



**Northern Territory Government**

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

PUBLIC TRANSPORT BRANCH

# **Northern Territory Special Function Vehicle Requirements and In-Service Maintenance Standards**

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Commercial Passenger Vehicle Policy  
and Compliance Section

**Endorsed by the  
Commercial Passenger Vehicle Board**

## **Introduction**

The principle purpose of this document is to detail the minimum acceptable vehicle, technical, comfort and aesthetic standards applicable to prospective and in service Special Function Vehicles.

This document is intended for the use by Owners/Operators of Special Function Vehicles, Transport Inspectors, Commercial Passenger Vehicle Inspectors, and approved Authorised Inspectors.

Special Function Vehicles operating in the NT must ensure they continue to comply with this standard at all times. They must also be serviced and maintained in accordance with the vehicle manufacturers recommended periodic maintenance schedule, and comply with all applicable Australian Design Rules (ADR's) and roadworthy standards.

Many of the comfort and aesthetic standards require subjective assessment. Where such an item on an existing Specific Function Vehicle does not apparently meet the subjective criteria provided, comparison should be made with other Specific Function Vehicles and the item only deemed not to comply if it clearly is not to the same standard.

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Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport.

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## ***1 Definitions***

**ADR** – means the Australian Design Rules for road vehicles.

**Approved** – means approved by the Director.

**Director** – means the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport.

**GVM** – means the manufacturer's Gross Vehicle Mass. The value is usually located on the vehicle's compliance plate and/or in the operator's manual.

**Luggage** – means any container for a person's belongings or any individual item.

**MVR** – means the Northern Territory Motor Vehicle Registry.

**Regulations** – means the NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA  
SPECIAL FUNCTION VEHICLE REGULATIONS.

**Special Function Vehicle** – means an approved motor vehicle (not being a motor vehicle operated as a taxi, private hire car, limousine, minibus, courtesy vehicle, motor omnibus, tourist vehicle or special passenger vehicle) that –

- (a) is a distinctive or unusual make or model or has a distinctive or unusual external appearance; and
- (b) is used, with the services of a driver, to carry passengers for hire or reward on pre-booked journeys for a pre-determined fee where the purpose of the journey is to transport the passengers in connection with an approved function or event or an approved class of functions or events.

**Subjective Assessment** for the purpose of Comfort & Aesthetic Standards – means there is some discretion given to a person who is inspecting the vehicle, to make allowances for the aesthetics and / or the type of vehicle.

As per the definition above, the vehicle or external appearance may be unique which makes comparison with other vehicles difficult. The intent is for the vehicle to be presented and maintained to an acceptable standard for the industry, as a whole, to be presented in a professional manner.



- Denotes items that are enforceable by Infringement Notice.

## ***2 Vehicle Type***

Any vehicle that meets the intention of the definition above may apply to have the vehicle approved to operate as a Special Function Vehicle.

### **NOTE**

Any vehicle that is individually constructed or modified will need to be assessed by the Director and may not be deemed suitable to operate as a Special Function Vehicle.

### **3 Vehicle Age Requirements**

There are no maximum ages for entry or in-service operation of a Special Function Vehicle.

### **▲ 4 Inspection Requirements**

All in service Special Function Vehicles must be inspected at an interval, not exceeding 6 months, by a person authorised to perform such inspections. *Note: Refer to MVR for a list of authorised inspectors.*

#### **NOTE**

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure the vehicle is serviced and maintained to this standard AT ALL TIMES. Where a vehicle is inspected (roadside or in an approved inspection station) and found with a serious road safety related fault(s), the appropriate action will be taken against the operator in conjunction with the issue of a defect notice.

If a vehicle has been issued a defect notice, it will NOT be allowed to operate, for hire or rewards, until the defect(s) has (have) been cleared.

NT Legislation must be adhered to whilst operating a vehicle under defect notice.

### **5 Equipment**

All Special Function Vehicles must comply with the following equipment requirements. The equipment detailed must be securely fitted to all Special Function Vehicles, must not be located in a position that is likely to cause an injury as a result of an accident or emergency braking manoeuvre and be maintained in a serviceable condition at all times.

- ▲ 5.1) A current vehicle inspection record label that has been supplied by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, which must be affixed to the left side of the windscreen (outside of the field of view of the driver) or a window, that does not hide from view, on the left hand side of the vehicle.
- ▲ 5.2) A fire extinguisher must be fitted, which has been certified within the past 12 months, is fully charged and meets the requirements of Australian Standard AS2444. It shall be securely mounted and not be a hazard or cause annoyance to the vehicle occupants. It must be easily accessible and must not be obscured.
- ▲ 5.3) A roadworthy spare tyre/wheel assembly and a minimum of the tyre changing equipment and tools supplied by the vehicle manufacturer must be fitted and secured to the vehicle.

### **6 Exterior**

- ▲ 6.1) All vehicle exterior body panels and paintwork must be in a sound condition correctly aligned, free of dents, scratches, accident damage, corrosion and dirt.

