Light vehicles defected for Vehicle Frontal Protection Systems

Purpose
This Authorised Inspection Scheme (AIS) Notice is to advise Authorised Unregistered Vehicle Inspection Scheme (AUVIS) examiners of the defect clearance inspection requirements applicable to vehicles defected for being fitted with a Vehicle Frontal Protection System (VFPS) eg bullbars, nudgebars or roobars.

The process described in this Notice applies to any vehicle not exceeding 4.5 tonne gross vehicle mass (GVM) fitted with a VFPS.

Vehicles issued with a Defect Notice for a VFPS, can only have the Defect Notice cleared by an AUVIS examiner.

Authorised Safety Check Inspection Scheme (ASCIS) examiners cannot clear a defect notice for a VFPS. If you are not an authorised AUVIS examiner you cannot clear this type of defect.

The information published in this AIS Notice forms part of the AIS Rules.

Background
All light vehicles in NSW must meet the requirements of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 Schedule 2, clause 25 (see Appendix A).

Australian Standard AS 4876.1 sets out the requirements for all types of VFPS and specifies road user protection criterion. AS 4876.1 provides general guidance for the design of VFPS but no detailed specifications. The standard relies on drawings to demonstrate how VFPS can comply with the intent of the standard.

In September 2014, the NSW Minister for Roads and Freight released a Ministerial Exemption Order to allow vehicles fitted with bullbars that do not necessarily comply with the applicable NSW Vehicle Standards, including AS 4876.1, to continue to be used on NSW roads for a two year exemption period*. The supporting document Bull bar tolerances and conditions – Applicable in NSW during the two year exemption period has been published by Transport for NSW to supplement the Order, and it gives clear advice and illustrated examples of the tolerances specified in the Schedule. The document is intended to be used by NSW Police and Roads and Maritime Services Officers, and may also be used by vehicle owners, to determine if their bullbar is covered by the Exemption Order.

*The exemption period has been extended to September 2017 to allow drivers to have their bullbar checked and if necessary, modified or replaced.

Defect Notice clearance method
If a vehicle is presented with a defect notice for a VFPS an AUVIS examiner must use the following procedure.

The AUVIS examiner must refer to the Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Centre for Road Safety (CfRS), publication, “Bull bar tolerances and conditions – Applicable in NSW during the two year exemption period”.
The link to this document is available through AIS online. This document can also be found at http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/bull-bar-tolerances.pdf

If the vehicle and VFPS meet the guidelines described in the TfNSW, CfRS, ‘Bull bar tolerances and conditions’ document, the defect may be cleared.

The AUVIS examiner must also:

- Inspect the vehicle in accordance with Rule No.105.04 of the AIS Rules
- Complete and file for audit purposes Appendix B checklist from the ‘Bull bar tolerances and conditions’ document as published by TfNSW (Appendix B of this Notice) and where possible, record any unique identifier or manufacturers serial number marked on the VFPS
- Either clear the defect if complying or, if non-complying, do not clear the defect.

If the defected vehicle does not comply with the applicable requirements of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 and/or does not meet the requirements in ‘Bull bar tolerances and conditions’ document as published by TfNSW, the defect cannot be cleared. The vehicle owner may wish to contact a Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS) licensed certifier for advice.

The VSCCS licensed certifier can advise if the VFPS can be modified to meet the requirements of AS 4876.1 and if the vehicle can comply with all applicable Australian Design Rules (ADRs). A compliance certificate may be issued once the vehicle with VFPS is deemed compliant. The certificate must identify all applicable vehicle standards and ADRs affected by the construction and fitting of the VFPS to the vehicle.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Roads and Maritime Technical Enquiries
PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124
E tech-enq@rms.nsw.gov.au | T 1300 137 302 | F 02 8837 0037
- Vehicle construction and registration requirements in NSW

SAI Global
E sales@saiglobal.com | T 131 242 | F 1300 65 49 49
- Australian Standard AS 4876.1 – 2002 ‘Motor vehicle frontal protection systems – Road user protection’
DEFECT NOTICE CLEARANCE (AUVIS Examiners only)

Does the bullbar meet the requirements in ‘Bull bar tolerances and conditions document’?

NO

Determine vehicle date of manufacture. Determine vehicle model.

Is the vehicle a model of a kind manufactured after 31/12/2002?

YES

Does the vehicle meet the requirements of Clause 25 (1), Schedule 2 of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007?

