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Western Australia.*

WA Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme

Application & Approval Process

Contents

Introduction.....	3
In-principle Approvals	3
Final PBS Vehicle Design Approval	4
CEO Exemptions.....	4
Vehicle Certification.....	4
On Road - Permit issued.....	4
Related Documents	5
Contacts	5
Process Flow Chart.....	6

Introduction

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

The PBS Scheme also enables vehicle combinations to access roads that would not otherwise be approved for a similar prescriptive vehicle combination.

The WA PBS Scheme may be followed if an operator only intends to use the PBS vehicle in WA. If a National approval is sought, the National PBS Process must be followed.

Main Roads is committed to supporting the use of innovative PBS vehicle combinations that result in safer and higher productivity vehicles on WA roads. Due to PBS vehicles often being larger and/or heavier than prescriptive vehicles, they may be route restricted and may be subject to monitoring via the Intelligent Access Program (IAP).

Further information on the WA PBS vehicle requirements and access arrangements can be found on the Performance Based Standards (PBS) page on the Main Roads website.

In-principle Approvals

Prior to engaging a PBS Assessor to conduct the full PBS assessment, the applicant may 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).

Two types of “In-principle” approvals are available:

- 1) A *WA PBS Vehicle Access Agreement*, which can be issued to a WA Heavy Vehicle Accredited Operator and the vehicle design owner, confirming the proposed vehicle design and specific access is approved in-principle; or
- 2) A *WA PBS In-principle Vehicle Design Approval*, which can be issued to a vehicle design owner, confirming the proposed vehicle design is approved in-principle, without specific access details.

Applications for an *Access Agreement* will only be processed where it is confirmed there is a WA Heavy Vehicle Accredited Operator linked to the application. Main Roads may contact the Accredited Operator during the assessment process for queries regarding the access and may contact the design owner for queries regarding the vehicle design.

Once the applicant submits the *Performance Based Standard (PBS) Vehicle Access Agreement or In-principle Vehicle Design Approval Application Form*, accompanied by a schematic drawing of the proposed vehicle design, HVS will conduct a route assessment. If the route is suitable, an *Access Agreement* will be issued to the Accredited Operator and the vehicle design owner will be provided with a copy.

If the application is for an *In-principle Vehicle Design Approval*, HVS will not conduct route assessments and will only advise if the vehicle design will be approved in general, i.e. a specific access agreement will not be provided and future access will be subject to a route assessment and road manager support.

Final PBS Vehicle Design Approval

Once an “In-principle” approval has been issued by HVS and it has been established that the proposed vehicle combination and transport task is achievable on the requested routes, the applicant will need to engage an approved PBS Assessor to complete a full PBS assessment, in accordance with the *WA PBS Standards and Vehicle Assessment Rules*.

Once completed, HVS will review the PBS assessment to ensure all required standards have been met. If all standards are met, a *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 1: PBS Assessors will charge a fee for their services and Main Roads will not be liable for any costs associated with these services.

Note 2: Anyone can design an innovated PBS vehicle and apply for PBS Vehicle Design Approval, e.g. manufacturers, operators and transport associations.

CEO Exemptions

If the vehicle design requires exemptions from Australian Design Rules (ADRs), the applicant will be required to obtain a CEO Exemption from the Department of Transport, prior to Main Roads issuing any PBS Permits. The required exemptions will be listed on the *PBS Vehicle Access Agreement* and *PBS Vehicle Design Approval*.

The applicant will need to apply for a CEO Exemption from the Department of Transport by completing an *Application for CEO Exemption (form E82)*. The application will need to reference the Main Roads PBS application number, e.g. *MRWA123456*, and will then need to be submitted to the Department of Transport with the “as built” vehicle schematic. The application will need to include the VIN for each trailer and the specific dimensions that require an exemption. It is important for the “as built” vehicle schematic to match the PBS vehicle design, otherwise the application will not be processed.

Vehicle Certification

Once the vehicle has been built, the applicant will need to submit a *WA PBS Vehicle Certification Application Form*, to HVS to arrange for a vehicle certification to be conducted. HVS will inspect the vehicle combination and ensure the vehicle has been built in accordance with the approved design specifications.

Once the PBS Certification has been completed, HVS will forward the completed certification documentation to the applicant.

On Road - Permit issued

The applicant will need to submit a PBS Permit application. A *PBS permit* will be issued accordingly.

The *PBS permit* will include the approved routes and specific operating conditions. Operating conditions may include the requirement for the vehicle to be monitored via the Intelligent Access Program (IAP).

Note: If there are any variations to the vehicle design that have occurred after an 'in-principle' approval has been issued, prior route assessments may no longer be valid and permits may not be issued.

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 Number	Description
D16#365314	WA PBS Scheme – Application and Approval Process
D16#365331	WA PBS Scheme – Standards and Vehicle Assessment Rules
D16#438044	WA PBS Scheme – Access Levels and Principles
D20#973455	WA PBS Scheme – Vehicle Access Agreement or In-principle Vehicle Design Approval Application
D20#857246	WA PBS Scheme – Assessment Results (Part A)
D20#857253	WA PBS Scheme – Vehicle Specifications (Part B)
D20#870678	WA PBS Scheme – Vehicle Certification Application
D20#774907	WA PBS Scheme – Vehicle Certification Rules
Form E82	Application for CEO Exemption (Department of Transport)
D20#676458	WA PBS Scheme – Permit Application
D20#836031	WA PBS Scheme – Manufacturer's Declaration for Towing vehicle
D20#840137	WA PBS Scheme – Manufacturer's Declaration for Trailer
D20#840795	WA PBS Scheme – Manufacturer's Identical Vehicle Declaration
D20#843374	WA PBS Scheme – Trailer Manufacturer Checklist
D17#492695	WA PBS Scheme – Audit Framework

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

Website: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

Telephone: 138 486

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 'In-principle' approval is sought, an application must be submitted.
- For *PBS Vehicle Access Agreements*, Main Roads may be required to conduct route assessments and consult with road managers. This process may take up to 3 months.
- For *In-principle Vehicle Design Approval* - Approximate timeframe is 1 week.

Step 2

- The applicant will engage an Approved PBS Assessor to conduct the PBS Assessment.
- The PBS Assessor will forward the completed PBS Assessment to Main Roads.
- Approximate timeframe - 1 week, depending on the Assessor's availability.

Step 3

- Main Roads will review the PBS Assessment and advise the Applicant and PBS Assessor of the outcome.
- Approximate timeframe - 1 week, provided all relevant information is supplied and the assessment meets all requirements.

Step 4

- Once the PBS Assessment is endorsed by Main Roads, a *PBS Vehicle Design Approval* will be issued.
- The applicant will apply to Department of Transport for a CEO Exemption, if required.
- Approximate timeframe - 1 week, provided all relevant information is supplied.

Step 5

- Once the vehicle is built, the applicant will request HVS conduct a vehicle certification. 4 weeks notice should be provided to ensure HVS availability.
- Approximate timeframe - 1 week.

Step 6

- The completed certification documentation will be forwarded to the applicant. The applicant can then submit a *PBS Permit Application Form*.
- A permit will be prepared and issued accordingly. If IAP is a requirement of the permit, this must be in place prior to the permit being issued.
- Approximate timeframe - 1 week.