

GCM Re-Rating of New Motor Vehicles



RVMAP™

Caravan Industry Association of Australia wishes to inform RVMAP Accredited Businesses that there has been a recent change to the practice of GCM Re-Rating or upgrading of new motor vehicles for the purposes of increasing towing and combination capacities.

Earlier this month the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (the Federal Vehicle Regulators) amended the requirements relating to Gross Combination Mass (GCM) upgrades undertaken on a New Vehicle as part of a Second-Stage-of-Manufacture.

The changes, which are detailed in [Circular 0-4-6 Certification of Vehicles Which Have undergone a Second-Stage -Of Manufacture](#), effectively puts a stop to the practice of increasing the rated towing capacity of a vehicle, expressed as a Gross Combination Mass (GCM), above that specified by the first stage manufacturer. Section 10.6 of the Circular specifies that *the towing capacity of a light vehicle expressed as Gross Combination Mass (GCM) rating or Rated Towing Capacity or Maximum Braked Towing Mass rating **must not exceed the value set by the first stage manufacturer. Second stage manufacturers are not permitted to increase the towing capacity as part of an SSM IPA that results in GVM upgrade.***

The change has occurred as a result of concern raised around the potential safety implications of offering such upgrades. In addition, where a warranty issue with a motor vehicle has presented itself (either relating to or unrelated to the aspects of the GCM upgrade) there may be cases where the OEM (e.g Toyota/ Ford etc.) may not cover the warranty due to these SSM upgrades. This in itself in the current industry environment (Australian Consumer Law – Fit for Purpose) presents a number of challenges for the consumer and the OEM.

The impact of these changes on the Caravan Industry is still not fully explored, however Caravan Industry Association of Australia understands that these changes will not directly affect the way Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers or Motorhome/ Campervan Manufacturers provide product to market currently under the SSM system.

That being said the practice of upgrading towing vehicles (particularly mid-sized dual cab utes) to above the OEM vehicle manufacturers specifications to tow heavier trailer products (including caravans) has now been banned and may impact the retail network dealing with higher weighted caravanning product.

These changes come into effect as of July 1, 2018.

If you have any comments or concerns in relation to this matter please contact us via email: rvmap@caravanindustry.com.au

Working collaboratively with State Associations on matters which affect the Caravan and Camping Industry

