



## Introduction;

Adaptive control modifications are changes to a vehicle to assist a person with disabilities to drive the vehicle.

These are tailored to suit the individual driver's capacity to operate the vehicle controls and are dependent on advice and recommendations of an occupational therapist or medical practitioner specific to the driver.

## Current Position;

All adaptive control modifications such as left foot accelerators, steering wheel spinner knobs and control extensions etc. require modification certification by an authorised AVC, and a modification plate issued.

A spinner knob is a steering wheel mounted driver aid to enable a driver to steer the vehicle with one hand due to impaired hand function.

## Changes;

A review of adaptive controls and certification requirements of different types of adaptive control devices has been performed.

To assist motorists that are deemed by an occupational therapist or medical practitioner to require an adaptive control that consists only of a steering wheel spinner knob, the certification requirements have been relaxed subject to conditions.

These changes will be incorporated into the Vehicle Modification Certification Manual in its next revision.

## Action;

Subject to the safety related conditions listed over page, the fitment of a basic steering aid such as a steering wheel mounted spinner knob (one that can easily be applied/removed) does not require certification from the date of issue of this SIB.

## Conditions;

That the spinner knob;

- fitment is from documented recommendations of an occupational therapist or medical practitioner;
- installation of the steering wheel spinner knob does not affect the operation of the supplementary restraint system (air bag operation) or continued compliance with Australian Design Rules;
- device (including mounting bracket) must be mounted in a location and manufactured from a material designed to reduce the risk of a driver's head strike in the event of impact;
- the edges feature appropriate radius to limit the potential to foul with clothing such as sleeve cuffs etc.
- at a minimum, the spinner knob or bracket, must be capable of removal (without the use of tools) when not required by another driver with no protrusions evident.
- where the spinner knob is removable from the mounting bracket, the bracket must not feature any metallic protrusions beyond the steering wheel rim perimeter.
- the device is of a commercial standard being manufactured by a reputable manufacturer with quality assurance measures in place;
- is the only adaptive control fitted and does not include other vehicle controls; and,
- if a steering wheel mounted spinner knob is fitted in addition to other types of adaptive controls, the spinner knob must be certified in conjunction with the other adaptive controls installed.

## Questions?

Any further questions regarding this Special Information Bulletin should be directed to Vehicle Standards on [vehiclestandards@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:vehiclestandards@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) or ph. 6166 3263.