



Victoria Government Gazette

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Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983

DETERMINATION OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR TAXI-CABS

1. I, James Holyman, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Taxi Services Commission (TSC), acting under delegation and pursuant to regulation 12(1) of the Transport (Buses, Taxi-Cabs and Other Commercial Passenger Vehicles) Regulations 2005, hereby determine that the following specifications apply to taxi-cabs licensed under the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**, on and from the date that this instrument is published in the Government Gazette.
2. These Specifications supersede the instrument published in General Edition No. G 21 of the Government Gazette on 24 May 2007, as amended by instruments dated 20 June 2013, 9 September 2013, and 12 February 2014.
3. These Specifications apply to all taxi-cabs, unless otherwise indicated.
4. The Australian Design Rules prevail over these Specifications to the extent of any inconsistency.

Dated 10 August 2015

James Holyman
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Taxi Services Commission

Specifications for Taxi-Cabs

1. Definitions

ADRs means the Australian Design Rules that apply to motor vehicles, made under the **Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989** (Cth).

Approval Certificate means a technical assessment certificate issued by a participant in the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS).

Note: A list of VASS Signatories is available on the VicRoads website at: www.vicroads.com.au

AS & AS/NZS means the Australian Standard & Australian/New Zealand Standard

Country taxi-cab means a taxi-cab in the licence of which the Country Zone is specified.

Country Zone means the zone so established under section 143B(1)(d) of the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

Melbourne Metropolitan taxi-cab means a taxi-cab in the licence of which the Melbourne Metropolitan Zone is specified.

Melbourne Metropolitan Zone means the zone so established under section 143B(1)(a) of the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

Peak service taxi-cab means a taxi-cab licensed by the TSC to operate between 3.00 pm and 7.00 am.

Regional taxi-cab means a taxi-cab in the licence of which the Regional Zone is specified.

Regional Zone means the zone so established under section 143B(1)(c) of the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

Specification means this Determination of Specifications for Taxi-Cabs.

Taxi-cab has the same meaning as in section 86 of the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

TSC means the Taxi Services Commission.

Urban and Large Regional taxi-cab means a taxi-cab in the licence of which the Urban and Large Regional Zone is specified.

SPECIAL

Urban and Large Regional Zone means the zone so established under section 143B(1)(b) of the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

VSI means the Vehicle Standards Information bulletins as published by VicRoads – see www.vicroads.com.au

Wheelchair accessible taxi-cab (WAT) means a taxi-cab with provision to accommodate and secure at least one occupied wheelchair.

2. Occupant Capacity

The occupant capacity for taxi licensing purposes is the maximum number of passengers for which the vehicle is designed, not including the driver or wheelchair passengers.

3. Access

3.1 Unobstructed access must be provided between a door used for passenger access and each row of passenger seats. Aisle width must not be less than 300 mm.

3.2 Each door for passenger access must have a means for passengers to easily open the door from the inside.

Note: For the purposes of this clause 3.2 an access door does not include a door on the right hand side or the rear of a van type vehicle apart from the driver's door.

3.3 Access steps must be provided for the left-hand side access doors where the height of the floor is more than 410 mm above the ground. The steps:

- (a) must have slip resistant tread;
- (b) must not be more than 410 mm above the ground;
- (c) must have a clear step width of at least 450 mm;
- (d) must have a step tread depth of at least 180 mm;
- (e) must not have any protrusions or other fittings which could increase the risk of injury to any person, and;
- (f) should have approximately equal riser heights.

3.4 Where steps are required under clause 3.3, suitable handles or handgrips must be fitted to each side of the access doorway.

4. Floor

Taxi-cab floors must be of sound construction with a skid-resistant surface.

5. Occupant Comfort

All taxi-cabs must meet the internal occupant dimensions derived from the ADRs as set out in this clause 5.

5.1 Construction and fitting requirements

- (a) The seats in a taxi-cab must:
 - (i) be forward or rear facing: side facing seats are not permitted;
 - (ii) be properly constructed, fixed and finished;
 - (iii) have cushions that are suitably padded or contoured;
 - (iv) have backs that provide reasonable support for passengers; and
 - (v) comply with any applicable ADRs.

Dimension requirements

- (b) All seats in a taxi-cab must be constructed and fitted so that there is:
 - (i) a shoulder width and a seat width of at least 400 mm for each seating position;
 - (ii) a seat depth of at least 400 mm for each seating position;
 - (iii) a height of at least 330 mm from the floor to the top of seat cushion;

- (iv) a leg room distance of at least 180 mm between the back of one seat and the front of the seat behind it;
- (v) a ceiling height over the seat cushion of at least 850 mm;
- (vi) a door opening width of at least 280 mm measured below the seat cushion; and
- (vii) a clear vertical distance of at least 670 mm from seat cushion to the top of the door opening.

