

Left Hand Drive Vehicles

Vehicle Standards Fact Sheet

MR629 10/2013



This Fact Sheet is applicable to left hand drive vehicles that are 30 years old and older, regarding eligibility for single day permits, full or historic registration.

Left hand drive vehicles less than 30 years old are not eligible.



There are some hazards involved in driving a left hand drive vehicle in a right hand drive country, particularly one like Australia where left hand drive vehicles are rare. Consequently, under South Australian legislation a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, must be right hand drive. A right hand drive vehicle is defined as having at least one steering control to the right of the vehicle's longitudinal centre line. However it is recognised that the historic character of older vehicles may be compromised by the conversion to right hand drive, so the Minister has approved the issue of Left Hand Drive Exemptions to unmodified left hand drive vehicles that are 30 years or older. If a vehicle is modified from its original condition it must be converted to right hand drive.

The types of Left Hand Drive Exemptions available are:

Single Trip Left Hand Drive Exemption – This allows the vehicle a single nominated trip. The purpose of that trip must be either to take the vehicle home after its initial purchase, drive the vehicle to a government inspection facility, or to drive it to a business so it can be converted to right hand drive, or to obtain quotes for that conversion.

A Left hand Drive Exemption cannot be issued for road testing purposes or other usage.

An application for a single trip exemption can be downloaded at: <http://www.sa.gov.au>

This application must be completed and returned with the date and time of the trip to enable the Left Hand Drive Exemption to be issued.

This can be submitted either by fax on 08 8348 9533 or by email at dpti.vehiclestandards@sa.gov.au

If you have any inquiries please contact Vehicle Standards on 1300 882 248.

Unlimited Use Left Hand Drive Exemption –

This allows unrestricted use of a vehicle in left hand drive configuration that is at least 30 years old. The vehicle may be fully or conditionally registered or used in conjunction with a single day registration permit or a trade plate.

Further information

Call 1300 882 248 Fax 08 8348 9533

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For an Exemption of this type to be issued the vehicle must meet the specified criteria and pass a roadworthiness and identity inspection undertaken by Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) inspectors.

Eligible Vehicles

The following vehicles are eligible for a Left Hand Drive Exemption:

- A vehicle that is 30 years and older.
- A vehicle that is less than 30 years old. - Single Trip Exemption only.

For a 30 year and older vehicle to be eligible for an Unlimited Use Left Hand Drive Exemption and registration, the vehicle must be presented with this Fact Sheet and any other requested documentation for an identification and roadworthiness inspection conducted by DPTI. A booking is required for the roadworthiness inspection.

This Fact Sheet does specify the requirements for vehicles that are less than 30 years old, but these vehicles are not eligible for inspection and registration until such time as they are at least 30 years old.

General Conditions

All aspects of the vehicle (except when otherwise allowed) must be identical to that originally supplied by the vehicle manufacturer, i.e. same material, type etc. For example an aluminium cylinder head or manifold cannot be used to replace a cast iron one.

The vehicle's bodywork, paint, interior etc. must be in good condition. Original or replacement components cannot be modified in any way. Performance enhancing equipment is not acceptable unless it was an option by the vehicle manufacturer for that make, model and year of vehicle.

The vehicle must be in a roadworthy condition and meet all other requirements of the Road Traffic Act 1961 Rules and Regulations.

Body

The shape of a vehicle's body, doors, mudguards, bonnet, boot etc must remain the same as originally manufactured.

For example, air scoops etc cannot be added. Any replacement parts must be identical to the original component, however they may be manufactured of an alternative material.

The bodywork of vehicles, which were sold in chassis form, must be of a type and style current at the time of manufacture for that period and available from the body manufacturer on that particular chassis.

The vehicle must be presented in a good condition for that make and model, without body rust, dents or any damage etc.

A left hand drive vehicle must be fitted with both left and right hand side external mirrors.

Paint

The paintwork must be in good condition that is not faded, cracking or peeling. Paintwork does not need to be an original colour or type.

Lighting

The vehicle's lighting must comply with the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 1999.

The headlamps must be fitted with a dipping device to deflect the light projected from the headlamps downwards or downwards and to the left.

Vehicles manufactured after August 1966 but prior 1 July 1973 must be fitted with either red or yellow rear indicator lamps and white or yellow front indicator lamps.

Vehicles manufactured on or after July 1973 must be fitted with yellow front and rear indicator lamps.

Front parking lights must be white or yellow and rear parking lights must be red. A red rear facing reflector must be mounted either side at the rear of the vehicle at right angles to the road surface.

On vehicles manufactured after December 1969, the parking lights must also be on when the headlamps are switched on.

