

Automated Driving System (ADS) permit scheme

Information for permit applicants, permit holders and vehicle supervisors

This document provides an overview of the Automated Driving System (ADS) permit scheme and provides information about the application process, permit conditions and what happens during an ADS trial

ADS permit scheme

The ADS permit scheme is designed to authorise the use of automated vehicles in automated mode in an ADS trial, while ensuring that their operation is conducted safely and with appropriate oversight.

This document provides information for potential permit applicants, permit holders and vehicle supervisors, and is intended to complement the Victorian Guidelines for Automated Vehicle Trials (Guidelines).

Information in this document is a guide only, and is not intended to affect, limit or remove any obligations that may be applicable to ADS trials and their participants.

Safety Management Plans

All applications for an ADS permit must include a copy of a safety management plan that complies with the Guidelines.

Part 4 of the Guidelines provides the key areas that must be addressed. These include:

- Safety risks
- Pre-trial testing
- System failures
- Transition processes between the ADS and vehicle supervisor
- Road infrastructure
- Dynamic driving task competence
- Compliance with relevant road traffic laws
- Interaction with police officers and other emergency services
- Managing change
- Risks to other road users
- Security and privacy
- Fitness for duty
- Training of vehicle supervisors

Insurance

All ADS trials must be covered by insurance against public liability for personal injury or damage to property in connection with the ADS trial.

In addition, each automated vehicle used in a trial must be covered by Compulsory Third-Party (CTP) personal injury insurance.

Australian registered vehicles should already have this cover. However, if you intend to use an unregistered or imported vehicle in your trial, you will need to

obtain this cover separately. How this is obtained will depend on the circumstances. If you are unsure, please contact us.

There may also be additional insurance requirements applicable to your trial. You should refer to Part 3 of the Guidelines for more information.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for an ADS permit, you must be:

- the holder of a full Australian driver licence; or
- a corporation within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth); and
 - not insolvent within the meaning of section 95A of that Act; or
 - an externally administered body corporate within the meaning of that Act.

Vehicle requirements

Automated vehicles used in an ADS trial on a road or road related area must be registered (in Australia or overseas).

If you intend to use an unregistered vehicle, you will require a UVP (fees apply). Please contact us for further information about the requirements to obtain a UVP.

If the vehicle has been modified, is not registered, or has been imported specifically for use in an ADS trial, you should contact us as early as possible as additional approvals may be required.

ADS permit application

To apply for an ADS permit, you must complete an ADS permit application form and attach the required supporting documentation.

The information required as part of an application for an ADS permit will be used to determine your eligibility, as well as any conditions to which a permit may be subject, in addition to the general conditions that apply to all ADS permits.

Further details about the information that is required to be provided as part of an application can be found under Part 3 of the Guidelines.

ADS permit application review

When we receive your application, it will be reviewed to ensure it is complete. If we require additional information regarding any element of the application, we will contact you.

Once we are satisfied that the application is complete, we will liaise with key government stakeholders as required.

If a decision is made to approve your application, we will determine the conditions to which the permit will be subject during this process.

We will then provide you with an opportunity to review the proposed conditions. Once all parties agree, we will issue you an ADS permit.

ADS permit documents

An ADS permit document will be issued to the permit holder and to each vehicle supervisor.

The permit document issued to the permit holder will contain the permit holder's details, a list of all vehicles and vehicle supervisors, as well as all conditions to which the permit is subject.

Each vehicle supervisor will be issued an ADS permit document containing a list of all automated vehicles that person is authorised to supervise and all permit conditions.

Unless otherwise specified, an identifying document will be issued for each automated vehicle authorised under the permit, which is to be displayed on the vehicle at all times. Refer to the permit conditions for further information.

ADS permit conditions

All ADS permits will be subject to conditions. These conditions are to ensure that ADS trials are conducted safely.

Permit conditions are separated into seven categories:

- General conditions
- Vehicle supervisor
- Automated vehicle
- Records and monitoring
- Reporting
- End of trial
- Additional conditions

Unless otherwise specified in the permit, the following conditions will apply to all permits.

General conditions

General conditions form the foundation of all permit conditions. These are intended to ensure the overall trial is managed safely.

For the duration of the ADS permit, permit holders must:

- maintain a safety management plan
- maintain current insurance against public liability for personal injury or damage to property and any other insurance policies we require to comply with the Guidelines
- ensure that all relevant permits, approvals, accreditation or consents have been obtained prior to conducting the ADS trial and remain in place for the period of the ADS trial
- ensure that no penalties in respect of the use of the automated vehicle are outstanding
- comply with the requirements of the *Road Safety Act 1986* and the regulations and rules made under the Act.

Vehicle supervisor conditions

The following conditions will apply to all vehicle supervisors:

- vehicle supervisors must have the applicable ADS permit document in their possession at

all times while driving or in charge of the automated vehicle

- vehicle supervisors must comply with the requirements of the Road Safety Act 1986 and the regulations and rules made under the Act
- vehicle supervisors must comply with the conditions of the permit.

