

Vehicle Standards Instruction (M4.1)

Motorcycle Mudguard Requirements

Released October 2014

Revised November 2014

Recently, the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development made changes to the mudguard standards for new motorcycles, removing the requirement that normally led to manufacturers fitting a 'mudguard extension'.

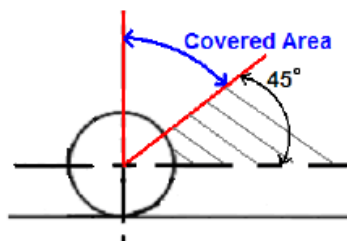
Since this change was made, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has received a number of enquiries from the owners of motorcycles who want to remove the mudguard extension. To make sure this is done properly, Transport and Main Roads has produced this vehicle standards instruction which explains the changes that have been made and what you will need to do if you choose to change your motorcycle in line with the revised Australian Design Rule (ADR).



What has changed?

Previous version of the ADR

Under the previous version of the ADR, the mudguard fitted to the rear wheel of a motorcycle had to meet the following requirement.



To satisfy the requirement, manufacturers would often fit a mudguard extension.

Revised version of the ADR

Under the revised version of the ADR, the mudguard on the rear axles must continue to :

- cover the entire width of the tyre; and
- protect other road users, as far as practicable, against thrown-up stones, mud, ice, snow and water; and
- reduce the dangers due to contact with the moving wheels.

The 45° angle requirement has been removed.

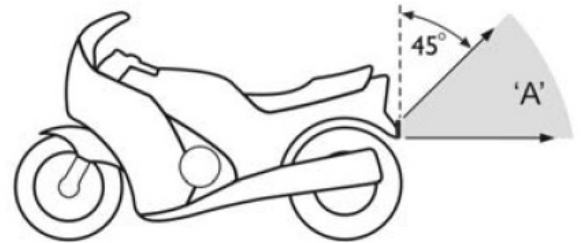
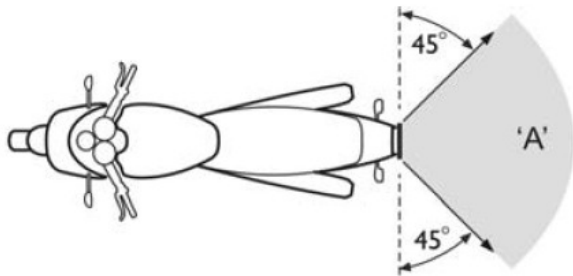
What does this mean for my motorcycle?

If you have a motorcycle that was built to meet the previous version ADR, Transport and Main Roads **recommends** that you do not modify the mudguards or remove the mudguard extension fitted, as this configuration will still comply with all the current requirements.

However, if it can be determined that the mudguard extension was only fitted to your motorcycle so that it met the 45° angle requirement, it may be removed. If the extension is removed, there are a few simple rules you have to follow to make sure your motorcycle stays compliant:

- Only the mudguard extension may be removed. No other part of the body or mudguard may be removed from the vehicle.
- Any lights or reflectors that are mounted to the mudguard extension must be re-installed on the motorcycle in a way that meets the vehicle standards.

- The remaining mudguard (which may include part of the motorcycle's body that acts as a mudguard) must cover the entire width of the tyre.
- If the number plate for the motorcycle was attached to the mudguard extension, it must be remounted and continue to meet the number plate mounting requirements.



• **The number plate must be visible from 20m at all points within the arcs marked 'A'**

If you are thinking of making any other modification to the mudguard of your motorcycle, other than removing the mudguard extension, you should first talk to an Approved Person (Engineer) who can help you ensure your motorcycle remains safe and compliant. If you need contact details for an Approved Person (Engineer) in your area, you can contact us on 13 23 80.

Driving/riding or parking a defective vehicle

Modifying a vehicle in a way that adversely affects its safety, or driving or parking an unsafe vehicle on a road, are breaches of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*.

Further Information

Vehicle operators seeking technical advice on vehicle modifications should contact an Approved Person. For contact details for an Approved Persons in your area, please contact TMR on 13 23 80.

Should an Approved Person require further assistance, they should contact Vehicle Standards and Modification Advice