

Mine Vehicle Fitouts – demystifying the rules, regulations & compliance issues

In the past the only thing that light vehicles on mine sites really needed to comply with in order to operate across Australia was the relevant Australian Design Rules and State Transport Regulations. As private organisations and corporations alike have placed a higher emphasis on worksite safety however, many private and corporate ‘Compliance Guidelines’ have been formulated to fill the ever growing void between Government regulation and what we now know to be ‘best practice’ for the situations these vehicles are to be used within.

Out of the various ‘Equipment Compliance Guidelines’ that have been developed over the last few years it has been the mine related ‘BMA Compliance System’ that has shown itself to be both the leader in developing and monitoring of vehicle compliance as well as possibly causing the most confusion or uncertainty for Fleet Managers, Dealers and their customers.

This document aims to serve as an overview (as at the 1st of December 2011) of what is required for compliance under this system, specifically relating to Light Vehicles (under 4.5t GVM). It is accompanied with an easy to use compliance checklist to be used by any person specifying vehicle fitouts that will ultimately end up on BMA worksite or any other worksite for which the BMA ‘standards’ are deemed sufficient.

As an overview this document does not contain or aim to replace the full details of the BMA Compliance Guidelines, it is itself only a guide to assist with the understanding of what to look out for and to help with the accurate specification of appropriate vehicles.

Process to follow in the quotation and delivery of vehicles to ‘BMA standard’:

- 1. Read this document**
- 2. Use checklist when discussing vehicles with customer**
- 3. Gather quote/s for fitout of vehicle**
- 4. Check quote against up to date BMA Compliance Guidelines**
- 5. Fitout of vehicle**
- 6. Vehicle assessed and fitted with Equipment Compliance Sticker**
- 7. Vehicle used on worksite for 1 year before requiring re-assessment**

Visit this website for up to date Compliance Guidelines:

www.fleetfit.com.au/mining.html

IMPORTANT: Authorised Inspection Centres – Your supplier is your choice!

Around Australia there are a limited number of BMA Authorised Inspection Centres that are responsible for ensuring vehicles meet ‘BMA standards’ prior to a vehicle arriving at the gate of a mine site. Despite the relatively small number of ‘Authorised Centres’ there are literally thousands of suppliers and contractors who prepare vehicles prior to them entering BMA sites. Please remember that despite the myths you don’t need to have your work done by a supplier who is also an Authorised Inspection Center, you can have it done anywhere you’d like and your choice of supplier will then be able to organise for it to be inspected at a centre prior to returning the vehicle to you.

Alternatively you can have the vehicle inspected yourself.

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What does a vehicle need to have as a minimum to be BMA compliant?

Minimum requirements for the standard vehicle prior to even being considered for fitout:

- Must have a driver's Side Airbag
- The vehicle must be white
- It must be able to pass a basic brake function test
- It must be registered before a BMA Compliance inspection can take place
- Exhaust system to be secure and free of leaks
- Horn must be operational
- Tyres and wiper blades must be in good condition

Accessories that must be added to the vehicle at the time of fitout:

- Mine compliant 2-way radio/antenna system that is capable of voting. Approved radios to be confirmed with Electrical Engineering Manager on the site.
- Cargo barrier if a vehicle other than Cab Chassis. Load guard for utilities is recommended.
- Compliance plate for any change of use or modification such as long range fuel tank. Items such as tanks, ROPS, GVM upgrades all require compliance plates.
- Elevated tail lights, brake lights, indicators & flashing/rotating amber beacon & reverse alarm (reverse lights optional).
- At least 1 Fire Extinguisher (if not a Fire Suppression System)
 - o Station Wagons & Sedans: Minimum of 1kg (Dry Chemical Powder) mounted in the boot compartment behind barrier
 - o Cab Chassis: Minimum of 2.2kg (DCP) mounted in rear of vehicle
 - o Note: Some other sites may say minimum of 4.5kg
- High visibility flag that when fitted to the front of the vehicle is between 3.4m and 4.2m from the ground and contains reflective material.
- A 'Jump Start Receptacle'
 - o Can be Anderson 175amp (12/24v)
 - o or 350amp Anderson/CAT
- Daytime running lights with relay are optional but preferred.
- Must have 'Positive ID' signage (can be magnetic):
 - o Radio call sign on both sides of the vehicle
 - o Letters/numbers must be yellow on black background and 'Helvetica Narrow Bold' typeface
 - o Minimum letter height of 200mm and 40mm thick
 - o Max 3 alpha & 3 numeric
- Vehicle must have reflective yellow tape both sides – 50mmW x 2 meters L.

- Roll Over Protection System (ROPS) must be fitted to 4WD & AWD vehicles as well as 2WD vehicles carrying from 8-20 people unless exempted.
- ROPS must comply with LH8 QLD Government Specification document.
- Must have a Starter Motor Isolator that still allows 'accessories' such as lights & radios to be powered by the "Accessory" position from the vehicles ignition system.
- Must have safety control triangles or beacons & high visibility vest.
- Must have wheel nut indicators and appropriate wheels.
- Must have wheel chocks.
- Must have a suitable first aid kit that is matched to where the vehicle is being used:
 - o Level 1 - Metro/onsite kit: See guidelines for more information
 - o Level 2 – Offsite/outside kit: See guidelines for more information
 - o Level 3 – Remote offsite kit: See guidelines for more information

Extra Requirements that must be in/on the vehicle at the time the BMA inspection takes place:

- All loads in utilities need to be restrained. May require net, straps and tie-down rings etc
- Any additional items in the vehicle such as generators, compressors or other equipment need to meet additional BMA compliance guidelines and must have approvals at time of inspection.
- Emergency procedures displayed on inside of windscreen or copies readily available
(We can supply should you not have your own).
- 'Equipment Declaration/Inspection Request' form must be pre-filled (We can help with this process).
- A copy of the vehicle registration certificate must be with the vehicle. (Not just the rego sticker).
- The vehicle must have passed a 'Brake Function Test' and have the documentation to prove it. (This is normally organised by us at the time of fitout).
- A pre-start/operation safety procedure check book must be with the vehicle. (We can supply should you not have your own).
- A copy of the vehicle's service log book showing service history must be up to date.
- All safety items must be in/on the vehicle at time of inspection.
- Radio's must be pre-programmed in accordance with the sites they are to go on to.
- A unique ID number will be obtained and displayed as soon as sent by BMA after inspection is passed.
ID number issued by BMA (only for BMA sites).
- If approved towing hitch is required there are other relevant guidelines to be taken into consideration.

- If approved for towing vehicles are to be fitted with approved pintle hook, pin & clevis, ring feeder or other suitable devices. Private (standard) tow bars are ok to be fitted but are never approved for use on sites.

It's not that hard, and we are here to help you...

We can work in with you to help make this entire process as smooth as possible. Our staff can help step you, your staff or your customer through the section from specification through to compliance or even organise the vehicle to have additional work done to it by other suppliers prior to you receiving it back and ready to go.

For more information or a no obligation quotation please contact us on the phone numbers or email addresses below.

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