

Registering vehicles certified under the Engineering Certification Scheme

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Frequently Asked Questions

Background

In 2011 the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Amendment (Certification of Vehicles) Regulation 2011* abolished the Engineering Certification Scheme (ECS).

The scheme was replaced with the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS) to move a paper based system online and reduce the incidence of fraud and under insurance amongst certifiers.

The regulation came into effect on 2 December 2011 and from that time, ECS certificates were no longer valid.

To allow existing ECS certificates to continue to be recognised a transitional provision – *Clause 76AP* was included in the regulation.

This was intended to be a temporary period of grace to give owners six months to get vehicles with an existing ECS certificate that were not yet registered.

It was intended that the grace period would end on 19 June 2012. However Roads and Maritime Services was able to extend the period until September 2017 when the regulation was revised and the clause was removed.

This legal change means Roads and Maritime is no longer accepting ECS certificates and some modified and individually constructed vehicles will now have to be certified by a licensed certifier under the VSCCS.

Do all modified vehicles require certification?

Only vehicles with *significant* modifications require certification. A list of significant modifications is included in [Vehicle Standards Information Sheet 06](#)

What is the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme?

The VSCCS licenses certifiers to inspect modified and individually constructed vehicles and certify their compliance with the relevant vehicle safety standards.

What is a VSCCS certificate?

VSCCS certificates show that a modified or individually constructed vehicle has been assessed by a licensed certifier, complies with the applicable vehicles standards and is safe to operate on NSW roads.

There is considerable road safety risk associated with modified and individually constructed vehicles that have not been inspected by a licensed certifier.

Which vehicles will now need a VSCCS certificate?

If a modified vehicle has an ECS certificate but has *never been* registered then the ECS certificate can no longer be used and a VSCCS certificate is now required.

If a vehicle has been further *significantly* modified since certification under the ECS it will only require a VSCCS certificate for the additional modifications.

A modified vehicle does not require a VSCCS certificate if it has already been registered and the ECS certificate is recorded in DRIVES. This includes:

- Currently registered vehicles
- Vehicles with lapsed or cancelled registration
- Vehicles transferring between different types of registration.

How can I tell if a modified vehicle's ECS certificate is recorded on DRIVES?

A modified vehicle will have one of the following vehicle conditions recorded on DRIVES and the registration paperwork:

- V87 (modified vehicle)
- V88 (vehicle modified for wheelchair)
- G094 (use only in conjunction with an authorised club event or maintenance)
- GO96 (modified as per report number).

I have a modified vehicle which was previously registered using an ECS certificate, but the conditions are not recorded in DRIVES and do not appear on my registration paperwork. What do I do?

If Roads and Maritime has no record of having accepted the ECS certificate, you will need to obtain a VSCCS certificate.

Why has this happened now?

On 1 September 2017, *Clause 76AP* was removed from the Regulation which means RMS can no longer accept ECS certificates.

How was industry consulted?

Industry and motoring enthusiasts were consulted extensively about this change when the ECS was abolished and the VSCCS scheme was launched in 2012.

Roads and Maritime has engaged with industry and stakeholder groups prior to the release of AIS Notice 36 and VSCCS Notice 15.

What will it cost?

Fees for inspecting and certifying vehicles are negotiated between licenced certifiers and their customers.