

Approval to drive an unregistered vehicle participating in the 2026 Red CentreNATS

Temporary Licence issued under the *NT Motor Vehicles Act 1949*

Purpose

To establish terms, conditions and guidelines for the issue of Temporary Licences, under the Northern Territory *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, for unregistered vehicles entered in the 2026 Red CentreNATS.

The establishment of these terms, conditions and guidelines is necessary to allow a reasonable deviation in compliance from standard road registered vehicles, whilst still ensuring that vehicles are safe and present a minimal risk to occupants and road users.

Requirements, access and conditions

All vehicles need to:

- Meet the national vehicle safety standards (Australian Design Rules (ADRs)) and be unmodified or have approved modifications within the scope of the National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (VSB14)

[Vehicle Standards Bulletin 14 \(VSB 14\) | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

or

- Meet the “Minimum Requirements” as listed in this document which are aimed at mitigating (as much as possible) any increased risk to road safety presented by vehicles which don’t comply with all the requirements of the national vehicle safety standards (ADRs).

Additional conditions of use may also be applied, which are tailored to suit the specific vehicle. For example: this could include requiring a vehicle with a driver vision obstruction to have a passenger at all times; excluding vehicles with low ground clearance from traveling on certain roads; restricting vehicles with poor lighting to daylight use only etc.

Vehicles will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, as they will all vary, and a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate, conditions will be applied if necessary to mitigate a specific identified risk.

All Temporary Licences will confine the vehicle to routes within the greater Alice Springs area, please see separate route maps that apply. Issuing a Temporary Licence includes the payment of a Compulsory Motor Accident Contribution.

Off-road vehicle entrants (non-production vehicle based) should contact the event organisers for information on eligibility requirements prior to seeking approval for a Temporary Licence.

Conditions placed on the use of unregistered vehicles may reduce but cannot fully mitigate the risk of increased injury to occupants and other road users (particularly pedestrians or cyclists) as the result of a crash compared with an ADR compliant vehicle. In addition, highly modified and high-powered vehicles may also present an increased risk to other road users regardless of any conditions placed on their use, if

driven irresponsibly. If a driver of a vehicle fails to comply with the conditions imposed as part of a Temporary Licence, the Temporary Licence will no longer be valid.

All NT traffic laws, including compliance with speed limits, whether permanent or temporary, will apply to the drivers, including the provisions of the NT anti-hooning laws. Driving a vehicle in contravention to any of the Temporary Licence operating conditions imposed (including driving off an approved route) will result in the vehicle being deemed to be unregistered with the driver committing the offence of driving an unregistered vehicle.

Temporary Licences for unregistered vehicles under the Northern Territory *Motor Vehicles Act* will allow for their use on specific roads as follows:

- Production vehicles which comply with national vehicle safety standards (Australian Design Rules (ADRs)) and are unmodified or have approved modifications within the scope of the National Code of Practice for Light Vehicle Construction and Modification (VSB14) may obtain a Temporary Licence with access to all roads within the greater Alice Springs area.
- Vehicles that meet the “Minimum Requirements” below and do not have any specific operating conditions applied to their use may obtain a Temporary Licence limiting travel to the “Town Cruise Route”. Vehicles will be allowed on the “Town Cruise Route” between the hours of 8:00am and 10:00pm, including returning directly from one of the venues to their accommodation. For use after sunset, vehicles must be fitted with lighting meeting the intent of the ADRs.
- Vehicles which meet the “Minimum Requirements” below that have Specific Conditions placed on their use or other conditions as determined by the “Chief Steward” and/or Registrar of Motor Vehicles may obtain a Temporary Licence limiting travel to the “Restricted Cruise Route”. Vehicles will be allowed on the “Restricted Cruise Route” between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm.

Minimum requirements for unregistered vehicles

- Vehicles must not exceed maximum dimensional limits of 2.5m wide; 12.5m length and 4.3m high.
- Tyres to be road legal including having legal tread and tread depth, 1.5mm minimum on the surfaces, which normally contact the road.
- Vehicle to have minimum of 80mm ground clearance within 1 metre of an axle and/or less than one-thirtieth of the distance between the centres of adjacent axles at the midpoint between them.
- Vehicle to have a complete exhaust system (i.e. exhaust to include mufflers and exhaust to extend to the rear axle as a minimum).
- Any exposed exhaust pipe, e.g. side pipes, to be shielded.
- Vehicles not to exceed a maximum exhaust noise of 115db (A).
- Any moving or rotating components, e.g. supercharger pulleys or belts, exposed or protruding through the bonnet are to be adequately covered by a guard or shield.
- Any hole cut in the bonnet or other external body panels are not to have sharp edges.
- Vehicle must be able to turn in a circle not over 25 metres in diameter.

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- Vehicle to be fitted with operating seatbelts in all positions in which driver or passenger(s) is/are seated, either standard production items or appropriately complying restraints where the vehicle has been modified.
- No standing positions.
- Vehicle to be fitted with operating brakes on all wheels which comply with the performance requirements as detailed in Rule 128 of the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules, <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/MOTOR-VEHICLES-STANDARDS-REGULATIONS--AUSTRALIAN-VEHICLE-STANDARDS-RULES>
- Appropriate rear-view vision, operating brake lights, indicators and horn to be fitted.

Specific operating conditions that may be applied

- Vehicles with a driver vision obstruction e.g. scoop or supercharger, which obstructs clear view, will be required to have a passenger at all times when driving on the “Restricted Cruise Route” and may be restricted to daylight use only.
- Vehicles with low ground clearance i.e. 80 – 85mm will be restricted from traveling on certain roads (subject to finalisation of the cruise routes by the road owner).
- Vehicles with poor or no lighting will be restricted to daylight use only. These vehicles must have operating brake and indicator lights.
- Vehicles emitting exhaust noise levels over 96db (A) will be limited to the “Restricted Cruise Route” during daylight hours. Additionally, for vehicles with exhaust noise levels over 100db, time restrictions may apply. Drivers to ensure that exhaust noise is kept to a minimum.
- Vehicles, which are not based on a production vehicle, are individually constructed or fabricated using a full or partial chassis, but which meet the “Minimum Requirements”, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis with access and conditions determined accordingly.
- Vehicles fitted with items considered to be “race car equipment” e.g. wheelie bars, parachutes etc. which are seen to be a hazard will require the items to be removed and/or disabled.
- Vehicles fitted with permanently locked differentials will be restricted to daylight use only on the “Restricted Cruise Route” and must not exceed a maximum speed of 80 km/h.

Note:

The above list of additional conditions is not exhaustive and specific operating conditions not listed may be placed on a vehicle to mitigate a specific identified risk on a case-by-case basis and this may include a zero-blood alcohol limit for drivers of some vehicles.

A Temporary Licence for participation in The Red CentreNATS does not imply or guarantees the safety of drivers, passengers or vehicles. Use of the vehicle recorded, under the Temporary Licence, is solely the responsibility of and at the discretion of the entrant, no responsibility or liability for damage caused to the vehicle will be taken by The Red CentreNATS, NT Government, Council or other Competent Authorities.

Street cruising would be likely to fit within the provisions of the *Motor Accident (Compensation) Act* and attract coverage. However, under the *Motor Accident (Compensation) Act* the Commissioner oversees the operation of the compensation scheme and in the event of an accident involving injury or death will determine whether any resultant claim is payable.