

Bridge Video Supervision (BVS)

This document provides answers to commonly asked questions about the requirements of BVS.

1. Why is there a need to record bridge crossings?

To help provide more flexible access for some Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) and Class 1 Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) carrying heavy large indivisible items over specified structures, video supervision was implemented to allow operators to cross structures without the requirement of having the crossing physically supervised by a Main Roads officer, while still ensuring that the crossing is performed safely and the integrity of the structure is maintained.

2. When do I need to video record a bridge crossing?

Bridge Video Supervision may be applied as a condition of permit over one or more structures and on one or more roads in Western Australia when you are issued any of the following permits:

- A specific journey Class 1 (single trip) Extra Mass Permit,
- A Single Trip Combination Permit,
- A Special Purpose Vehicle – Motor Vehicle Specific (Single Trip) Permit; or
- A bridge Crossing Permit

3. Who is responsible for BVS?

For the purpose of BVS Conditions and Compliance, where the permit specifies that it is issued subject to BVS Conditions, the operator who is nominated on the permit shall be deemed as the primary operator and shall be considered the party responsible, in relation to the "Bridge Video Supervision Conditions"

4. What am I required to record?

At the start and prior to commencing any permitted trip where BVS is specified as a condition of permit, the driver must clearly state and record on the video recording device;

- Your (driver's) full name
- The relevant permit number being used
- The trip start time and date
- The start location of trip
- The end location of trip

You must also record the above information on any other subsequent day where the same permit number has been used. You must video record the crossing of every bridge that is specified on the permit.

5. Is there anything else I am required to verbally state on the recording device?

You must clearly identify all bridges to be crossed (use either bridge number or name), as specified in any permit where you are required to conduct Bridge Video Supervision.

6. Where does it tell me which bridges need to be video recorded?

Your Single Trip Permit or Bridge Crossing Permit will have Operating Conditions attached or included as part of the permit. These conditions will specify what bridges require video supervision. In some cases, each structure will be specified individually in the conditions, however in other cases, a range of structures will be specified, e.g. all bridges within a specific region

7. Why do I need to have two pilots?

Unless it is stated differently on the permit, all BVS require a minimum of two (2) accredited and authorised pilots to be used to ensure that operators safely manage other road users, in all directions, when crossing a specified structure.

8. Are there any exemptions available which allows me to operate in accordance with a permit that requires bridge video supervision, but without having to use Heavy Vehicle Pilots?

No. In all instances where you use a permit that requires video supervision conditions, a minimum of two accredited pilots must be used to escort the RAV or SPV across the specified bridge that requires BVS.

9. Is there a possibility of requiring more than two pilots?

Yes, if the specified structure is positioned in such a manner that does not make it possible to control approaching traffic, in all directions, using only 2 pilots, then additional pilots will be required. It is part of the operator's responsibilities to assess the route prior to departure and identify the structures that will require additional pilots.

10. Where do I get the equipment that's necessary to video record a bridge crossing that meets the requirements of the permit conditions?

Video equipment that meets the requirements of the conditions (i.e. records in the correct format, has an overlay of the current time, date and vehicle speed, records audio and GPS (optional) and is mountable in the cabin of the vehicle) are available on the market place. Examples are quite easily found either via searching on the internet, from car audio/visual businesses or electronics providers.

11. Is handheld video camera footage of the crossing acceptable?

No. The recording device must be mounted in or on the front of the vehicle for hands-free operation, as

close as practicable to the horizontal centreline of the vehicle that meets regulation 263 of the Road Traffic Code 2000 and in a manner that will enable the recording device to record a clear field of vision directly in front of the vehicle and the bridge(s) during the crossing.

12. Do I have to verbally identify every specified structure crossing?

No. In an effort to improve driver and road safety, if you are the driver and your recording device is in good working condition, you may not be required to verbally identify every specified bridge crossing as required in the BVS conditions, provided the following criteria is met;

The recording device you use, must comply with all recording device and image requirements listed in the BVS Conditions, and

You are proficient in the use of the recording equipment, and

Provided the device can display during replay, the latitude and longitude measurement specifications of bridge locations, and

Provided you continuously record the entire trip

Note: If you are an employee (driver) or sub-contractor you are advised to obtain clarification and approval to use this method from the operator who is nominated on the permit, before you commence your trip.

13. What documentation do I have to record?

If you are the primary operator, you must develop, maintain and keep the following BVS records and documentation, in electronic and/or in hard copy version:

- Procedures and Processes
- Role and Responsibilities
- Bridge Video Supervision Register
- Recorded Video Movement over Specified Bridges
- Training Record

14. What information do I have to record in the BVS Register?

You must record and keep up to date, specific BVS related information on a Register and complete an entry in this Register for every single trip permit issued to you that stipulates BVS across specified bridges is a condition, (whether that permit is used or not)

Note: An electronic Excel version of the Bridge Video Supervision Register Template

15. Do I need to video record the whole journey?

No. The primary operator has the option to instruct their driver or sub-contractor to record the entire trip or just the specified bridge crossing(s). When only recording the bridge crossing(s), the recording has to be commenced from the point of approach (before the bridge is crossed) and continued until the point of exit from the bridge structure (after the vehicle is clear of the bridge).

16. What do I do with the video recordings once the trip is completed?

Recordings should be labelled so they readily identify the trip recorded and stored for a period of 12 months from the permit expiry date, (this could be a number of months after the trip has been completed so be careful not to count the 12 months from the trip – but from the permit expiry date) in accordance with the conditions.

17. How long to I have to keep the records for?

Video recordings and data recorded on the BVS Register must be kept for a minimum 12 months from the permit expiry date to which that recording and date pertains.

Other records such as your BVS associated procedures and processes, roles and responsibilities and training records must be kept indefinitely and updated for the duration, while you continue to utilize permits that require bridge video supervision.

18. What happens if I am notified that I am going to be audited for the bridge crossings?

If an audit to check operator compliance with BVS conditions is to be conducted on an operator, the operator will be contacted by Main Roads and a date set for the audit. An audit will then be conducted at the operators premise to view footage of bridge crossings of any permits requiring BVS the operator may have used within the past 12 months. There may also be occasions when you are requested to forward the recording to Main Roads.

19. Is it a WA heavy Vehicle Accreditation Audit?

No. A WA Heavy Vehicle Accreditation audit is a separate process.

20. What happens if it is found that I have not compliance with the BVS conditions?

If the audit assessment has identified that an operator has not complied with any of the BVS Conditions, then depending on the severity, type and number of breaches, a Corrective Action Request(s) may be issued to the operator requesting that the breach(s) be addressed by a specified date.

21. What happens if I fail to respond to a BVS audit requires or if I do not satisfactorily address a Correct Action Request?

In the case where an operator fails to respond to a BVS Audit Request then Main Roads will initiate a process where the operator could be restricted from obtaining any further permits that have BVS as a condition of that permit, until such time as the matter is resolved.

Severe detections of non-compliance with the BVS conditions (such as not taking video footage of bridge crossings or repeated breaches) may result in future applications by the operator for permits requiring bridge video supervision being refused.

This means that you will not be approved to operate your vehicle at excess mass limits where a permit

specifies that BVS is a condition. If this situation occurs, you may still be approved to operate a vehicle at a lower excess mass limit.