

## The Importance of Information displayed on the Vehicle (VIN) Plate

Before a road trailer (e.g. Caravans, Camper Trailers etc.) can be registered for the first time in Australia or used on a public road, it must meet the requirements of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (the Act). For Towable Recreational Vehicles with an Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) of 4500kg or less, these requirements are outlined in Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (VSB1) – the National Code of Practice. This document summarises the design, testing and construction requirements for trailers that do not exceed 4500kg ATM.

An important part of this process is ensuring a Vehicle Plate, commonly referred to within the industry as a ‘VIN’ or ‘Compliance’ Plate, is affixed to the trailer by the importer or manufacturer. The Vehicle Plate must detail all the relevant regulatory information as set out in VSB1, as well as displaying the certification statement (for new trailers): *This trailer was manufactured to comply with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*. This plate may also include additional information such as the tyre placard information.

The Vehicle Plate must only be affixed once the trailer meets the standards as set out in VSB1. According to VSB1, the manufacturer or importer, as engraved or printed on the trailer’s Vehicle Plate, takes responsibility for ensuring the trailer has been manufactured to comply with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989. By affixing the Vehicle Plate to the trailer, the importer or manufacturer is providing a clear indication to the relevant State or Territory registering authority – and to owners and the general public – that the trailer complies with VSB1 and that the trailer is ready for road use.

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The Vehicle Plate must be made from a durable, non-corrosive metal and must be affixed to the vehicle in a position where it may be readily examined. The plate is to be riveted, welded or otherwise permanently attached to the trailer with the information on the plate to be embossed, indented, etched or engraved. Note that affixing the Vehicle Plates with an adhesive is not acceptable.

It is vital that all the information detailed on the Vehicle Plate by the manufacturer/ importer is accurate and correctly matches the trailer as it has been supplied to market.

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