

Registration Plate (Number Plate) Height Regulations

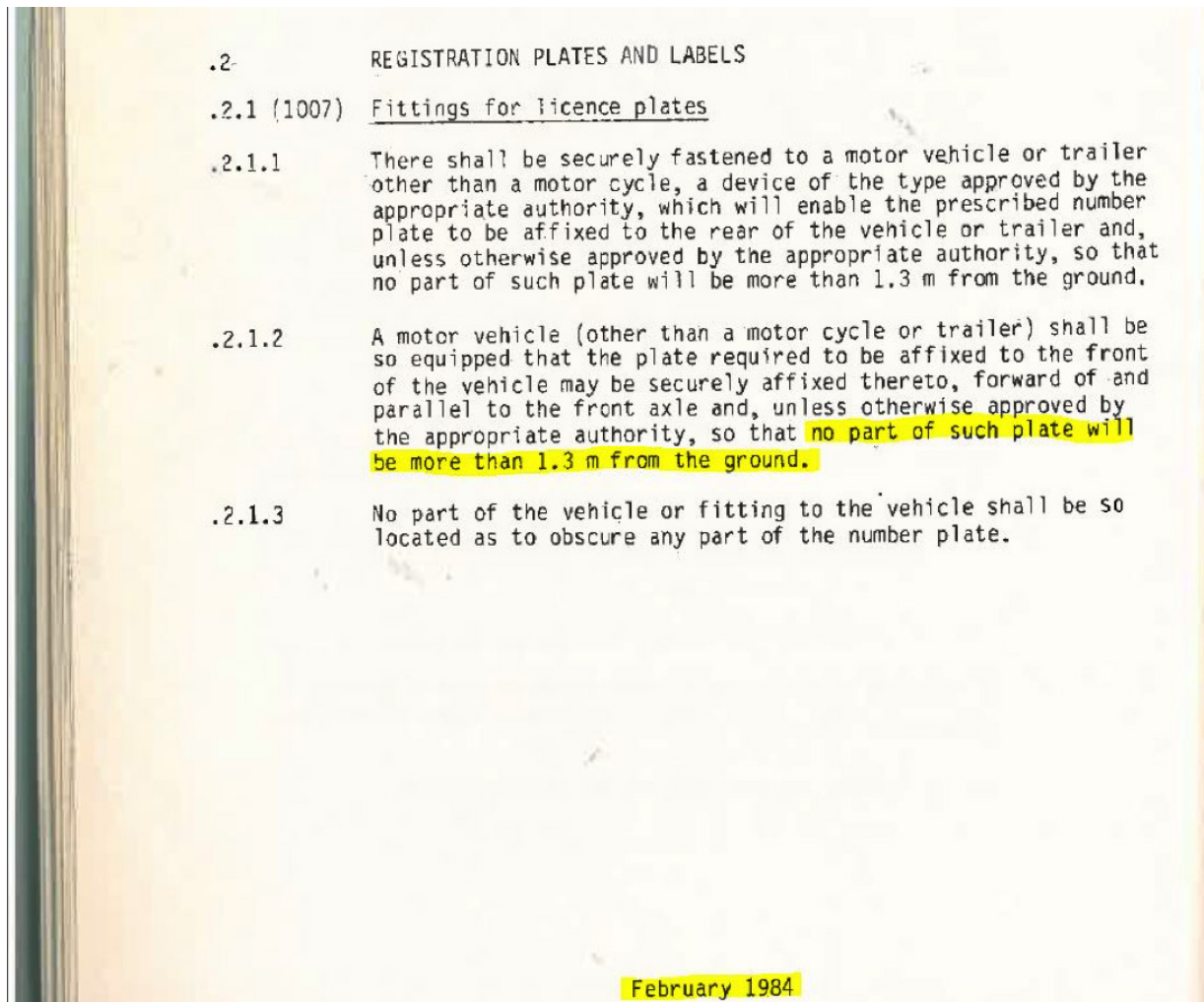


A recently published article by NRMA is causing a stir within the industry in relation to number plate height regulations. The article claims that a caravanner passing through New South Wales was pulled over by the police and slapped with a \$415 fine, along with the loss of three demerit points as a result of their "licence plate sitting 30cm higher than regulations allow".

ADR 61/02 Vehicle Markings, Section 9.1.1.1. states: "provision must be made for mounting a registration plate to be affixed to the rear of the vehicle so that no part of such plate is more than 1,300mm from the ground."

It is important to note that this is not a new regulation, with documentation outlining these requirements dating as far back as February 1984 (pictured overleaf).

Registration Plate (Number Plate) Height Regulations continued



The RVMAP Technical Team has seen manufacturers begin to implement innovative design concepts to address this issue, particularly on off road products.

Caravan Industry Association of Australia has had a number of meetings with Federal Regulators and senior politicians regarding the need for deregulation and the common sense approach needed to make caravan construction simpler without causing risk of injury or death. On face value, number plate positioning appears to be in response to revenue raising rather than safety and we will continue to pursue an appropriate course of action. In the meantime, Caravan Industry Association of Australia wishes to remind all manufacturers of the obligations under this regulation, one of which is regularly identified during the RVMAP audit process.

TARE Weights stamped on Compliance Plates

Caravan Industry Association of Australia receives numerous queries from consumers regarding the TARE weights stated on the compliance plate of their towable recreational vehicle. In some cases, consumers are finding that the weight, when taken over a public weighbridge, is differing by up to 300kg to what the manufacturer's compliance plate states.

We remind manufacturers that the TARE weight is the total weight of the caravan (load on tyres plus tow ball load) with all options and fittings as supplied by the manufacturer, with empty water tanks, gas bottles, and no fluids not essential for operation on public roads, and without luggage or personal effects.