Measurements relating to adjustable seats are to be taken with the seat(s) in the rearmost and lowest position. Measurements to or from seat cushions are to be taken with an undepressed cushion.

5.2 The exposed surfaces of seats must be covered with non-absorbent materials.

5.3 Any removable seat covers must be of non-absorbent or washable materials.

6. Seat Belts and Child Restraints

6.1 Each seating position in a taxi-cab must be provided with an appropriate seat belt.

6.2 Each outboard seating position and all wheelchair positions must be provided with a lap and sash emergency locking retractor type seat belt assembly. However any restraint provided exclusively for use by a wheelchair occupant must be a lap and sash or lap and harness type assembly. A lap only seat belt is not permitted for such occupants.

6.3 Other seating positions must have seat belts and child restraint anchorages in accordance with VSI 21 for the category of the vehicle as presented, which for a modified vehicle may differ from the category to which the vehicle was originally certified as marked on the compliance plate. For example it is common for MD2 buses to be modified to MD1 or MB.

6.4 Child restraint anchorages must be provided for at least two (2) forward facing rear seating positions. Anchorages must be of the clip type and compliant with applicable ADRs.

7. Wheelchair Accessible Taxi-cabs (WATs)

7.1 This clause applies to WATs only.

7.2 Wheelchair restraint systems must comply with 'Australia/New Zealand AS/NZS 10542 Parts 1 & 2 Wheelchair tie down and occupant-restraint systems'. Any requirements contained in 'Australian Standard AS 2942 Wheelchair occupant restraint assemblies for motor vehicles' which are not covered in 'Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard 10542 Parts 1 & 2', must also be complied with.

7.3 All equipment must be maintained in good condition. Replacement components including strap assemblies must be equivalent to original parts.

7.4 The driver must have adequate access and working space to secure or release the wheelchair and its occupant and must be able to move to any wheelchair position within the taxi-cab to provide assistance as required.

7.5 WATs must have:

- (a) doorway entry dimensions (i.e. where wheelchairs enter) of at least 1500 mm high and 800 mm wide; and
- (b) allocated floor/ceiling space of at least 1300 mm (length) x 800 mm (width) x 1500 mm (height) for each wheelchair position as set out in the 'Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT)' i.e. a rectangular prism.

8. WAT Hoists and Ramps

- 8.1 This clause applies to WATs only.
- 8.2 Hoists and ramps fitted to WATs must comply with the requirements of 'Australian Standard AS 3856 – Hoists and Ramps for people with disabilities – Vehicle mounted; Parts 1 and 2', current at the time the hoist or ramp was fitted. The minimum clear width of hoists and ramps must be 800 mm.
- 8.3 In respect of ramps, the gradient (slope) must not be steeper than 1 in 6. Any WAT previously approved with a 1 in 4 ramp before the date of this Specification is exempted from this requirement.
- 8.4 For all WATs fitted with a wheelchair hoist the total vertical distance between the horizontal surface of the platform, in its fully raised position and the horizontal surface of the entrance must not be more than 12 mm.

9. Communication Systems (Dispatchers)

- 9.1 Dispatchers (Mobile Data Terminals) may be fitted as set out below to ensure occupant safety and provide for ease of driver visibility and operation. Mobile Data Terminals:
- (a) should be mounted as high as is reasonably possible to minimise eye diversion when driving;
 - (b) may be mounted ahead of and to the right of the steering wheel rim provided the unit does not protrude into the driver's field of view (see Attachment 2, Figure 1);
 - (c) must be mounted so that adequate clearance is available between the dispatcher and the steering wheel and other equipment and controls (including all airbags) to allow the driver to safely control the vehicle; and
 - (d) must not be mounted so that the bottom of the screen is below a horizontal plane at the height of the lower boundary of the instrument panel in front of the drivers seating position (see Attachment 2, Figure 3) unless no other suitable location is available.
- 9.2 Installations must not degrade the energy absorption requirements of instrument panels designed to meet ADR 21/00 Instrument Panels. (see Attachment 2)

10. Luggage Space

- 10.1 Adequate luggage space must be provided:
- (a) external to the passenger compartment for sedan type vehicles; and
 - (b) to the rear of the rearmost seat in station wagon vehicles with a cargo barrier complying with the relevant Australian Standard fitted.

Note: WATs are exempt from the above requirements.

11. Fire Extinguisher

All WATs must be equipped with a fully maintained fire extinguisher of at least 20B rating. It must be securely mounted in a position so as to be readily available for use and not be a hazard to vehicle occupants.

