



IB-127B

Vehicle Safety and Standards Information Bulletin

Marking of VIN numbers on Caravans and Light Trailers

The Department of Transport (DoT) has amended the policy on the marking of VIN numbers on caravans and light trailers.

Caravans and light trailers must now have their individual vehicle identification number (VIN) clearly stamped, embossed or otherwise permanently marked on a substantial part of the frame or chassis.

Why the change?

The amended policy will make it easier to identify trailers and caravans when the trailer's vehicle or compliance plate has deteriorated to an extent that it is illegible, been removed, or has fallen off. The policy will also reduce the practice of using legitimate trailer compliance plates to licence stolen vehicles and will further reduce other fraudulent practices such as the swapping of trailer compliance plates from compliant vehicles onto non-compliant vehicles.

Application date

The amended policy will apply from 1 November 2011 for all caravans and light trailers licensed in WA for the first time and those being relicensed after that date.

The amended policy will not apply to caravans and light trailers currently licensed in WA before that date (while the licence remains current) and will not affect the renewal of a currently licensed vehicle.

Requirements

The VIN must be permanently marked onto a substantial part of the frame or chassis so that it meets the following requirements:

- It must be clearly legible by a person standing near the vehicle; and
- It must be uniformly marked in characters at least 7 mm in height.

A valid trailer compliance plate showing the VIN and other information required by [VSB1 \(National Code of Practice – Building Small Trailers\)](#) will continue to be required.

How this should be done

- The characters shall be stamped, embossed, impressed, engraved, welded or etched into the frame or chassis.
- Welded or embossed characters will need to be much larger than 7 mm to be clearly legible.
- Where possible, the VIN shall be located on the top face of the drawbar.
- Where this is not possible, it shall be located where it can easily be read and not be prone to damage or obliteration over time.

An acceptable alternative

As an alternative to marking the VIN directly onto the frame or chassis, it is acceptable to emboss or engrave a plate, at least 5mm thick, which must be fully welded around its perimeter onto a substantial part of the frame or chassis and in a location which meets the above requirements.

Current legislation

The [Road Traffic \(Vehicles\) Regulations 2014](#) require a vehicle to have its vehicle identification number clearly stamped, embossed or otherwise permanently marked on a substantial part of its frame or chassis.

Related documents and links

- Vehicle Standards Bulletins are available on the Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development website – www.infrastructure.gov.au
- Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014 can be accessed on the State Law Publisher website - www.slp.wa.gov.au

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