This fact sheet is intended to provide a general description of legislative requirements. Legislation requires that vehicles incorporate acceptable levels of safety and are maintained in a roadworthy condition.

Vehicles registered and used on public roads in South Australia must comply with the Road Traffic Act & Regulations, the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) and various other Acts and Regulations.

Hazardous protrusions are prohibited on new and in-service vehicles and are controlled by a number of legal means.

Many vehicle accessories can become hazardous if not installed appropriately including bull bars, radio antennae, winches, bonnet adornments, fishing rod holders, to name just a few.

The legislation is not limited to the front of a vehicle but includes rear of the vehicle e.g. towbars, spare wheel carriers and interior fittings and the side of the vehicle.

**Australian Design Rule 42/04 General Safety Requirements**

**External or internal protrusions.**

No vehicle shall be equipped with:

- any object or fitting that is technically essential to such vehicle unless its design, construction and conditions and the manner in which it is affixed to the vehicle are such as to reduce to a minimum the risk of bodily injury to any person

- any object or fitting which, because it is pointed or has a sharp edge, is likely to increase the risk of bodily injury to any person

- any bumper bar the end of which is not turned towards the body of the vehicle to a sufficient extent to avoid any risk of hooking or grazing.

No vehicle shall be equipped with:

- any object or fitting, not technically essential, to a vehicle which protrudes from any part of the vehicle so that it is likely to increase the risk of bodily injury to any person

**Road Traffic (Light Vehicle Standards) Rules 2018, Part 4, Division 1.**

**Rule 29 – Protrusions**

An object fitted to a vehicle must be designed, built and fitted to the vehicle in a way that minimises the likelihood of injury to a person making contact with the vehicle.
However, subrule (1) does not apply to an object fitted to a vehicle if:

- The vehicle was designed before 1965 and the object was part of the design of the vehicle; or

- The object was fitted to the vehicle before 1965 in accordance with the law of the place where the object was fitted.


Rule 21 – 25 Compliance with second edition ADRs

If a third edition ADR applies to the design and construction of a vehicle, the vehicle must comply with the ADR.

SA Road Traffic Act 1961, Part 4 - Vehicle Standards Rule 116

…it is an offence to operate a vehicle in a condition that ‘would endanger other road users’....

The mechanical design and roadworthiness of a vehicle is important to the safety and well being of all road users.

Legislation requires that vehicles incorporate acceptable levels of safety and are maintained in a roadworthy condition.

Disclaimer: The information and data on this fact sheet is subject to change without notice. The Government of South Australia may revise this information at any time by updating this fact sheet.

Further information
Call 1300 882 248  Fax 8348 9533
Visit dpti.sa.gov.au
E mail dpti.vehiclestandards@sa.gov.au