB1?	YES / NO
If the trailers GTM is over 2000kg has the trailer been fitted with a breakaway brake system?	YES / NO
When activated, does the breakaway brake system apply the trailer brakes for at least 15 mins?	YES / NO
Are all required lights and reflectors fitted and in the correct positions?	YES / NO
Is the trailer wiring secured every 600mm and insulated?	YES / NO
Is the trailer plug compliant with AS 4177.5?	YES / NO
Is the trailer plug wired correctly?	YES / NO
Is the trailer compliant with the applicable dimensions limits given in VSB1? If not, has an exemption or permit been provided covering the trailer and its non-compliance with the dimension limits?	YES / NO

If the answer to any of the above questions is a "NO", the trailer is not to be passed.

## 6. Further Information

To view information relating to the inspection of type-approved trailers, please see:

- [AIS Notice 40](#).

To view information relating to the inspection of Concessional Trailers, please see:

- [AIS Notice 41](#)
- [Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 Revision 6](#)

For information about:

- how to inspect trailers in NSW
- registration requirements of trailers in NSW

please contact:

**Transport for NSW Technical Enquiries**

PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

E [technical.enquiries@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:technical.enquiries@transport.nsw.gov.au) | T 1300 137 302 | F (02) 8837 0037

For information about:

- Vehicle Type Approvals
- Obtaining VINS for single trailers
- Concessional RAV entry applications
- RAV and ROVER

please contact:

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

GPO Box 594 Canberra ACT 2601

**E** [ROVERinfo@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:ROVERinfo@infrastructure.gov.au) | **T** 1800 815 272 | **F** (02) 6274 6013

**ROVER Portal:** <https://rover.infrastructure.gov.au>

**Register of Approved Vehicles (RAV) Search:** <https://rav.infrastructure.gov.au/>

For information about:

- obtaining ID approval for trailers

please contact:

**Transport for NSW**

PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

**E** [trailer@transportnsw.gov.au](mailto:trailer@transportnsw.gov.au)

For vehicle identification referral:

- Complete [Vehicle Identification Referral](#) form
- Email the completed form to [vehicle.identity@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vehicle.identity@transport.nsw.gov.au)
- Or for further assistance call 1300 775 676