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Interior

The interior must be in good condition and be of a style and material that was available from the original vehicle manufacturer.

There must be no torn, damaged or frayed trim and it must be in a colour and material that reflects the era of the vehicle.

The fitting of aftermarket car audio systems and air conditioning units are permissible.

Any additional or replacement seat belt fitted must be new and not previously fitted to another vehicle.

All seat belts must be fitted in accordance with either the vehicle or seatbelt manufacturer's requirements. If lap/ sash seat belts are required to be fitted and the vehicle has insufficient original anchorage points a report from a Chartered Professional Engineer (MR426) may be required on the additional anchorage points.

Suspension

Suspension must be of the configuration and type as originally fitted by the vehicle manufacturer.

Suspension location points must remain original.

Springs may be replaced with a new item provided that they are the same size and rating as the original item. The lowering of the vehicle's suspension is not permitted and stub axles are to be original.

Rear Axle

The rear axle may be upgraded to an alternative, providing it was an option or available rear axle assembly from the vehicle manufacturer for that make and model at the time of production. Different final drive ratios are acceptable provided that they were originally available as an option from the vehicle manufacturer and the housing remains unaltered.

Steering

Steering box or rack and pinion, column and steering wheel to remain as original supplied by vehicle manufacturer.

The fitting of power steering is acceptable provided it is identical to the original item available for that make, model and year of vehicle by the vehicle manufacturer.

Brakes

Disc brakes may be fitted provided they were a vehicle manufacturer's option at the time of manufacture. If fitted they must be the same size and type as original with the same type calliper.

Drum brake stub axles may be used with a calliper mounting adaptor, providing the calliper, rotor and stub axle are original components for that make, model and year of vehicle. A dual master cylinder may be fitted.



Transmission

Must be as originally fitted or an option available from the original vehicle manufacturer at the time of manufacture. Column change can only be changed to a floor change or visa versa if it was an option on that particular model of vehicle.

The selector, either manual or automatic, is to be of an original type for that model of vehicle.

Modifications to a gear selector can be made to cater for a person's disability if supported by medical recommendations.

Wheels and tyres

Standard or optional vehicle manufacturer's wheels may be fitted provided that they were available on that make, model and year of vehicle.

Tyres must be suitable to the size of rim fitted and may be of modern design, but the overall diameter of the tyre/rim combination is not to be altered.

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Engine

The engine must be of the size, make and configuration that the vehicle was originally manufactured with, or an engine that was available for that make, model and year of manufacture.

Inlet and exhaust manifolds, carburation, air cleaner, camshaft and cylinder heads to be as originally supplied by the vehicle manufacturer or available as an option from the vehicle manufacturer.

Modifications are limited to manufacturer's reconditioning tolerances. Crankshaft stroke must remain standard for the model and year of vehicle. The electrical system may be upgraded from 6 to 12 volts.

Side pipes are not acceptable as the exhaust is not allowed to discharge to the left hand side of the vehicle. A right hand side pipe may be acceptable provided it can be shown that it was a vehicle manufacturer's option at the time of manufacture of the vehicle. If fitted they must be shielded to prevent accidental contact and must exit beyond the rearmost opening on the right hand side of the vehicle.

The fitting of LP Gas as a single or alternative fuel is not acceptable.



Variations

If a replacement component is no longer available or has been manufactured to a different standard then a written submission to the Manager, Vehicle Services is required. The submission is to provide details of the component to be approved as a replacement component.

The replacement component will only be considered if the original cannot be sourced, is deemed unsuitable due to its quality of manufacture, is identical or as close as possible to the original in all aspects and does not affect the performance of the vehicle.

In addition, vehicles are to comply with certain requirements specific to the year of manufacture.

These are as follows:

VEHICLES BUILT BEFORE

1 Jan 1967

- There are no requirements for seat belts to be fitted to the vehicle. If seat belts are fitted they must comply with at least Australian Standard (AS) E35-1935 or AS 2596-83 and be fitted correctly. Vehicle must also comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 Jan 1967 – 31 December 1968

- Seat belts for front outboard position complying with at least Australian Standard (AS) E35 – 1935 or AS 2596 – 83. Lap or lap/sash seat belts are acceptable and must be fitted correctly. Vehicle must also comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1969 – 31 December 1970

- Seat belts for all front seating positions complying with at least ADR 4. Lap/sash seat belts for outboard positions and lap seat belts for the inboard position. All seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles. Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

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VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4.

Lap/sash seat belts for outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions. All seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1972 – 31 December 1974

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4 & 4A for vehicles built after 1st January 1974.

