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WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme Application & Approval Process

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Refer to the Main Roads website for the current version.

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1	12 December 2023	Updated entire document	
2	13 August 2024	Updated wording to clarify in-vehicle telematics enrolment requirements	s. 5
3	30 September 2025	Added Self Certification provisions	s. 4

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are related to the WA PBS Scheme and should be read in conjunction with this Application & Approval Process. These documents are available on the Performance Based Standards (PBS) page on the Main Roads website.

Document Name	Location
WA PBS Manufacturer's Vehicle Certification Application	Performance Based Standards (PBS) Page
WA PBS Vehicle Certification Application	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/pbs/wa-performance-based-standard-scheme-vehicle-certification-application.pdf?v=48ecd9
PBS Vehicle Dimension Guide	Performance Based Standards (PBS) Page
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Access Levels and Principles	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/pbs/wa-performance-based-standards-pbs-scheme-access-levels.pdf?v=48f8d9
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Application and Approval Process	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/pbs/wa-performance-based-standards-pbs-scheme-application-and-approval-process-as-at-5-november-2020.pdf?v=4928b3
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Assessment Results (Part A)	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/permit-order-scheme/PBS/
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Audit Framework	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/pbs/wa-performance-based-standards-pbs-scheme-audit-framework.pdf?v=4928cb
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme - Manufacturer's Declaration - Towing Vehicle	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/permit-order-scheme/PBS/
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme - Manufacturer's Declaration – Trailer	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/permit-order-scheme/PBS/
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme - Road Train TEBS Voltage Test Procedure	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/pbs/wa-pbs-scheme-road-train-tebs-voltage-test-procedure.pdf?v=4a65ab

Document Name	Location
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Standards and Vehicle Assessment Rules	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/pbs/wa-performance-based-standards-pbs-scheme-standards-and-vehicle-assessment-rules.pdf?v=49a411
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme - Trailer Manufacturer's Checklist	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/permit-order-scheme/PBS/
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme - Vehicle Certification Guidelines	Performance Based Standards (PBS) Page
WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Vehicle Specifications (Part B)	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/permit-order-scheme/PBS/

1 INTRODUCTION

The WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme is designed to enable the transport industry to achieve higher productivity and safety through innovative and optimised vehicle design. The WA PBS Scheme focuses on how well a vehicle behaves on the road, through a set of safety performance standards, rather than assessing a vehicle based solely on prescriptive mass and dimension limits.

The PBS Scheme also enables transport operators to access roads with vehicle combinations that would not otherwise be approved, such as longer PBS vehicles that are demonstrated to perform within the same envelope as shorter prescriptive vehicles.

The WA PBS Scheme may be followed if a transport operator only intends to use the PBS vehicle in WA. If the transport operator intends to use the vehicle outside of WA, the National PBS process should be followed.

2 IN-PRINCIPLE APPROVAL

Prior to engaging a PBS Assessor to conduct the full PBS assessment, the applicant may wish to apply for an In-principle approval to ensure their proposed vehicle design and required level of access will be approved by Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services (HVS). This is generally only required where a similar vehicle design has not already been approved and an Approved Network does not already exist for the proposed vehicle configuration.

All applications for an In-principle Approval will be assessed in accordance with the *WA PBS Access Levels and Principles* document.

To apply for an In-principle Approval, the applicant will need to submit a *WA PBS In-principle Vehicle Design Approval Application*, accompanied by a schematic drawing of the proposed vehicle design to HVS. The application will be assessed and if approved, an In-principle Vehicle Design Approval will be issued to the vehicle design owner, which will specify approved access, maximum mass limits and any other relevant conditions.

3 PBS VEHICLE DESIGN APPROVAL

To obtain a WA PBS Vehicle Design Approval, the applicant will need to engage an [Approved PBS Assessor](#) to complete a full PBS assessment of their vehicle design, in accordance with the *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Standards and Vehicle Assessment Rules*.

The PBS Assessor will be required to complete and submit the *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Assessment Results (Part A)* form and *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Vehicle Specifications (Part B)* form to HVS for review to ensure all required standards have been met.

If all standards are met, a WA PBS Vehicle Design Approval will be issued to the vehicle design owner. The vehicle can then be built in accordance with the approved design.

Note: PBS Assessors will charge a fee for their services. This is a commercial arrangement between the PBS Assessor and their client. Main Roads will not be liable for any costs associated with these services.

4 PBS VEHICLE CERTIFICATION

Once an approved vehicle has been built and is ready to be put into service, the vehicle must be certified in accordance with the *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Vehicle Certification Rules*.

If a vehicle is certified by the manufacturer or vehicle dealer, the vehicle will be added to the manufacturer's or dealer's *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Manufacturer's Certification Approval*. If the vehicle is certified by the operator, the vehicle will be added to their *WA Performance Based Standards Scheme (PBS) Certification Approval*.

Where the vehicle has been certified by the manufacturer or dealer, the operator simply needs to refer to the relevant *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Manufacturer's Certification Approval* when submitting their *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme – Vehicle Certification Application*.

5 OBTAIN A PBS PERMIT

Once the Certification Approval has been issued, the applicant will need to apply for the PBS permit and confirm that an approved telematics in-vehicle unit (IVU) has been fitted to the towing vehicle(s) by submitting the *WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Permit Application*.

If the applicant has not previously enrolled under the Telematics Monitoring Application for PBS WA (TMAPBSWA) or the former Intelligent Access Program (IAP), they will also need to submit the *TMAPBSWA Enrolment / Cancellation* form with their permit application. Visit the TCA website for information regarding TMAPBSWA.

The PBS permit is then issued for the vehicle combination, which will specify the approved access and operating conditions.

6 CONTACTS

For further information about the WA PBS Scheme please visit the Performance Based Standards (PBS) page on the Main Roads Website or contact Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Access Improvement and Policy Section via:

Email: hvsnetworkaccess@mainroads.wa.gov.au

Telephone: 138 486

Website: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

7 PROCESS FLOW CHART

Step 1

- The applicant should contact a PBS Assessor and Main Roads to discuss the proposed vehicle and required level of access, if a similar design is not already approved. If 'In-principle' approval is sought, an application must be submitted.
- For *In-principle Vehicle Design Approval* - **Approximate timeframe is 4 weeks from application.**

Step 2

- To obtain a Design Approval for a proposed PBS combination, the applicant must engage an Approved PBS Assessor to conduct a PBS Assessment.
- The PBS Assessor will forward the completed PBS Assessment to Main Roads.
- Approximate timeframe - subject to the availability of the PBS Assessor.**

Step 3

- Main Roads will review the PBS Assessment and issue a Design Approval to the Design Owner and include the PBS Assessor of the outcome.
- Approximate timeframe - 72 hours** to issue the Design Approval from when completed application is received, subject to all required information being supplied and the vehicle assessment meeting all relevant PBS Standards.

Step 5

- Once the approved vehicle is built, the applicant, manufacturer or dealer will conduct a vehicle certification and submit the relevant Certification Application. Dependent on the applicant, the vehicle will be added to either a Vehicle Certification Approval or a Manufacturer's Certification Approval.
- Once all completed documentation is submitted to Main Roads, allow 48 hours** to issue a Certification Approval.

Step 6

- Once the Certification Approval has been issued to the operator, the applicant can then apply for a permit and confirm the towing vehicle is fitted with an IVU by submitting the *PBS Permit Application and the TMAPBSWA- Enrolment /or Cancellation form (if needed)*.
- Approximate timeframe - 72 hours**, subject to confirmation of vehicle telematics unit being fitted to the vehicle.