YES

Does the bullbar meet the requirements of AS4876.1-2002?

YES

Vehicle is compliant or complies with Exemption Order. Clear Defect.

NO

NO

Do not clear defect. Customer may wish to contact a VSCCS licensed certifier for further inspection and advice.
APPENDIX A
Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007, Schedule 2, Clause 25

25 Protrusions

(1) An object fitted to a vehicle must be designed, built and fitted to the vehicle in a way that minimises the likelihood of injury to a person making contact with the vehicle.

(2) However, subclause (1) does not apply to an object fitted to a vehicle if:
   (a) the vehicle was designed before 1965 and the object was part of the design of the vehicle, or
   (b) the object was fitted to the vehicle before 1965 in accordance with the law of the place where the object was fitted.

(3) A vehicle frontal protection system that is fitted on a motor vehicle that:
   (a) has a GVM not over 3.5 tonnes, and
   (b) is manufactured on or after 1 January 2003,
must comply with AS 4876.1–2002 Motor vehicle frontal protection systems—Road user protection (except clause 3.2).

(4) Subclause (3) does not apply to a vehicle frontal protection system fitted on a motor vehicle if the model of the vehicle is a model of a kind manufactured before 1 January 2003.

(5) In this clause:

vehicle frontal protection system means a structure fitted to the front of a vehicle to reduce damage to the vehicle structure and systems in the event of either a front-end impact or an animal strike.

Note. Examples of vehicle frontal protections systems are bullbars, roobars and nudge bars. Vehicle frontal protection systems may be fitted in front of, or in place of, vehicle bumpers.


Until 16 September 2016 a light vehicle fitted with a vehicle frontal protection system must comply with the applicable requirements of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 and/or must meet the requirements in ‘Bull bar tolerances and conditions’ document as published by Transport for NSW.

Subclause (4) means that if a manufacturer continued production of a model that was first introduced to the market prior to 1 January 2003 that model does not need to comply with AS 4876.1–2002 Motor vehicle frontal protection systems—Road user protection whilst production of that model continues. However, this vehicle must comply with ‘Bull bar tolerances and conditions’ document as published by Transport for NSW.

Examples of models where this applies are, but not limited to, Toyota Landcruiser 100 series and Toyota Landcruiser 105 series where the models were first introduced in 1998 and continued in production until 2007.
### Appendix B - Attachment to AIS Notice 23 ‘Light vehicles defected for Vehicle Frontal Protection Systems’

#### CHECKLIST for Vehicle Frontal Protection System (VFPS)  
**Ministerial Exemption Order** (photocopy as required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>(Yes/No/NA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Profile and Sharp Edges</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the topmost member no more than 75mm or 9° in front of the main VFPS supporting member or a horizontal member whose base is not more than 100mm above the supporting member?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the top and bottom ends of all vertical members curved rearwards?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are all forward facing members free of sharp edges?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do all flanges have chamfered or rounded edges?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the bumper or main horizontal support member capped or wrap around front of vehicle?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the bull bar free of open frames?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projections</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the VFPS is made from non-circular section members, is every vertical step along the top of the VFPS less than 100mm?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do all members project less than 50mm past intersections with other members?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are all brackets or other rigid components fitted behind the front face and below the top of the VFPS?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increased vehicle width</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the vehicle has mirrors fitted, as standard, on both sides of the vehicle, is the width of the VFPS less than the width of the vehicle including mirrors?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the vehicle does not have standard mirrors fitted on both sides of the vehicle, is the width of the VFPS less than the width of the vehicle plus 300mm?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the width of the VFPS and any attachment less than 2.5m?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
<td>(Yes/No/NA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obscured lights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are additional lights fitted to the VFPS, OR, are all vehicle lights unobscured by the VFPS (excluding minor obscurcation due to protective mesh)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Plate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the front number plate visible at all locations within a 45degree arc?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the number plate and any mounting hardware free of sharp edges?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward view of the road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does a tall driver in the rearmost driving position have an unobstructed view of the road at all points beyond 11m in front of them?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Clearance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are all points on the VFPS greater than 100mm above the ground?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does the vehicle satisfy every requirement and tolerance contained within the ministerial exemption order (all above answers must be Yes or N/A)

**VFPS identifier/serial number (if applicable)**

____________________________________________________

Signed ______________________________________________

Date ________________________________________________