Lap/sash seat belts for outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions. All seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

- Head restraints for all front outboard seating positions complying with at least ADR 22.

Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1975 – 31 December 1975

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4B.

Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR) lap/sash seat belts for front outboard positions, lap/sash seat belts for all rear outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions.

ELR seat belts may be single or dual locking. All seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

- Head restraints for all front outboard seating positions complying with at least ADR 22A.

Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1976 – 31 December 1976

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4C.

ELR lap/sash seat belts for front outboard positions, lap/sash seat belts for all rear outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions.

ELR seat belts may be single or dual locking. All seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

- Head restraints for all front outboard seating positions complying with at least ADR 22A.

- Child restraint anchorages must be fitted in accordance with at least ADR 34 for each rear seating position.

Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1977 – 31 December 1983

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4C.

ELR lap/sash seat belts for front outboard positions, lap/sash seat belts for all rear outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions.

ELR seat belts must be dual locking and all seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

- Head restraints for all front outboard seating positions complying with at least ADR 22A.
- Child restraint anchorages must be fitted in accordance with at least ADR34 for each rear seating position.

- An engineering report to be supplied from a Chartered Professional Engineer that verifies that the vehicle complies with the requirements of ADR29-Side Door Strength.

Fact Sheet MR426 list recognised engineers.

Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1984 – 31 December 1985

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4D.

ELR lap/sash seat belts for both front and rear outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions.

ELR seat belts must be dual locking and all seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

- Head restraints for all front outboard seating positions complying with at least ADR 22A.
- Child restraint anchorages must be fitted in accordance with ADR 34 for each rear seating position.

- An engineering report to be supplied from a Chartered Professional Engineer that verifies that the vehicle complies with the requirements of ADR29-Side Door Strength.

Fact Sheet MR426 list recognised engineers.

Vehicle must comply with General Conditions.

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VEHICLES BUILT BETWEEN

1 January 1986 – 30 June 1988

- Seat belts for all seating positions complying with at least ADR 4D.

ELR lap/sash seat belts for both front and rear outboard positions and lap seat belts for inboard positions.

ELR seat belts must be dual locking and all seat belts to have non-partial engagement type buckles.

- Head restraints for all front outboard seating positions complying with at least ADR 22A.
- Child restraint anchorages must be fitted in accordance with ADR 34 for each rear seating position.
- An engineering report to be supplied from a Chartered Professional Engineer that verifies that the vehicle complies with the requirements of ADR29-Side Door Strength.

Fact Sheet MR426 list recognised engineers.

- Petrol powered vehicles must be fitted with an effective catalytic converter in the vehicle exhaust system.

Inspection

Prior to registration the vehicle is required to be presented for an identification and a roadworthiness inspection.

A vehicle identification inspection must be undertaken and completed prior to the roadworthiness inspection being started.

Identification inspections do not require a booking and are undertaken between the hours of 8.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday at Nawena Road Regency Park. Inspections are also undertaken at Unit 2, 7 Ellemsea Circuit, Lonsdale on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9.00am and 12.00 and 1.00pm and 3pm.

Inspections are not undertaken on weekends or public holidays.

Roadworthiness inspections require a prior booking and an inspection can be arranged by telephoning the Bookings Office at Regency Park on 1300 882 247 between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

It should be noted that the roadworthiness inspection will not be started unless the identification inspection has been completed.

Roadworthiness inspections are undertaken at the Vehicle Inspection Stations, Kateena Street, Regency Park and at Lonsdale. For country owners, inspection could be arranged in a regional area.

A fee is payable for the inspections.

For the vehicle to be driven on public roads a Single Trip Left Hand Drive Exemption (MR 851) is required in addition to an un-registered permit or trade plate.

To obtain a Single Trip Left Hand Drive Exemption (MR 851) either contact Vehicle Standards on 1300 882 248 or download an application at: <http://www.sa.gov.au>

This application must be completed and returned with the date and time of the trip to enable the Left Hand Drive Exemption to be issued.

This can be submitted either by fax on 08 8348 9533 or by email on dpti.vehiclestandards@sa.gov.au

If you have any inquiries please contact Vehicle Standards on 1300 882 248.

Once this Single Trip Left Hand Drive Exemption has been obtained an un-registered vehicle permit is also required and this can be obtained from a Customer Service Centre.

If a trade plate is to be used, a 'Single Trip Left Hand Drive Exemption (MR 851)' is still required.

It is the vehicle owner's responsibility to read this document carefully and conform to the requirements within this Fact Sheet.

A copy of the Import Approval documents issued by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure & Transport must be supplied and retained by the inspecting officer at the time of inspection, in addition to any requested engineering certification.

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