

Light Vehicle Wheelchair Ramp Gradient Option

This information bulletin provides key information regarding the acceptable wheelchair ramp gradient interim arrangements applicable to modified light motor vehicles.

A light motor vehicle has a Gross Vehicle Mass rating not exceeding 4.5 tonnes.

Australian Standard AS3856.2.2021 Wheelchair ramp gradient

The installation of wheelchair ramps to light vehicles requires certification by a Tasmanian Approved Vehicle Certifier.

This certification includes establishing compliance to modification code R2 of Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6, also referred to as VSB6. Compliance with Australian Standard AS3856.2.2021 Hoists and ramps for people with disabilities – Vehicle fitted, Part 2: Fitting requirements is also a key component of VSB6 code R2.

Published on 30 April 2021, this current edition of the Australian Standard requires a wheelchair ramp gradient to comply with a gradient of 1 in 6. The previous edition included an option of a 1 in 4 gradient when the 1 in 6 was not practical.

When applied to light vehicles, this change has affected the range of vehicles suitable for modification to wheelchair accessibility, application of existing designs and product availability.

A proposal has been submitted to Standards Australia to consider restoring the previous edition wheelchair ramp gradient options. In anticipation for this to be implemented, alternative arrangements have been approved for use in Tasmania, consistent with other jurisdictions.

Alternative gradient option

In Tasmania, an approved alternative until 1 July 2024, when certifying installation of a wheelchair ramp, the 1 in 4 gradient may be accepted to a deployed vehicle mounted wheelchair ramp fitted to a light motor vehicle when a 1 in 6 gradient is not practical. All other requirements of Australian Standard AS3856.2:2021 and VSB6 code R2 apply.

When certifying the installation of a wheelchair ramp to a light vehicle, from 1 July 2024, the Approved Vehicle Certifier must establish the gradient of the deployed vehicle mounted ramp is no steeper than the gradient specified in the version of AS3856 current at the time of the vehicle's modification. All other relevant requirements of VSB6 code R2 must be established as part of the certification process.

Additional information.

Vehicle Standard Bulletin 6 and modification code R2, wheelchair loader installation information is available from the following link.

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/vehicle-standards-and-modifications/vehicle-standards-bulletin-6>

Approved Vehicle Certifiers, their contact details and range of authorisations are available from:

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicles_and_vehicle_inspections/modification_inspections_avcais

For more information contact:

Department of State Growth
Vehicle Registration and Standards
GPO Box 536
Hobart TAS 7001 Phone: (03) 03 6166 3263
Email: vehicle_standards@stategrowth.tas.gov.au
Web: www.transport.tas.gov.au

