

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

R39 - Visiting Vehicles and Compulsory Third Party Insurance

Visiting Motor Vehicles and Trailers

A “visiting motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle defined under Section 3 of the NT *Traffic Act*, which:

- is registered in another country, or in another State, or Territory, of the Commonwealth;
- has number plates required to be affixed by the law of that country; and
- is temporarily in the Northern Territory.

Motor Accident Compensation Insurance (or Third Party Insurance) is Compulsory in the Northern Territory

Motor Vehicle Registration in the Northern Territory includes a component for Compulsory Third Party Insurance. In addition, Northern Territory legislation requires that **visiting** motor vehicles and trailers are registered and, either:

- carry the third party insurance legally required in their home State/Territory; or
- are subject to a recognised insurance arrangement so that third party liability is not with the NT’s Motor Accident Compensation scheme.

You will need to hold current Compulsory Third Party Insurance (or equivalent) issued in Australia. If you do not have Compulsory Third Party Insurance you can obtain it by paying the required contribution to the Northern Territory’s insurance provider – the Territory Insurance Office – through the Motor Vehicle Registry.

Trailers - Special Circumstances for Visiting Trailers

Trailers from some State and Territory jurisdictions (except those registered under FIRS - the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme) may not be covered by Compulsory Third Party Insurance when visiting the NT.

By way of explanation, if a visiting motor vehicle is registered in one jurisdiction and is towing a trailer that is registered in the same or another jurisdiction, then the trailer might not be covered by Compulsory Third Party Insurance in the NT. This is because some State and Territory jurisdictions require a trailer to have its own Compulsory Third Party Insurance and some do not.

Example 1 – not insured and therefore ineligible for use in the NT:

If a NT-registered vehicle is towing a Queensland-registered trailer – the trailer is not covered by Compulsory Third Party Insurance, unless a separate Compulsory Third Party Insurance policy has been obtained for the Queensland-registered trailer, it remains uninsured and is therefore ineligible for use (illegal) in the NT.

This is because a Queensland registered motor vehicle provides the Compulsory Third Party Insurance for the Queensland registered trailer.

Example 2 – properly insured and covered:

If an NT-registered vehicle is towing a trailer registered in the Australian Capital Territory the trailer is covered by Compulsory Third Party Insurance as the trailer has paid it's own Compulsory Third Party Insurance as part of it's registration in the Australian Capital Territory.

Further, if a vehicle is registered in Victoria, New South Wales, or Queensland it can tow a trailer registered in any jurisdiction as the towing vehicle holds Third Party Insurance cover for the trailer.

Quick Reference Table

The following table shows where a particular vehicle / trailer combination is covered (YES) or is not covered (NO) by Third Party Insurance from the home state (when operating in the Northern Territory).

Vehicle registered in:	Trailer registered in:							
	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	ACT	SA	WA	NT
QLD	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NSW	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
VIC	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
TAS	NO ¹	NO ¹	NO ¹	YES	YES ²	YES ²	YES	YES
ACT	NO ¹	NO ¹	NO ¹	YES ³	YES ²	YES ²	YES	YES
SA	NO ¹	NO ¹	NO ¹	YES ³	YES ²	YES ²	YES	YES
WA	NO ¹	NO ¹	NO ¹	YES ³	YES ²	YES ²	YES	YES
NT	NO ¹	NO ¹	NO ¹	YES ³	YES ²	YES ²	YES	YES

Table 1: Schedule of Compulsory Third Party Insurance coverage for trailers - vehicles towing trailers

- 1 The Trailer is not automatically covered by Third Party Insurance, so a separate policy/certificate is required.
- 2 The Trailer is deemed to be covered by Third Party Insurance through the vehicle towing it. There is no requirement for separate Third Party Insurance policy/certificate.
- 3 Trailers are not insured if the trailer's unladen mass (tare) is 500kg or less. A separate Third Party Insurance policy/certificate is required.

How to get Compulsory Third Party Insurance from the Territory Insurance Office

You can get separate Compulsory Third Party Insurance cover from an insurance broker, or alternatively, you can get Compulsory Third Party Insurance from the Territory Insurance Office through the Motor Vehicle Registry.

To obtain Compulsory Third Party Insurance from Motor Vehicle Registry you will need to:

1. Undertake a compliance check. **Compliance Checks** are carried out by Transport Inspectors located in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Other areas may be available, contact the MVR on 1300 654 628 for further details. See also [Information Bulletin G05 – Motor Vehicle Registry \(MVR\) Service Centres](#).
2. Subject to date of manufacture, certain trailers will require a roadworthy inspection. **Roadworthy Inspections** may be carried out by Authorised Inspector or Transport Inspectors. See also [Vehicle inspection Bulletin 19 – Inspection Types](#).

3. Complete attached [Form R39 - Application for Compulsory Third Party Insurance for a Visiting Vehicle or Trailer](#). NOTE: A separate Form is required **for each vehicle** for which Compulsory Third Party Insurance is being requested;
4. Provide a copy of the current registration certificate **for each vehicle** for which Compulsory Third Party Insurance is being requested. NOTE: The period of Compulsory Third Party Insurance cannot exceed the registration expiry date;
5. Provide Evidence of Identity as detailed in: [Information Bulletin G8 – Evidence of Identity \(EOI\) and Evidence of Residency \(EOR\) for an Individual](#). and
6. Pay the required Compulsory Third Party Insurance contribution.

Evidence of Compulsory Third Party Insurance

You will be provided with a receipt:- a printed receipt showing that your payment has been made, or a hand-written receipt (a "13A Receipt") that shows all of the (now insured) vehicle details.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

These receipts are your proof that Compulsory Third Party Insurance has been obtained and they **MUST** be kept with the vehicle (or, if the vehicle is a trailer, with the towing vehicle) at all times whilst operating in the NT.

Privacy and your Information

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to collect information for registrations, licences and permits under section 92 of the *Motor Vehicles Act*. The Registrar adheres to the Department's Privacy Statement and the *Information Act*. Further information on privacy can be found at www.transport.nt.gov.au

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
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