12. Exhaust Outlet

- 12.1 Exhaust outlets must be as near as practicable to the rear of the vehicle; and
- 12.2 Vehicles with passenger access in the rear face must not have an exhaust outlet discharging rearwards.

13. Window Tinting

Taxi-cabs must comply with the published standards for tinting of windows as set out in VSI 2, except that side facing windows on each side next to the driver must have at least 70% light transmittance.

14. Approval Certificates

14.1 An approval certificate issued by an engineer who is a signatory to the Vehicle Assessment Signatory Scheme (VASS) administered by VicRoads, may be required to show that a modified vehicle meets the relevant standards for registration.

14.2 An approval certificate must be presented where:

- (a) modifications are carried out that could adversely affect:
 - (i) the structural integrity of the vehicle, such as major body or chassis modifications;
 - (ii) the vehicle's handling characteristics;
 - (iii) any primary safety system, such as steering system modifications; or
- (b) modifications are carried out that affect the vehicles compliance with the standards for registration;
- (c) seats are added or moved and seat belts are required for the additional or remaining seats; or
- (d) child restraint anchorages are required to be added.

Note: Where certain vehicles are modified to accommodate wheelchairs, the vehicle category will change from NA2 or MD2 to MB or MD1. This will require different or additional seat belts and child restraint anchorages which must be certified as complying with the applicable standards.

14.3 An Approval Certificate is not required where:

- (a) modifications are 'Approved Modifications' (see VSI 8);
- (b) deterioration or accident damage is repaired in accordance with good industry practice;
- (c) seat belts or child restraint anchorages that are not required are fitted; or
- (d) seats are removed not resulting in a change of vehicle category.

15. Taxi Age Limits

Taxi-cabs must comply with the maximum vehicle age appropriate to the type of vehicle and the zone in which it is driven, as stated in this clause 15. Age limits are calculated from the build date as shown on the compliance plate attached to the vehicle:

- 15.1 Melbourne Metropolitan taxi-cabs and Urban and Large Regional taxi-cabs:
Maximum vehicle age: 6.5 years
- 15.2 Maximum vehicle age for initial licensing as a Melbourne Metropolitan taxi-cab or Urban and Large Regional taxi-cab: 2.5 years
- 15.3 Regional taxi-cabs and Country taxi-cabs:
Maximum vehicle age: 7.5 years
- 15.4 WATs – all zones:
Maximum vehicle age: 10.5 years

16. Gas Struts

Gas struts on the boot lid or vertically opening rear door must be maintained in good condition and be capable of holding the boot lid or rear door in the open position.

17. Spare Wheels

- 17.1 The spare wheel must be easily accessible, in a roadworthy condition and of the same rim and tyre size as fitted to the road wheels.
- 17.2 Space saver or temporary use type spare wheels are not acceptable and not approved for use on taxi-cabs.

18. Electronic Payment Facilities

Up to two (2) electronic payment transaction (EFTPOS) terminals and associated receipt printers may be installed in any taxi-cab provided:

- (a) no part of the terminal or associated equipment is in the head impact area or in a position which could affect the visibility or operation of any required equipment or vehicle controls (including airbags) or cause annoyance to the driver or passengers;
- (b) the terminal/s must produce receipts compliant with regulation 43(7) of the Transport (Buses, Taxi-Cabs and other Commercial Passenger Vehicles) Regulations 2005;
- (c) the installations do not degrade the energy absorption requirements of instrument panels designed to meet ADR 21/00 Instrument Panels. (see Attachment 2); and
- (d) the units and/or cradles are securely attached to the vehicle structure.

ATTACHMENT 1

ADR VEHICLE CATEGORIES

| Vehicle Category Code | Vehicle Category |
|-----------------------|---|
| LA | Moped 2 wheels. |
| LB | Moped 3 wheels. |
| LC | Motorcycle. |
| LD | Motorcycle and sidecar. |
| LE | Motor tricycle. |
| LEM | : up to 450 kg unladen, drivers saddle, 2 seats max. |
| LEP | : up to 450 kg unladen, or more than 2 seats, or permanent structure behind and 200mm above drivers seat cushion. |
| LEG | : over 450 kg unladen and constructed primarily for carriage of goods. |
| MA | Passenger car. |
| MB | For ward control passenger vehicle up to 9 seats. |
| MC | Off road passenger vehicle. |
| MD | Light omnibus |
| MD1 | : up to 3.5 tonnes GVM and up to 12 seats. |
| MD2 | : up to 3.5 tonnes GVM and over 12 seats. |
| MD3 | : over 3.5 tonnes and up to 4.5 tonnes GVM. |
| MD4 | : over 4.5 tonnes and up to 5.0 tonnes GVM. |
| ME | Heavy omnibus, over 5.0 tonnes GVM |
| NA | Light goods vehicle. |
| NB | Medium goods vehicle. |
| NB1 | : over 3.5 tonnes and up to 4.5 tonnes GVM |
| NB2 | : over 4.5 tonnes and up to 12 tonnes GVM. |
| NC | Heavy goods vehicle, over 12 tonnes GVM. |
| TA | Very light trailer, up to 750 kg GTM. |
| TB | Light trailer over 750 kg and up to 3.5 tonnes GTM. |
| TC | Medium trailer, over 3.5 tonnes and up to 10 tonnes GTM. |
| TD | Heavy trailer, over 10 tonnes GTM. |