Automated vehicle conditions

The following conditions apply to the use of all automated vehicles specified in an ADS permit:

- the automated vehicle(s) must only be used on a road or road related area in connection with the activities specified in the permit, and in accordance with the safety management plan
- the automated vehicle(s) must only be used in automated mode on a road or road related area in accordance with any Traffic Management Plan relating to the permit
- the automated vehicle(s) must only be used in automated mode within the ADS's operational design domain
- the document, mark or symbol issued by us must be displayed to the lower left or near side portion of the front windscreen of the vehicle, or to any fixed window on the left or near side of the vehicle. If the vehicle has no windows, it must be displayed in accordance with conditions specified in the permit

Records, monitoring and reporting

As an ADS permit holder, you will have certain information and reporting obligations during an ADS trial. Some of these requirements will be conditions of the permit, while others will be an obligation under law.

For information regarding these requirements, refer to Part 5 of the Guidelines.

Additional conditions

All permits will be subject to additional conditions depending on the nature of the automated vehicle(s) and ADS trial.

For example, conditions will specify the roads, areas, and circumstances in which the automated vehicle(s) may be used in automated mode.

Other conditions may relate to the vehicle supervisor or the automated vehicle(s).

During an ADS trial

Permit holders and vehicle supervisors must continue to comply with all permit conditions.

Unless otherwise specified, ADS permits will be restricted to the category of vehicle for which the application relates. For example, if you apply for a permit to trial a passenger car, your permit will only authorise the use of a passenger car.

If you intend to use more than one category of automated vehicle as part of your trial, you will need to indicate this in your application.

Changes during an ADS trial

You may apply to have the conditions reviewed at any time by submitting an application to vary the permit. This could include:

- adding or removing automated vehicles
- adding or removing vehicle supervisors
- adding, removing or amending permit conditions

In the case of additional categories, this will likely require your safety management plan to be amended to account for the changes in safety risks.

Contact us if you have any enquires during your trial.

Issues during an ADS trial

During an ADS trial, ADS permits may be varied, suspended or cancelled for safety and security reasons.

Automatic suspensions

An ADS permit is suspended, effective immediately, if we are advised by the permit holder, any vehicle supervisor, or a police officer that:

- an automated vehicle used in the trial has been stolen or carjacked

- the automated driving system in any automated vehicle used in the trial has been tampered with, or accessed, varied, impaired or overridden without authority.

The permit and the trial will remain suspended until we are satisfied that the vehicle has been recovered, and any issues have been resolved, assessed and made safe.

Refer to the Guidelines for information on security and privacy and other serious incidents.

Other issues during an ADS trial

If we become aware of any safety or security issues that arise during an ADS trial, we may vary, suspend or cancel an ADS permit. Examples include:

- A failure to comply with a condition of a permit
- An offence under the *Road Safety Act 1986*, or the regulations or Road Rules, committed by the permit holder or vehicle supervisor in an automated vehicle(s)
- Unpaid fines
- Permit holder is no longer eligible to hold a permit
- It may be dangerous for the automated vehicle to be driven in automated mode, or for a vehicle supervisor to remain a vehicle supervisor.

Serious Incident Reports will be used to monitor the safety of the trial and to ensure that permit holders investigate and rectify any faults or gaps in the capabilities of the automated driving system before it is used on a road or road related area.

Vehicle supervisors

Vehicle supervisors must hold a full driver licence and have an obligation to ensure the vehicle is being driven safely.

While the ADS is not engaged, the vehicle supervisor is the driver as is the case with all motor vehicles. When in automated mode, the vehicle supervisor is considered to be in charge and has an obligation to ensure the ADS behaves safely.

Vehicle supervisors must remain alert to any errors or requests to take over control, and respond appropriately. This means limiting secondary activities.

The use of handheld mobile phones or visual display units will not be permitted, unless it is required for the operation of the vehicle.

In the event of a serious incident, the vehicle supervisor may need to provide information in the *Serious Incident Report*.

Accident reporting requirements also apply to vehicle supervisors. Further information can be found in Part 5 of the Guidelines.

Vehicle supervisors must ensure they are familiar with these requirements as well as the conditions of the permit to ensure they comply.

Traffic infringements

Any offences committed during the ADS trial while the vehicle is in automated mode are your responsibility as the ADS permit holder.

You should ensure that the registered operators of any automated vehicles used in the ADS trial are made aware that they may receive traffic infringements in relation to the use of the vehicle during the trial.

If this occurs, the registered operator should contact you to determine whether the vehicle was in automated mode at the time of the offence. If this is the case, the registered operator will need to nominate you as the permit holder and driver.

Any offences committed during manual driving (i.e. when not in automated mode) are the responsibility of the driver, and should be treated accordingly.

Further information

For further information please contact VicRoads.

email: cavtesting@roads.vic.gov.au

web: vicroads.vic.gov.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/VicRoads](https://www.facebook.com/VicRoads)

Twitter: @VicRoads