

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

R15 - Proof of Registered Operator and NT Garage Address for Heavy Vehicles over 4.5 tonnes GVM/ATM

Effective Date: 1 September 2007

National Heavy Vehicle Registration Scheme

The National Heavy Vehicle Registration Scheme establishes consistent requirements throughout Australia for major registration transactions. To:

- Minimise the cost of complying with different rules from State to State or Territory; (particularly important to heavy vehicle operators with heavy vehicle fleets in more than one jurisdiction);
- Help combat fraud and vehicle theft by introducing more stringent identification and entitlements to register, and
- Streamline the registration process by standardising procedures nationally.

The changes made by the Northern Territory to implement the scheme include:

- Registered Operator, including proof/evidence of identity.
- 18 year age limit for Registered Operator.
- Proof of garage address (and visiting vehicles), and;
- Proof of origin of the vehicle.

Registered Operator (RO)

All heavy vehicle registrations, (first registrations and renewals) in the NT must have recorded, a Registered Operator (RO), as the person being responsible and accountable for the use of the vehicle on the general road network. Registered owner status will also be recorded.

Who is the Registered Operator (RO)?

- The person responsible for the day to day operation of the vehicle. See "Responsibilities of Registered operator", below.
- A person who has reached the age of 18 years;
- A body registered under the Corporations Act ;
- A Statutory Corporation incorporated or association including other bodies incorporated under Northern Territory Legislation, which allows them to acquire corporate status.

A Registered Operator, may, or may not be the registered owner. The recorded registered owner continues to be prima facie evidence of ownership. For example:

John Brown owns a heavy vehicle which he does not operate himself. Instead, he has a contract with ABC Mining Pty Ltd for his vehicle and they operate the vehicle. Under the new scheme John Brown remains the registered owner, but ABC Mining Pty Ltd is recorded on the register as the RO. This way, ABC Mining Pty Ltd may then be responsible for payments of registration, traffic infringement notices and any breaches.

However, if John Brown were the operator in his own name, he would be the RO as well as the registered owner.

Responsibilities of Registered Operator (RO)

- (a) The person nominated by the registered owner, as the RO, will be responsible for:
- Renewal of registration.
 - Presenting the vehicle for inspection.
 - Provision of sufficient information to prove garage address.
 - Any traffic infringements detected by red light or speed camera where only the offending vehicle is identified. If the registered operator was not the offending driver then he/she should declare the fact to avoid the infringement penalty and any applicable demerit points.
- (b) The RO will also be responsible for advising MVR within 14 days of any:
- change of garage address;
 - change in registered operator's name;
 - change in residential address, or address for service of notices, such as renewal notices;
 - vehicle write-off;
 - change to a heavy vehicle that affects its description; and
 - change that would require payment for upgrade in registration due to a change in the vehicle's configuration.

No longer the Registered Operator (RO)?

Where a RO ceases to be responsible for a vehicle, but the ownership of a vehicle remains the same, the RO must advise MVR within 14 days in writing that they are no longer responsible for the vehicle. They may do this by:

- Completing [Form M2 – Application for Change of Details](#),
- By mail,
- By email to - mvr@nt.gov.au,
- By fax.

The RO may nominate a new RO at the same time, but only if they have authorisation of the registered owner(s) to do so.

One Registered Operator (RO)

Only one person/incorporated organisation (a legal entity) can be recorded as being the RO, and they must be nominated by the registered owner (s).

Where a heavy vehicle is registered in joint names, only one person can be nominated as the RO even though both parties may be the legal owners.

Where a heavy vehicle is registered in a business name, only one (1) person may be nominated as the RO, (even though there may be more than one person in the business).

Where a heavy vehicle is registered in a Company name, the company is the registered owner, and they may nominate the Company as the RO, or a third party (see above).

When must a Registered Operator be nominated?

- At the first renewal of registration on or after the 4th January 1999.
- Whenever there is a variation in the registration details (i.e. change of ownership or RO).
- When registering a new vehicle.

Entitlement to Register

Before a heavy vehicle may be registered, the Registered Operator or Agent must provide evidence of entitlement to possession of the vehicle:

- Proof of origin, (such as proof of interstate registration, receipt from Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealer etc);
- Registered owner authorisation (if the RO is not the registered owner) - See [Form R11](#).

Application Form - Acceptable Signatures

Only the following person (s) may sign the application to register and nominate RO.

- Where a sole owner of a heavy vehicle is the RO;
- Where ownership of the vehicle is in joint names, and one person is nominated as the RO, both signatures are required;
- Where a sole owner of a heavy vehicle has nominated a RO, the owners authority is required authorising the RO to sign on their behalf;

Use of Agents

Where an Agent on behalf of the RO or registered owner makes an application for registration, the Agent must have written documentation authorising him or her to act on behalf of the RO or registered owner. An Agent will be required to provide Evidence of Identity.

Evidence of Identity (EOI)

Where the RO is a natural person or, is someone other than the legal owner, evidence of identity must be established on application for registration. Evidence of identity is not required for renewal of NT registration; however, the registered owner must nominate the RO details.

See [Information Bulletin G08 – Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals](#)

Transfer of Vehicle Registration/Notice of Disposal

Where a vehicle is listed on the register as having both Registered Owner(s), and a nominated RO, only the Registered Owner(s) may sign transfer of ownership and notice of disposal documents, unless the RO has written authorisation to transfer of the vehicle.

The buyer is responsible for the payment of prescribed transfer of ownership fees, and any other charges (i.e. stamp duty) and notification of any change in RO.

Change of Registered Operator (RO)

Where there is a change in RO, MVR must be notified within 14 days.

Important Note: The onus is with the Registered Owner/s and the RO, for notification of any change in RO.

Cancellation of Registration

The registration of a heavy vehicle may only be cancelled by:

- (a) The Registered Owner/RO;
- (b) The RO, if different to the registered owner, (in this instance, the RO is NOT entitled to any pro-rata refund of the remaining registration, unless they have the written authority of the registered owner); or
- (c) An Agent acting on behalf of the registered owner, or RO.

Certificates of Registration/Windscreen Labels

The Registration Certificate/Windscreen Label will show the following information:

- Name and garage/postal address of RO;
- Name and address of registered owner (s) if different to RO;
- Specific conditions which restrict or limit the use of the vehicle on the general road network.

Garage Address

Garage address is defined as the vehicle's depot, the principal base of operation, or where the vehicle is normally kept in the Northern Territory. Proof of Garage Address will be required when:

- The vehicle is registered for the first time in the NT;
- Transfer of ownership;
- At first renewal of registration on or after 4th January 1999, if it is different to any address currently recorded by MVR; and
- When changing Registered Operator (RO).

Proof of Garage Address (PGA)

The following list shows the types of documents (originals) that are required.

- Certificate of Land Title of land ownership for the premises;
- Lease agreement, written authorisation from land owner, or rent book showing address of the property;
- Taxation assessment notice in relation to the premises;
- Council Rate notice; or
- Utility (power, water and sewerage) accounts relating to the premises.

Change of Garage Address (PGA)

The Registered Operator (RO) is required to notify MVR of a change of Garage Address (PGA), residential address, and/or Postal address for the service of notices within 14 days.

Where a change of Garage Address (PGA) involves a change of State/Territory, the registration must be cancelled and the customer advised to re-register the vehicle in the new State/Territory.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
Telephone	1300 654 628
Facsimile	(08) 8999 3103
Email	mvr@nt.gov.au
Web	www.mvr.nt.gov.au
Postal Address	GPO Box 530 Darwin NT 0801