

Vehicle inspectors bulletin



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Protrusions on the front of vehicles

Background

The Roads and Traffic Authority has concerns about the attachment of equipment protruding from the front of vehicles. Some vehicles are fitted with badly designed bull bars with pointed corners and sharp edges, and some are fitted with accessories which protrude beyond the bumper bar or bull bar. Standards Australia is currently developing a standard on bull bars.

Protrusions and some methods of attachment to the front of vehicles increase the likelihood of injury or damage to a person or another vehicle making contact with the vehicle. An accessory or bull bar fitted to a vehicle must therefore be attached in a manner that does not affect the continuing compliance of the vehicle with the Australian Design Rules and Regulations.

This bulletin covers only the roadworthiness requirements for equipment fitted to the front of vehicles. These roadworthiness requirements and the relevant construction safety standards will be reviewed after the proposed Australian Standard on bull bars, *Vehicle frontal protection systems* is issued.

Requirement

Schedule 2 of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 requires the following:

Para 25 (1) Protrusions

'An object fitted to a vehicle must be designed, built and fitted to the vehicle in such a way that minimises the likelihood of injury to a person making contact with the vehicle'.

Note: Para 25 (1) does not apply to an object fitted to a vehicle designed before 1965 and the object was part of the design of the vehicle, or the object was fitted to the vehicle in accordance with the law in place where the object was fitted.

For: • RTA Inspectors Vehicle Regulation • Engineering Signatories • AIS Proprietors & Examiners
• RTA Registry Service Managers • HVAIS Proprietors & Examiners • AUVIS Proprietors & Examiners

Para 27 (a) Driver's field of view

'A motor vehicle must be built to allow the driver a view of the road and of traffic to the front and sides of the vehicle so the driver can drive the vehicle safely'.

Fitting of accessories

Of particular concern are the ways in which items protruding forward of the bumper or bull bar are fitted eg. accessory fittings attached to the exterior of a vehicle such as brackets supporting aerials and lights.

Also of concern are bull bars that have sharp edges and pointed corners or bull bars fitted with accessory attachments such as fishing rod holders, lights and mounting brackets for such fittings, and any fittings that affect the field of view of the driver.

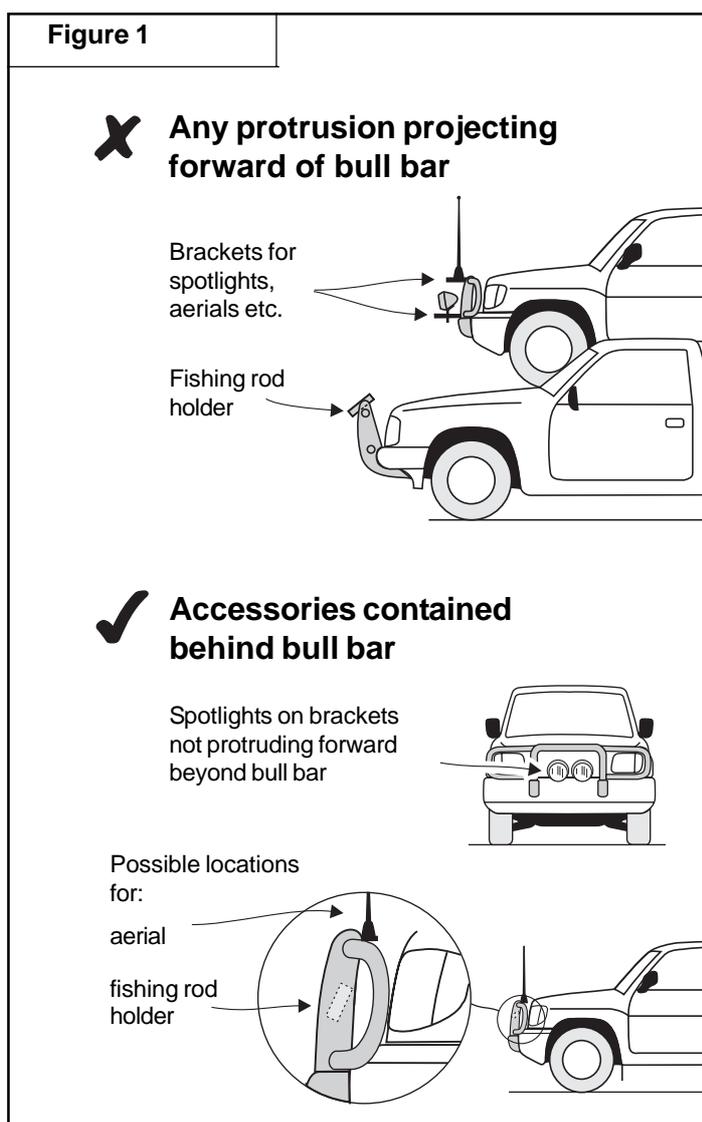
Reasons for rejection under Para 25(1) are provided in *Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations (Light Vehicles)* - Rule No. 105.04, and in *Rules for Authorised Inspection Stations Heavy Vehicles* - Rule 505.01. This bulletin provides further information to ensure the consistent application of the *Rules* to bull bars, accessory fittings and the manner of their attachment/s.

Reasons for rejection

1. Any attachment or protrusion projecting forward of bull bar (see Figure 1).

Note that any aerials or winches which cannot meet this requirement should be removed after the operational need is completed. Emergency and rescue (State Rescue Board-accredited rescue vehicles, mines rescue) vehicles may have a constant operational need for this equipment and should therefore not be rejected for this reason. Minor protrusions forward of the bull bar or bumper bar such as a spotlight, or fairleads required for the operation of a winch, are permitted providing the protrusion is the minimum necessary and is blunt or protected to minimise any risk of injury to vulnerable road users.

2. Any sharp or ragged edge or corner on a bull bar which could cause injury to a person coming into contact with the bull bar.
3. Any bull bar or other attachment that does not allow the driver a view of the road and of the traffic to the front and side of the vehicle so that the driver can drive the vehicle safely.



Action

Defect	Enforcement (RTA Inspectors)	HVIS inspection (RTA Inspectors)	AIS, HVAIS & AUVIS (Examiners)
Accessory as fitted (not including bull bar) does not comply with requirements (Para 25 & 27)	Defect Notice (up to 14 days to clear)	Defect Notice (up to 14 days to clear)	Issue a rejection certificate (‘White slip’) in the normal manner
Bull bar does not comply with requirements (Para 25 & 27)	Defect Notice (up to 28 days to clear)	Defect Notice (up to 28 days to clear) Issue an ‘Inspected’ label in the normal manner	Issue a rejection certificate (‘White’ slip) in the normal manner



For further enquiries:



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