- ▲ 6.2) All exterior fittings and accessories must be in an undamaged, sound condition and correctly secured. Body mouldings and mud flaps must be correctly aligned and secured.
- ▲ 6.3) All vehicle glazing must comply with the relevant ADR's, be free of excessive chips, scratches, cracks or other blemishes. Any window tint film fitted must comply with the NT standard (refer MVR Information Bulletin V51) and must not be scratched, bubbled or deteriorated in any way. All glazing must be free of dirt and where applicable must operate as originally designed.
- ▲ 6.4) If applicable, rear windows fitted with mesh screens must not obscure the centre high mount brake lamp and have a minimum total light transmittance through the combined window, screen and any authorised advertising (if applicable) of 35%.
- ▲ 6.5) All doors are to be correctly aligned, are to open and close without undue effort or noise. Hinges, catches and check links must not be excessively worn. All door seals must be correctly secured and undamaged.
- ▲ 6.6) Bumper bars are to be securely attached, correctly aligned and free of dents, scratches, accident damage and dirt.
- ▲ 6.7) Tyres must be maintained in a roadworthy condition. Retread Tyres are acceptable for use on a Special Function Vehicle, including the spare wheel. However the speed rating of the remanufacturer or of MVR Information Bulletin V44 (which ever is the lower) must be adhered to and the vehicle placarded as stated in bulletin V44.
- ▲ 6.8) All mechanical components that contain fluids must be maintained to prevent oil (engine, transmission, differential, steering etc), brake fluid and greases from leaking on to the road surface.

## ***7 Interior***

- ▲ 7.1) All vehicle interior surfaces including seats, head rests, floor coverings, trims and seatbelts (if fitted) are to be in a sound condition, free of dirt, stains and damage. Original seat and head rest coverings (if not fitted with removable covers) and any removable seat and head rest covers fitted, are to be non-absorbent.
- ▲ 7.2) All interior lighting (dome and courtesy lights) must be operational as originally designed. The fitment of interior novelty lighting or the carriage of ornaments in the vehicle is prohibited eg on the dash, interior mirror, rear parcel shelf etc.
- ▲ 7.3) All interior fittings and accessories must be in an undamaged sound condition and match the colour and shade of the existing trim / upholstery. All seats (including the drivers seat), with particular reference to seat cushions (the part a person sits on), must provide adequate support as originally designed.
- ▲ 7.4) The interior cabin space of the vehicle must be maintained in a clean and tidy condition, free of rubbish, loose objects and odours.

## **8 Luggage Compartment**

- ▲ 8.1) If fitted, the luggage compartment must be in a sound condition, free of dirt, stains and damage. If applicable, the boot lid seal must be correctly secured, aligned and not be damaged.
- ▲ 8.2) The spare wheel assembly, tools and equipment must be correctly located, secured and covered in line with the vehicle manufacturer's requirements. If a spare wheel is relocated as a result of an approved vehicle modification such as the fitting of a LPG system, the wheel must be adequately secured and also covered in a material that matches the vehicle.
- ▲ 8.3) All station wagon type vehicles must be fitted with a suitable cargo restraint system of sufficient capacity as to prevent any cargo from becoming a missile in the event of an accident or emergency manoeuvre etc. For example, a cargo barrier may be the most suitable restraint system for some vehicles whereas a tie down system may be the only suitable method for other vehicles.

Consideration may be given to vehicles that do not carry any cargo, to be able to operate for hire or reward, without the requirement of having a cargo restraint barrier fitted.

## **9 Accessories and Modifications**

- ▲ 9.1) Any accessory will need to be assessed for its suitability and written approval from the Director given prior to the accessory being fitted on an in-service Special Function Vehicle. If a vehicle is presented for inspection to become a Special Function Vehicle and has an accessory fitted, the accessory will be assessed at that point in time.
- ▲ 9.2) Tow bars are not permitted as a 'right', however the director will accept applications for the fitment of tow bars and will assess the application on a "case by case" basis.

Should the application be successful, all relevant NT legislation, including the ADR's, regarding the fitment and use of tow bars must be adhered to. However they must be of the type that allows removal of the tow tongue (that part of the tow bar that the tow ball is attached to), which must be removed when not in use ie no trailer attached.

- ▲ 9.3) Any approved accessory fitted must be maintained in a sound condition, at all times meeting the manufacturer's or approved installation requirements.

### **NOTE:**

The Director may instruct the operator to remove the accessory / option if any accessory / option has been fitted without prior written approval.

## ▲ 10 *Ride Quality and Comfort*

The vehicle's ride quality and comfort must be maintained to an acceptable standard without excessive vibrations, squeaks, rattles and noises from the vehicle's steering, suspension, drive line or body.

## 11 *Advertising*

Advertisements that meet the requirements as listed below shall be deemed to be approved by the Director. Any advertising outside these requirements requires individual assessment.

For the purpose of this requirement "advertising" means:

*Any advertisement, statement or representation of any kind displayed on a Special Function Vehicle, such as lettering, maps, plans, drawings or pictorial images and includes bumper stickers.*

**The wording and any pictorial images represented must not be offensive, ambiguous or otherwise inappropriate ie have a racial, religious or ethnic overtone.**

- ▲ Advertisements displayed must be static and must not be direct reflective (eg mirror like reflection). Retroreflective material may be acceptable subject to the size, design and layout of the advertisement. (eg the band around a police vehicle is retroreflective material). *For more information on Retroreflective materials refer to Australian Standard AS1906.1*

### **Note:**

The Director may instruct the operator to remove any advertising that does not comply with the above.