Exemption from registration for light vehicles driven for inspection or testing

Purpose

To inform RTA recognised engineering signatories of circumstances in which light vehicles are exempt from registration provisions when being driven for the purposes of obtaining registration.

Background

Clause 17 Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 provides that a registrable vehicle is exempt from registration 'while it is being driven for the purpose of obtaining registration of the vehicle by the most direct or convenient route:

(a) To the nearest convenient motor registry, or
(b) To the nearest convenient vehicle inspection station or authorised inspection station to determine whether the registrable vehicle complies with the applicable vehicle standards for that vehicle, or
(c) In the course of inspection or testing of the motor vehicle for the purpose of making the determination referred to in (b)…'

Road testing of vehicles by recognised signatories

Recognised engineering signatories are covered by subclause (c) for driving to and from the office of a recognised signatory for the purpose of road testing unregistered vehicles on public roads prior to application for registration. There is no restriction as to who drives the vehicle when it is exempt from registration, except the usual restrictions to appropriately licensed drivers.

The same exemption, however, does not currently apply to heavy vehicles returning from a registration or inspection location, except for the purpose of obtaining an unregistered vehicle permit by the most direct or convenient route.
Implementation date
Immediately