The following sub categories are only used in emission ADRs 36/, 37/ and 41/
 MB1, MC1, MD5 & NA1 up to 2.7 tonnes GVM.
 MB2, MC2, MD6 & NA2 over 2.7 tonnes GVM.

Attachment 2

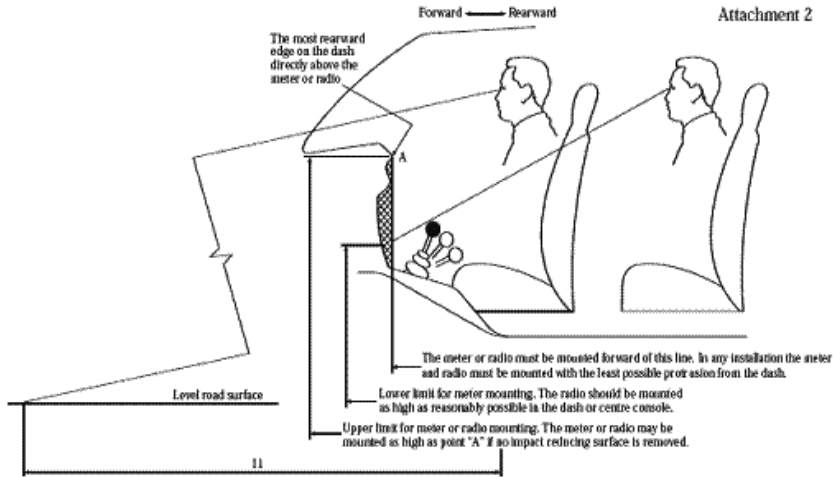


Figure 1. Equipment Mounting Limitations - Side View

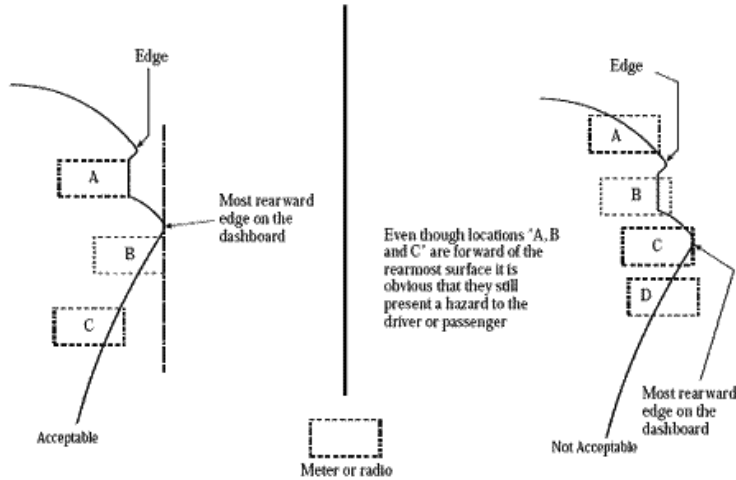


Figure 2. Taximeter and Radio Location

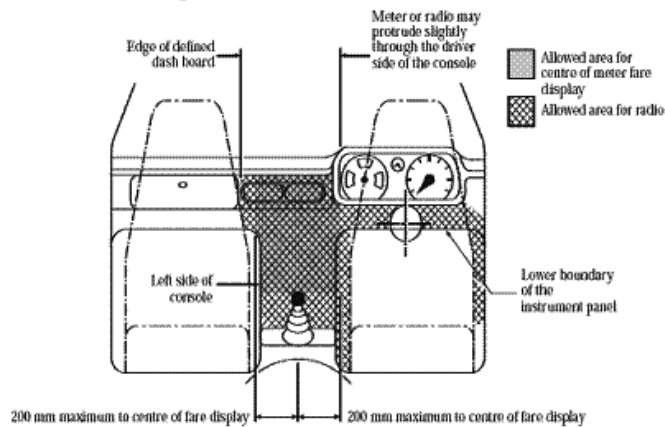


Figure 3. Equipment Mounting Limitations - Rear View

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