

Special Interest Vehicle Scheme Guide

A registration concession has been provided to veteran and vintage vehicle owners since the 1950s. The concession was extended in the 1970s to also accommodate "classic historic" vehicles, that is, those built at least 30 years ago. Street rods with a body and frame built prior to 1949, or replicas with a modification plate, were accepted into the scheme sometime later along with historic retired ambulances and fire-fighting equipment vehicles. The veteran, vintage, classic and historic concession was reviewed in 1998 and has since been referred to as the Special Interest Vehicle Registration Concession Scheme.

About the guide

This guide sets out the requirements for registering vehicles under the scheme and explains the conditions under which the scheme operates. Registered operators of special interest vehicles should be familiar with the conditions of use as outlined within this guide and ensure that anyone driving the vehicle is also familiar with these conditions. *Failure to comply with the conditions of the Special Interest Vehicle Scheme is an offence and serious consequences may result.*

The types of vehicle eligible to participate in the scheme

Vehicles that fall within one of the following categories may be registered under the scheme:

1. **Historic vehicles** (light and heavy vehicles that are at least 30 years old)
2. **Street rods** (vehicles modified for safe road use that have a body and frame built before 1949 or is a replica of a motor vehicle, the body and frame of which were built before 1949)
3. **Historic ambulances and fire-fighting equipment vehicles under 30 years old**
 - Retired ambulances that were used as an ambulance vehicle but are now used for display by an ambulance service or historical ambulance society.
 - Retired fire-fighting equipment that was used for fire-fighting but is now used for display by an historical fire brigade society.

Left hand drive (LHD) vehicles may be registered under the scheme if they are a

- light vehicle (gross vehicle mass (GVM) not over 4.5 tonnes) and at least 30 years old, or a
- heavy vehicle (GVM over 4.5 tonnes) at least 30 years old and has been issued with a LHD Exemption Permit.

In the case of historic ambulances and fire-fighting equipment vehicles less than 30 years old, the vehicle must be converted to right hand drive (RHD).

Special Notes:

- If a special interest vehicle does not have permanent lighting, the operator must carry a removable lighting system with the vehicle at all times and use that system whenever lighting would normally be required. Carbide lights are acceptable where that type of light was originally fitted.
- Registered operators who change their garage address may apply to the Manager of a Department of Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre for a letter authorising the use of the vehicle on a road from the current garage address to the new garage address (one way trip). Proof of change of garage address will be required (purchase document, rental agreement or completed Queensland Garage Address Statement form F4408). You will need to check with your Compulsory Third Party insurer to ensure you are covered for the journey.

Registering your vehicle under the Special Interest Vehicle Registration Concession Scheme

1. Historic vehicles

You will need to follow the standard registration procedures for a vehicle as well as completing a Vehicle Registration Concession Application (form F3937) and providing the following documents as proof of eligibility:

- **Club membership:** Evidence of current membership with a Queensland incorporated vehicle club or association must be provided at the time of application for the concession. Vehicles other than historic ambulances and fire-fighting equipment vehicles must be registered in the name of the club member (individuals only).
- **Historic vehicle and dating certificate:** A dating officer (or club official) of a Queensland incorporated vehicle club or association must inspect the vehicle to certify the vehicle's authenticity and year of manufacture, that is, no structural modifications have been made that would deem it as manufactured at the date it was modified. This certificate must be on club letterhead or other official club documentation and include the chassis number or vehicle identification number.

Restricted vehicle use

Vehicles registered under the scheme have certain limitations placed on their use. This is reflected in the reduced fees and compulsory third party insurance premium. Registered operators must confine their vehicle's use to:

- participating in rallies organised by incorporated vehicle clubs
- participating in processions for which a Special Events Permit has been issued under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management –Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2005*
- exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes
- ceremonial purposes (weddings, formals) involving immediate family members provided this is not done for fee or reward. Immediate family means parents, grandparents, sons, daughters, grandchildren but not extended family relationships such as nephews and nieces
- preparing for, proceeding to, and returning from the above activities
- direct travel to and from an Approved Inspection Station (AIS) for the purposes of obtaining a safety certificate before offering the vehicle for sale
- travel in order to have the vehicle repaired. There is no distance restriction in these circumstances however, such travel must be reasonable and justifiable by the vehicle operator
- road testing within a 15 kilometre radius from the place where the vehicle is garaged. The purpose of the travel must be to road test the vehicle following repair or restoration and not for any other purpose. This does not include use as a means of transport.

