

Bull bars (Frontal Protection System)

Vehicle Standards - Light Vehicle Fact Sheet

MR 1505 2/14

Introduction

From 1 July 2013 all newly manufactured light vehicles with a bull bar fitted must comply with the Australian Standard for bull bars.

This means that all bull bars fitted to vehicles with a gross vehicle mass of less than 3.5 tonnes (manufactured on or after 1 July 2013) must conform to the shape of the vehicle. Over time, this will eliminate aggressive upright or forward facing bull bars from being fitted in South Australia. The Standard will not apply retrospectively to vehicles manufactured prior to 1 July 2013.

Requirements

Consistent with the Road Traffic (Light Vehicle Standards) Rules 2013 made under the Road Traffic Act 1961, it is a requirement that all bull bars fitted to vehicles manufactured on or after 1 July 2013 with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of not over 3.5 tonnes must comply with the design and installation requirements (except clause 3.2) of Australian Standard AS4876.1-2002 'Motor Vehicle Frontal Protection Systems Part 1 – Road User Protection'. In summary:

- The profile of the bull bar should follow that of the vehicle in plan, side and front view, and not extend excessively beyond the side profile of the vehicle.

- The bull bar must be designed and fitted so that the safety of the vehicle is not adversely affected. It must be firmly and securely mounted and supported, and must not constitute a danger to other road users.
- The bull bar and any fittings, hooks or attachments must not have any sharp edges, corners or protrusions. All exposed sections of the bull bar and fittings must be radius and deburred.
- The bull bar, together with its mountings and any winch or other equipment and fittings, must be taken into account for vehicle dimensions and shall not increase the overall width of the vehicle.

As per current requirements:

- Vehicles fitted with an airbag or manufactured to comply with Australian Design Rules (ADR) 69 or ADR 73 on Occupant Protection, can only be fitted with a bull bar which has been certified by the vehicle manufacturer as suitable for that vehicle, or has been demonstrated by the bull bar manufacturer to not adversely affect the vehicle's compliance with ADR 69 or ADR 73 or interfere with any critical air bag timing mechanism.
- Additional fittings such as driving lamp brackets, fishing rod holders or aerial mounting brackets must not protrude above the top or forward of the bull bar.

Further information

Call 1300 882 248

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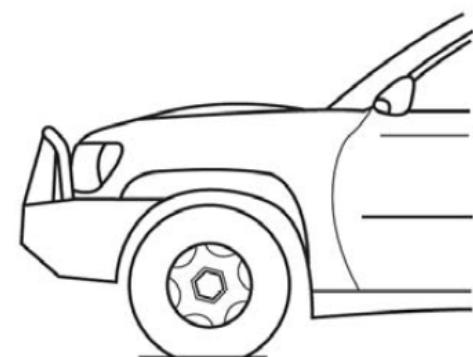


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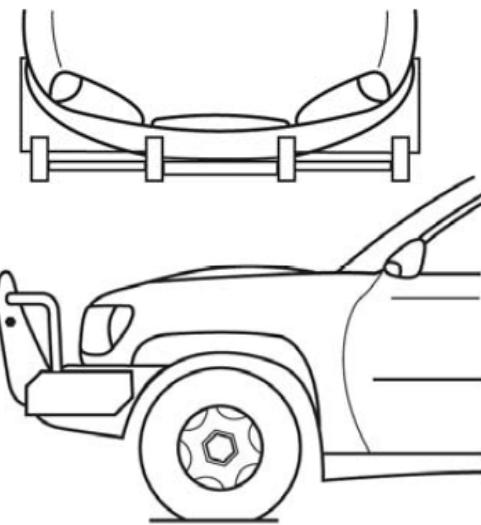
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Failure to comply

Vehicles with a GVM of not over 3.5 tonnes manufactured after 1 July 2013 with bull bars fitted that do not meet Australian Standard AS 4876.1 -2002 (clauses 1, 2, 3.1 excluding clause 3.2) may breach a vehicle standards requirement and contravene sections 117 and 118 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 and the vehicle's driver/operator may be summonsed to Court and face penalties or be issued with an expiation fee. Defect notices for deficiencies caused by a breach of a vehicle standards requirement, may be issued for such vehicles under section 145 of the Road Traffic Act 1961.



Acceptable



Not acceptable



Example of an acceptable bull bar



Example of a non acceptable bull bar

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Further information

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