

# ATM Rating Upgrades

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RVMAP™

**With the increasing awareness of vehicle weights and ratings among consumers, and the desire to obtain the maximum possible load-carrying capacity on a vehicle (e.g. Caravan), manufacturers are regularly receiving requests from Caravan owners to increase the Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) rating of their Towable Recreational Vehicle.**

The ATM is a critical vehicle specification, and forms part of the mandatory vehicle description information recorded by Vehicle Registration Authorities in each state and territory. As such, there are formal processes that are required to be followed IF the ATM of a trailer is modified (either increased or decreased).

## Recommendations:

The requirements for vehicle modifications after first registrations are determined by state road authorities, so there are variations across the jurisdictions. Some important factors to note:

- As the original manufacturer we strongly advise you to consider the age, condition and history of the vehicle (e.g. Caravan) you have been asked to upgrade the ratings on. The consumer may have made a number of post manufacture modifications and/ or additions which may affect the compliance, weights and ratings of the Caravan you originally supplied. Consider whether an adequate assessment of potential modifications can be made remotely, or whether a physical inspection is necessary to verify this thoroughly;
- Only the original manufacturer or an authorised Vehicle Inspector/Engineer is permitted to make a change to the vehicle ratings;
- It may be a requirement that both the original vehicle plate and the revised plate are affixed side-by-side on the modified vehicle, to record the history of the upgrade;
- In some states and territories, an 'in-service' or post registration ATM rating upgrade may require the fitment of a specific modification plate;
- The registering authority (state Roads Authority) may need to be informed of the upgrade to the vehicle so that the vehicle details can be amended; and
- Consumers may need to inform their insurance company of the vehicle modifications to ensure continued coverage.

As the majority of ATM rating upgrades are carried out post registration and therefore fall within the state and territory jurisdictions, we recommend for specific advice regarding upgrades in each state to contact your relevant State Caravanning Association and/ or the roads authority in the state of vehicle registration.

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

