



## Niche Vehicles Test Policy.

July 2012

ANCAP is Australasia's leading independent vehicle safety advocate providing consumers with transparent advice on vehicle safety through its star rating program.



**ANCAP**

Crash testing for safety

AUSTRALASIAN  
NEW CAR ASSESSMENT

[ancap.com.au](http://ancap.com.au)

## Niche Vehicles Test Policy.

The Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) is an independent crash test program providing comparative ratings on how different vehicle models protect occupants and pedestrians in the most common types of crashes.

Traditionally, ANCAP crash testing has been conducted at independent specialist laboratories within Australia, with vehicles selected for ANCAP testing based primarily on sales volumes. In recognising the position of manufacturers wanting to provide consumers with ANCAP safety ratings for models across their fleets - including 'boutique' or niche vehicles which sell in much smaller volumes - and the associated economic pressures for manufacturers to arrange testing of these vehicles in Australia, ANCAP's Niche Vehicles Test Policy has been developed allowing limited ANCAP testing to be conducted at manufacturers' facilities.

The Niche Vehicles Test policy only applies to vehicles that are expected to have low sales numbers in Australia and New Zealand and it is likely that the vehicle would go untested by ANCAP and Euro NCAP. In cases where the policy has been applied, the ANCAP datasheet will state that the crash tests were conducted at the manufacturers test facility under ANCAP supervision, in accordance with the ANCAP Niche Vehicles Test policy.

This document sets out the conditions under which niche vehicle crash testing may be permitted by ANCAP. Separate arrangements apply where crash tests are conducted at independent crash test facilities that are used by other recognised NCAP organisations. Manufacturers must apply to ANCAP for specific approval of a proposed test under this policy.

The conditions for conducting niche vehicle crash tests at manufacturers' facilities are:

- a) Australian and New Zealand sales volumes are expected to be less than 600 a year (50/month).
- b) Other much more popular (>6000 per year) models of that make are sold in Australia / New Zealand and have 5 star ratings from ANCAP (i.e. the policy is confined to boutique models of popular makes where the manufacturer has shown competence in designing and manufacturing vehicles to achieve top ANCAP ratings).
- c) The model has Australian Identification Plate Approval.
- d) The test vehicles are production vehicles that are eligible for the fitting of Australian Identification Plates and are not modified in any way.
- e) The crash test facility has NATA Australia accreditation or accreditation from another recognised participant in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ([ILAC](#)) or the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ([APLAC](#)).
- f) ANCAP or its representative (e.g. the local NCAP organisation) randomly chooses the VINs of the vehicles to be tested, with a minimum of six VINs to choose from for each type of test. Vehicles are quarantined as soon as they are selected.
- g) The manufacturer gives ANCAP or its representative unrestricted access to the test vehicles prior to the test.
- h) The tests are conducted in compliance with the ANCAP test protocols including any markings or signage required by ANCAP.
- i) The test facility completes the appropriate ANCAP form "Guidelines for recording compliance with crash test protocol" or an acceptable equivalent for each of the crash tests.

- j)** ANCAP or its representatives attend the crash tests.
- k)** ANCAP or its representatives conduct the post-crash assessments after the manufacturer's personnel have completed processing injury data and deformation measurements.
- l)** ANCAP or its representatives are given unrestricted access to the raw and processed test data.
- m)** Test data and high quality video (DVD) and high resolution still images are provided to ANCAP, with reports in English.
- n)** ANCAP reserves the right to publish a rating, irrespective of the outcome of the tests, and to state the circumstances of the test in the public datasheet.
- o)** ANCAP reserves the right to not publish a rating based on the crash tests at a manufacturer's crash test facility.
- p)** At its sole discretion, after consultation with the manufacturer, ANCAP may revise a published rating if crash test results from ANCAP or Euro NCAP subsequently become available.
- q)** ANCAP at its sole discretion and for any reason may deny any application to test a vehicle under the Niche Vehicles Test policy.

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