



# Talkin' Road Safety

## SPECIAL EDITION

## MOTORCYCLE MUDGUARDS AND TAIL TIDIES

The Australian Design Rule that makes provision for mudguards on motorcycles, motorcycles with sidecars and motorcycle based trikes (L-group vehicles) has changed.

ADR 42/04 Amendment  
(extracted at 3 October 2014)

### 14.3. "Wheel Guards for L-Group Vehicles"

14.3.1 Wheel guards may consist of either permanent body structure or part structure and other components, including mudflaps, provided the specified protection is retained during vehicle operation.

### 14.3.2 General Requirements

The wheels of a vehicle and the wheel of a side-car must be fitted with wheel guards of width not less than the '*Section Width*' of the tyre. The wheel guards must be so designed as to protect other road users, as far as practicable, against thrown-up stones, mud, ice, snow and water and to reduce for those users the dangers due to contact with the moving wheels."

### What does this mean?

The specific requirement for a motorcycle wheel guard to extend to a particular angle found in the previous ADR has now gone.

The specific requirement is now for a wheel guard:

- i) of width not less than the '*Section Width*' of the tyre;
- ii) designed as to protect other road users, as far as practicable, against thrown-up stones, mud, ice, snow and water; and
- iii) to reduce for those (other road) users the dangers due to contact with the moving wheels.

There is no specific requirement for a minimum wheel guard length.

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This means that a wheel guard of an appropriate width to cover the tyre tread must be present, and designed to offer characteristics that will provide some protection to other road users.

If a motorcycle was built to meet the previous version of the ADR we recommend that you do not remove any part of the original wheel guards.

However, if a motorcycle was built with a tail extension so that it met the requirements of the previous version of ADR 42/04, you may wish to remove the extension and fit a tail tidy, in which case you must ensure that:

i) the number plate does not need to be vertical but must be fitted so that it is visible and can be read at:

- both 3m and 18m from the rear of the motorcycle
- an angle of 45° from either side of the rear of the motorcycle
- an angle of 45° looking down from above the rear of the motorcycle

Original tail extension



ii) the number plate must be illuminated when the lights are switched on

iii) the indicators show an orange light when operating and are:

- 'E' marked
- Separated by at least 180mm
- Visible from 80° to the side of the vehicle as well as to the rear

Fitted with a 'tail tidy'



iv) a rear retro-reflector is fitted at no more than 15° from the vertical

If your tail tidy tucks the lights and number plate in underneath the tail it is unlikely your motorcycle will meet these requirements, so check how your tail tidy will fit before purchasing as it may not have been manufactured to meet the requirements of the Road Traffic Act, Motor Vehicles Act and Regulations.

The motorcycle must also continue to meet these requirements when loaded, or when any luggage is attached.

