



# Frequently asked questions on the pre-1989 scheme

## What vehicles qualify under the scheme?

The pre-1989 scheme allows for the concessional importation of motor vehicles manufactured before 1 January 1989.

## What is the purpose of the scheme?

The pre-1989 scheme is designed to cater for the importation of older enthusiast, classic or historic motor vehicles – for example, vehicles destined for restoration and hobby use, whether by an individual owner or within a car club. The scheme permits the importation of these types of vehicles outside of normal certification arrangements.

## How do I determine a vehicle's date of manufacture?

A variety of evidence can potentially be used by applicants to establish that a vehicle was manufactured prior to 1 January 1989. This includes:

- the fact that the vehicle is an obsolete make or model, where the production run ceased prior to 1 January 1989 (such as a Model T Ford);
- the structure of the vehicle identification number (VIN). Some VINs include a code for the vehicle's model year;
- a copy of the vehicle's registration or purchase documents; or
- a statement from the manufacturer.

For example, US vehicles (manufactured after 31 August 1969) typically have a certification label or tag affixed by the manufacturer that specifies the date of manufacture (month and year). For cars, the label is generally affixed to the hinge pillar, the door-latch post or the door edge next to the driver's seating position. Older US vehicles may have an equivalent style of plate.

## **Does the scheme apply to converted vehicles (such as replica cars and hot rods)?**

If a vehicle has been converted after original manufacture, the date of manufacture is taken to be the later date of conversion.

A vehicle is converted if different body shell or powertrain assemblies – that are outside original specifications – are joined. These types of newly manufactured vehicles do not qualify under the scheme.

A popular type of conversion is the production of replica cars from components of different makes or models. Another popular type of conversion is the conversion of a passenger sedan into a drag racing car or a hot rod. Vehicles can also be modified to change their carrying capacity. An example is the conversion of a Hummer into a stretch Hummer.

## **Why are converted vehicles not available for importation?**

Vehicle conversion is based on the concept of manufacture (or, in this case, re-manufacture). The pre-1989 scheme is designed to cover older historic and enthusiast vehicles and not newly manufactured vehicles.

If a vehicle has been so substantially modified as to constitute a newly manufactured vehicle – and the date of re-manufacture is 1 January 1989 or later – then the vehicle does not qualify for concessional importation under the pre-1989 scheme.

For example, it is feasible for newly manufactured vehicles to be constructed to meet Australian safety and emission standards, and for the vehicles to be handled via normal certification arrangements. Used vehicles could be imported under the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme (RAWS). Under RAWS, approved workshops modify vehicles to bring them to Australian safety and emission standards as far as practicable.

## **Is it possible for a converted vehicle to qualify under the pre-1989 scheme?**

Yes, if the conversion was completed before 1 January 1989.

A variety of evidence can potentially be used by applicants to establish that the date of conversion was before 1 January 1989. For example, a copy of the vehicle's registration documents may show that the vehicle was in its current form pre-1989. Evidence may be available that the vehicle was exhibited in its current form (eg, exhibited as a hot rod) pre-1989. Alternatively, a certified statement from the vehicle converter or previous owner may be used to establish the date of conversion.

## **How do I apply under the scheme?**

To apply for a vehicle import approval under the pre-1989 scheme, you should provide to the Department:

- a completed application form;
- the \$50 application fee;
- a copy of the purchase document for the vehicle;

- if the vehicle's date of manufacture is unclear – additional supporting documentation to establish the date of manufacture;
- if you have not applied within the previous 12 months – a copy of your picture ID;
- a recent photo of the vehicle (in its current condition); and
- if the vehicle has been the subject of a vehicle conversion – supporting documentation to establish the details of the conversion and the date the conversion was completed.

Applications may be submitted to the Department by email, fax or mail.

### **For further details**

Please see the Department's information brochure, available from the Department's website at [www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle\\_regulation/bulletin/importing\\_vehicles/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/importing_vehicles/index.aspx).