



# Victoria Government Gazette

No. S 232 Wednesday 2 July 2014  
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## Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

#### Transport Accident Act 1986

##### Spinal Impairment Guides Modification Document

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (the RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Spinal Impairment Guides Modification Document (the GMD).

In accordance with section 46A(2C) of the **Transport Accident Act 1986** (the Act), the TAC appointed a Spinal Expert Panel (the Panel) to create a GMD for the assessment of spinal impairment.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed GMD are now available for public review and comment. Closing date for public submissions is 5.00 pm 30 July 2014.

Under the Act compensation for permanent impairment is paid following an assessment carried out using the 4th Edition of the American Medical Association (AMA) Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (the AMA Guides). The proposed GMD modifies the methodology for assessing spinal impairment in the AMA Guides.

The GMD proposes:

- a definition of fracture;
- a new table for the assessment of spinal fractures and surgery;
- to replace the single gradation of structural fractures with four gradations of increasing severity;
- a new Diagnoses Related Estimate Category III for the assessment of spinal fractures; and
- rules to make the assessment methodology clear and consistent for all users.

The RIS discusses the assessment criteria for spinal injuries in the proposed GMD and two implementation options.

- Implementation option 1 proposes to apply the proposed GMD to impairment assessments for all claimants injured in transport accidents that occurred on or after 1 September 2014;
- Implementation option 2 proposes to apply the proposed GMD to claimants who attend an impairment examination on or after a date that is six months after the proposed GMD release (1 January 2015).

The RIS considers the costs and benefits of the proposed GMD and concludes that implementation option 2 is the preferred option as it restores a greater proportion of spinal impairments at the same costs as Option 1.

Public comment is now invited on the RIS and the proposed GMD. Copies can be obtained by:

- Download from the Transport Accident Commission's website, [www.tac.vic.gov.au](http://www.tac.vic.gov.au)
- Request from the Transport Accident Commission, by phone on 1300 654 329 or by email, [GMDenquiries@tac.vic.gov.au](mailto:GMDenquiries@tac.vic.gov.au)

Written submissions should be received no later than 5:00 pm 30 July 2014 and should be mailed to:

Regulatory Impact Statement for the Spinal Impairment Guides Modification Document  
Government Relations  
Transport Accident Commission  
PO Box 742  
Geelong, Victoria 3220.

**SPECIAL**

Submissions by email should be forwarded by the same date to the following address:  
GMDenquiries@tac.vic.gov.au

All submissions will be treated as public documents unless clearly identified as being confidential and all submissions regarding the proposed GMD will be provided to the Spinal Expert Panel for consideration.

Enquires about the RIS and proposed GMD should be directed to TAC Customer Service Centre on 1300 654 329 or 1800 332 556 (toll-free outside the Melbourne metropolitan area).

JANET DORE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Transport Accident Commission

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