

Trailer Mounted Electric Brake Controllers

Caravan Industry Association of Australia has had numerous enquiries from both consumers and manufacturers around the use of Trailer Mounted Electric Brake Controllers.

After seeking clarification, we can confirm that Vehicle Safety Standards believe this type of device does not meet the requirements of legislation when mounted on a trailer.

Some manufacturers, in particular Camper Trailer manufacturers, currently still fit Trailer Mounted Electric Brake Controllers. Often, Camper Trailer hire companies will opt for these controllers as they remove the need to install a brake controller in the tow vehicle.

ADR 38/03 – Trailer Brake Systems states that:

4. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAILERS UP TO 4.5 TONNES 'ATM'

4.1. Every trailer must be equipped with an efficient 'Service Brake System' which, with the exception of trailers equipped with an 'Over-run Braking System', must be designed so that the **braking force can be progressively increased and decreased by means of the 'Control Signal' from the towing vehicle.**

CONTROL SIGNAL - means the signal that is provided by the towing vehicle to the trailer for control of the 'Service Brake System' in normal operation.

SERVICE BRAKE SYSTEM the 'Brake System' which in proportion to the signal from the brake 'Control' or, in the case of a trailer in **proportion to the 'Control Signal'**, applies a restraining torque to the vehicle's wheels in normal operation.

From this regulation, it can be concluded that the proportional signal must also be in the towing vehicle, therefore rendering the Trailer Mounted Electric Brake Controllers non-compliant.

