

Guide to Notifiable Alteration – Motor Vehicle

This “Guide to Notifiable Alteration” is intended to provide guidance on the application procedures and the criteria for a notifiable alteration approval.

Definition

Notifiable Alteration means any alteration to a vehicle after type approval, or first registration, that would affect its safety and/or emission standards. Examples are alteration made on chassis frame, structure, steering, suspension, wheels, axles, braking system, allocated load carrying capacity and emission control system. Any alterations that would contravene with Road Traffic (Construction & Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations or Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations (Chapter 311J) shall not be considered.

Manufacturer means original manufacturer of the vehicle who is also responsible for the design of the vehicle for the stated use.

Authority

Road Traffic (Construction & Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations Chapter 374A;
Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations Chapter 311J;
Road Traffic Ordinance Chapter 374;
Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation Chapter 400I;

Criteria for Acceptance of Notifiable Alteration

1. Chassis Frame or Structure

- (a) No alteration which reduces or extends the wheel base will be considered without manufacturer’s approval and sufficient supporting evidence.
- (b) No extension, deletion or alteration including cutting, welding etc., which materially alters the chassis frame or structure or changes its torsional stiffness will be considered without manufacturer’s approval or sufficient supporting evidence.

2. Suspension

- (a) Subject to manufacturers approval and sufficient supporting evidence, alteration to suspension system of a vehicle will be considered if it would not result in a change of ground clearance.
- (b) Without contravening (a), original width, length of spring, number of spring leaves, coil spring

diameter, spring shackles and U-bolts, shock absorber, anti-roll bars may be altered with sufficient supporting evidence.

3. Wheel Tracks

- (a) Subject to sufficient supporting evidence, wheel track dimension measured between the centre of the tyre contact patches at ground level does not exceed that of the vehicle as originally manufactured by more than 25 mm.

4. Road Wheels & Tyres

- (a) Subject to sufficient supporting evidence, tyres of different sizes can be fitted but they must be designed for road use, be compatible with the road wheels, and be adequately load and speed rated for the vehicle in question.
- (b) If alternative wheels are fitted, there must be sufficient length available on each wheel retaining stud on which to fully engage the wheel nut and taper angles of wheels/nuts must be common.
- (c) No modification to the wheel rims by cutting/welding is allowed.
- (d) If fitted with alternative wheel, wheel/tyre must not foul any other parts of the vehicle under any conditions, or project beyond the extreme width of the mudguard or mudguard extension when in the straight ahead position.
- (e) Alteration of tyres and/or wheels must not result in any inaccuracy of the speedometer stipulated in Schedule 16 of Road Traffic (Construction & Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations Chapter 374A.

5. Braking System

- (f) Any alteration/addition/deletion of the braking system components such as reservoirs, servos, brake actuators, exhausters, compressors, control valves, pressure limiting valves, anti-lock braking system or any after-market product incorporated in the braking system will not be considered without prior approval from the vehicle manufacturer and sufficient supporting evidence.

6. Steering & Axles

- (a) Subject to manufacturers approval and sufficient supporting evidence, an alteration to the steering system arrangement will be considered based on the vehicle manufacturer's information.

- (b) Manufacturer's approval is required for alteration of steering gear, axles, hubs of a different design or load bearing capacity.
- (c) The diameter of any replacement steering wheel may be up to 25mm smaller than the original steering wheel, but must be not less than 350mm unless available from the manufacturer.

7. Exhaust Emission Equipment

Any change to the emission equipment originally fitted by the manufacturer or any alteration of the vehicle engine specifications in regard to exhaust emission, will only be considered if the vehicle will still comply with the requirements of the Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations Chapter 311J after the alteration.

8. Engines

May be changed for one of the same make, model and size, other changes are not normally permitted, unless strong supporting evidence is presented.

The above requirements are not exhaustive, consult the Do's & Don'ts list first, if in doubt seek advice.

Contact

- (i) For engine change contact :

Type Approval Section / Transport Department
1M/F, Transport Department Vehicle Examination Complex,
18 Sai Tso Wan Road, Tsing Yi, N.T
E-mail smta@td.gov.hk

Details information please refer to VSSD Notice - "Guide to Replacement of Engine".

- (ii) For notifiable alterations other than engine change contact :

SMTA / Type Approval Section
Transport Department
1M/F, Transport Department Vehicle Examination Complex,
18 Sai Tso Wan Road, Tsing Yi, N.T
E-mail smta@td.gov.hk

Please Supply :

- (a) Manufacturers/agents endorsement
- (b) Drawings/plans/catalogue of parts to be changes/altered
- (c) Copy of vehicle registration document