

NSW supplement to the second edition of the National Guidelines for the Construction and Modification of Street Rods in Australia

August 2014



Transport
for NSW

Developed in association with:



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DATE:	February 2014
VERSION:	1.0
REFERENCE:	PR14/01814
DIVISION:	Policy & Regulation

NSW SUPPLEMENT TO SECOND EDITION NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MODIFICATION OF STREET RODS IN AUSTRALIA

Preface

This document is to be used in conjunction with the document *National Guidelines for the Construction and Modification of Street Rods in Australia* as the safety and performance standards applicable to Street Rods intended for full registration under the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007.

This document was developed by Transport for NSW in conjunction with the NSW Branch of the Australian Street Rod Federation and the Roads and Maritime Services, under the direction of the NSW Vehicle Standards Working Group. The Working Group was established in 2012 by the NSW Minister for Roads and Ports to ensure industry and user stakeholders are represented in developing vehicle standards and policies in NSW. It is co-chaired by Transport for NSW and the Australian Confederation of Motor Clubs, and the members are:

- Australian Aftermarket Automotive Association
- Australian Confederation of Motor Clubs
- Confederation of Australian Motor Sport Inc
- Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers Motorcycle Council of NSW
- Motorcycle Council of NSW
- Motor Traders Association
- NRMA Motoring Services
- NSW Motorcycle Alliance
- NSW Police Force
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Transport for NSW
- Vehicle Safety Certification Scheme Licensed Certifier

This supplement was first published in August 2014.

Introduction

The Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 (the Regulation) requires that all registrable vehicles comply with the applicable vehicle standards current at their date of manufacture, and modified vehicles continue to comply with those standards; and that the vehicle and its parts and equipment are suitable for safe use, and are in a thoroughly serviceable condition. For modern vehicles manufactured in high volume for the open market, the standards are the Australian Design Rules (ADRs), and these establish performance and safety standards that reflect society's expectation that motor vehicles are designed to minimise the risks to their occupants and other road users, as well as having minimal impact on the environment. For older vehicles dating from before the introduction of the ADRs, limited standards applied at the time they were manufactured and continue to apply to them while they remain in-service. For some vehicles, these standards include the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (AVSRs).

Certain niche vehicles used by enthusiast groups require the vehicles to look and/or perform in a certain way that cannot readily be achieved by complying with the ADRs or, in some cases, the earlier standards. Rather than prohibit these vehicles, the Roads and Maritime Services operate a series of conditional registration schemes that help control the safety risks associated with noncompliance to the standards by limiting the amount of time these vehicles can be used on the roads.

Street Rods originated when vehicles manufactured before 1949 were modified to give a distinctive look, usually with an enhanced performance, and this has remained one of the defining criterion for of all Street Rods. Obviously, there is a very limited number of pre-1949 vehicles available for modification, so to get round this problem, the definition for Street Rods in the Regulation includes vehicles manufactured as replicas of genuine Street Rods. This creates a different problem: replica vehicles are new vehicles so they must comply with the current standards, namely the ADRs. To overcome this, the Conditional Registration Scheme for Street Rods was introduced in NSW, and Street Rods intended to be conditionally registered under the scheme have only to meet the standards specified in the document *Registration Requirements and Construction Guidelines for Street Rods in NSW*. Street Rods could still be fully registered in NSW, either as a genuine modified pre-1949 vehicle, or as a new vehicle that fully met the applicable ADRs.

The latter course has proven problematic as applying some ADRs affects the appearance and performance of the vehicle, which in turn could affect their designation as a true Street Rod. It was identified that the most effective way to resolve this problem was to establish a dedicated set of standards for Street Rods that would provide an equivalent level of safety as would be achieved by applying the relevant ADRs. Of the documents available, the *National Guidelines for the Construction and Modification of Street Rods in Australia* (the NSRG) provided a useful starting point for these standards.

The NSRG was developed to apply to Street Rods intended for full registration in Australia. The first edition did not satisfy the vehicle standards in a number of the jurisdictions, so it was not universally accepted – whereas some jurisdictions allowed full registration for vehicles modified or constructed to the NSRG, others only allowed conditional registration, while still others (including NSW) did not recognise it at all. Transport for NSW commenced a revision of the NSRG to make it more suitable as vehicle standard by better aligning it with the ADRs and the AVSRs. The revision was done in conjunction with the Australian Street Rod Federation (ASRF), and was submitted to the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board for endorsement as an official revision to the NSRG. The revision was jointly approved by the ASRF and the AMVCB in November 2013, and issued as the second edition on 1 December 2013.

There were some items which some members of the Board deemed too onerous for their jurisdiction's requirements, so it was necessary to exclude them from the NSRG revision and place them in an additional document. This Supplement, developed in close collaboration with the NSW Branch of the ASRF, is the result of that exercise. Together with the NSRG, it represents a series of standards that can be used to obtain full registration for Street Rods in NSW.