Buses are permitted to carry non-fare paying passengers for journeys (joy-rides) from an event (e.g. fete) and return provided the length of the journey does not exceed 5 kilometres. Payment of any kind cannot be received for these journeys.

Heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes GVM are permitted to carry a load provided the loaded GVM or gross combination mass (GCM) does not exceed 50% of the maximum permitted mass for the vehicle configuration. This mass is based on the lesser of:

1. Individual Axle ratings
2. Tyre manufacturer's limits
3. Manufacturer's GVM or GCM
4. Regulation Mass Limits

The load carried must be in relation to or part of the reason for the vehicle's use under the scheme.

2. Street rods

Street rods are motor vehicles with bodies and frames manufactured before 1949 that have been modified, or replicas thereof which have also been modified. These modified vehicles must comply with all the specifications contained in the Australian Street Rod Federation's Queensland Street Rod Guidelines. Additional requirements to prove eligibility for the scheme are:

- **Club membership:** Registered operators must retain current membership with the Australian Street Rod Federation (ASRF). Compliance with this requirement may be verified at any time by Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) officers.
- **Modifications:** Modifications to street rods must be approved by a LH9 Inspector accredited by the ASRF (Queensland Division) and authorised by TMR officers.

The Queensland State Director of the ASRF must supply documentation certifying:

- the vehicle type was manufactured before 1949
- the applicant is a current member of the ASRF.

Restricted vehicle use: Street rods registered under the scheme have certain limitations placed on their use. This is reflected in the reduced registration fees and compulsory third party insurance premium. Registered operators must confine their vehicle's use to:

- participating in events sanctioned by the ASRF
- participating in rallies organised by incorporated vehicle clubs
- participating in processions for which a Special Events Permit has been issued under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2005*
- exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes
- ceremonial purposes (weddings, formals) involving immediate family members provided this is not done for fee or reward. Immediate family means parents, grandparents, sons, daughters, grandchildren but not extended family relationships such as nephews and nieces
- preparing for, proceeding to, and returning from the above activities
- direct travel to and from an Approved Inspection Station (AIS) for the purposes of obtaining a safety certificate before offering the vehicle for sale
- travel in order to have the vehicle repaired. Distance is not restricted however, such travel must be reasonable and justifiable by the vehicle operator
- road testing within a 15 kilometre radius from the place where the vehicle is garaged. The purpose of the travel must be to road test the vehicle following repair or restoration and not for any other purpose. This does not include use as a means of transport.

3. Historic ambulances and historic fire-fighting equipment vehicles

To be eligible for registration under the Special Interest Vehicle Registration Concession Scheme, historic ambulances and fire-fighting equipment vehicles less than 30 years old must be registered in the name of one of the following:

- an incorporated fire brigade
- an incorporated ambulance service
- a current member of an incorporated ambulance historical society or fire brigade historical society (proof of this membership is required).

For historic ambulances and historic fire-fighting equipment vehicles manufactured at least 30 years ago, the registered operator may be one of the above or a current member of an incorporated vehicle club and confine the use of the vehicle to those listed under Section 1. Historic Vehicles.

Retired ambulances and fire-fighting equipment vehicles that are less than 30 years old are restricted to the following uses:

- participating in processions for which a Special Events Permit has been issued under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2005*
- exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes
- preparing for, proceeding to and returning from these activities.

Number plates

Registered operators of vehicles registered under the Special Interest Vehicle Registration Concession Scheme are issued with an S series plate as shown below:



For issue to passenger and commercial type vehicles.



For issue to motorbikes and small trailers.



Previously issued special interest vehicle number plate

Registered operators with previously issued 'square' motor vehicle plates as shown above may continue to use them. However, should these plates be cancelled or in need of replacement, they cannot be reissued. Another option for registered operators of a Special Interest Vehicle is to attach one of the many and varied personalised plate products such as the re-issued black and white plates. The choice is yours.