Scope

This document applies to *Street Rod Vehicles*, as defined in the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 (the Regulation) intended to be fully registered for use on road and road-related areas in NSW. It is a supplement to the Second Edition of the NSRG, issued on 1 December 2013, and it specifies the variations and additions to the NSRG that apply in NSW in order for Street Rods to meet the minimum safety and performance standards required under the Regulation for full registration. It must be read in conjunction with the NSRG. Unless explicitly amended in this document, the requirements specified in the NSRG also apply to the Street Rods.

Neither this document nor the NSRG apply to Street Rods intended to be registered under the Conditional Registration Scheme for Street Rods in NSW. Instead, the *Registration Requirements and Construction Guidelines for Street Rods in NSW* applies to these vehicles.

Variations and additions to the NSRG

Section 1.3, Definitions and interpretations

In NSW, the term used to describe a *signatory* is a *licensed certifier*, and this should be used throughout the document instead of *signatory*. Licensed certifiers are registered with the Roads and Maritime Services in accordance with the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007, and are authorised to assess and certify individually constructed and modified vehicles for the purposes of registration in accordance with the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme.

A list of licensed certifiers can be downloaded at:

http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/registration/downloads/vsccs_bulletin_01.pdf. This list also identifies each licensed certifier's competencies as assessed by the Roads and Maritime Services. Assessing and certifying Street Rods requires an extensive range of competencies, and before engaging a licensed certifier, it is important to ensure they have the necessary skill and experience to certify the vehicle.

Section 3.1, Chassis – General

Add a new subsection:

- 3.1.6 If alternative materials, designs, methods of assembly or procedures to those specified in this Section are used, the licensed certifier may require additional testing to be done, such as tests to verify torsional and bending strength.

Section 4.1, Minimum requirements of braking systems

Replace Section 4.1 with:

4.1 REQUIREMENTS OF BRAKING SYSTEMS

Braking systems installed on Street Rods must be assessed and certified in accordance with the procedures specified in the document *Brake Assessment Manual*, which can be downloaded at http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/brake_assessment_manual2013.pdf.

Section 5.6, Steering columns

Replace subsection 5.6.1 with:

- 5.6.1 All replica Street Rods and other Street Rods whose the steering column is modified or replaced must be fitted with a collapsible steering column. The steering column angle must not be less than 30° from the vertical; vertical columns must not be fitted. The inner and outer shafts of the steering column must be capable of a minimum vertical displacement of at least 125mm (5 inches). The columns must be fixed to the Street Rod under the dash, and must incorporate a breakaway/sliding system.

Section 8.1, Lights

Add a new subsection:

8.1.7 Reversing lights

- 8.1.7.1 Street Rods must be fitted with one or more reversing lights either to the rear of a vehicle or on each side towards the rear of the vehicle.
- 8.1.7.2 The centre of reversing lights must not be more than 1.2 metres above ground level.
- 8.1.7.3 When on, a reversing light must show either a white or yellow light to the rear or to the side and rear of the Street Rod.
- 8.1.7.4 A yellow reversing light may also operate as a direction indicator light.
- 8.1.7.5 Reversing lights must be wired so they operate only when the Street Rod is reversing or in reverse gear.

Section 8.3, automatic transmission safety switch

Add a new subsection:

- 8.3.3 All Street Rods fitted with an automatic transmission must have an indicator in the driver's compartment showing the transmission control positions.

Section 9.5, Seatbelts and mounts

Replace subsection 9.5.10 with:

- 9.5.10 Child restraints anchorages must be installed in all Street Rods.

Note: A child restraint anchorage is necessary to properly secure a child restraint in a Street Rod. In NSW, apart from some exceptions, the Road Rules 2008 prohibit a child to travel in a vehicle unless restrained in a suitable child restraint.

Section 9.8, Door latches

Replace Section 9.8 with:

9.8 DOOR LATCHES

Door latches must be of the double-catch type. Burst-proof door latches should be used. "Bear claw" locks are not sufficient to meet this requirement.

Section 9.13, Door strength

Add a new Section 9.13:

9.13 DOOR STRENGTH

The doors used in constructing a street rod replica must either be sourced from a standard production vehicle that complies with Australian Design Rule 29 *Side Door Strength* (ADR 29/00), or be fitted with anti-intrusion bars that comply with the performance requirements of ADR 29/00.

Appendix 4, Compliance, testing and certification

Add a new Appendix 4:

APPENDIX 4 COMPLIANCE, TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

Street Rods must:

- comply with the applicable vehicle standards specified in the Regulation; and
- be suitable for safe use and be in a thoroughly serviceable condition.

Street Rods intended to be registered for unrestricted use in NSW must be assessed by a

person registered as a licensed certifier on the RMS's Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme, and be certified as complying with the NSRG and this Supplement.

As well as indicating compliance with these standards, the assessment and testing should ensure that the Street Rod is safe and roadworthy.

Where the NSRG or this Supplement require new vehicles manufactured as replica Street Rods to meet specified vehicle standards, the vehicles should be assessed in accordance with the document *Modified or individually constructed vehicles - means to demonstrate compliance with Third Edition Australian Design Rules*. This document can be downloaded at <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/registration/downloads/vscs.html>