# NHVAS is changing to HVA: what you need to do

Accreditation - checked 6 Nov 2026

*It depends on when your NHVAS accreditation expires. It stays valid until that date. To keep your concessions after that, you need HVA: General Safety Accreditation (a whole-of-business SMS audit) plus the tier you use. Check your expiry date, book an auditor early, or ask the NHVR for an extension before you expire.*

## What's changing

On 1 August 2026 the updated Heavy Vehicle National Law started, and with it the new Heavy Vehicle Accreditation (HVA) scheme. HVA is replacing the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).

The NHVR is no longer granting new NHVAS accreditation, and you can't add a new module to NHVAS. Your existing NHVAS accreditation stays valid until its expiry date. You can still add and remove trucks and drivers on it until then.

One scheme at a time. You can be in NHVAS or HVA, not both. When you move to HVA, everything you hold moves across together.

## The big difference: your whole business gets audited

NHVAS audited one module at a time - mass, maintenance or fatigue. HVA starts with General Safety Accreditation (GSA), which is an audit of your whole safety management system (SMS) against the SMS Standard 2026.

GSA on its own gives you no concessions. It is the ticket you need before you can get any of the other tiers. And even if you only want fatigue, the auditor will still look at how you manage maintenance, loading and everything else.

The SMS Standard has five areas:

- Leadership and commitment
- Risk management
- People
- Assurance, monitoring and improvement
- Safety systems

## What happens to each NHVAS module

| If you hold& | Under HVA it becomes& | What it means for you |
|---|---|---|
| Mass Management | ACA-Mass, but only for HML, PBS and some notices and permits. | General Mass Limits have gone up to the old CML weights. If you only had mass accreditation to run at CML, you may not need it any more. You can exit through NHVR Go. |
| Maintenance Management | GSA-MAP (Maintenance Assurance Program) | Same benefit as now: no annual registration inspection in Queensland and New South Wales. |
| BFM or AFM | ACA-Fatigue | One fatigue option. Pick ready-made tables of hours, including a BFM-equivalent table, or have your own hours assessed. |
| Nothing yet | GSA first, then any tier you need | You can apply for GSA and a tier at the same time. |

**Two-up drivers**

The ACA-Fatigue templates are built for solo drivers. If you run two-up, say so when you apply. Some templates may suit, or you may need your own table of hours assessed.

## When do you need to move?

It comes down to your NHVAS expiry date. The early "maintain" option closed on 17 July 2026, so for most operators the choices now are:

| Your situation | What to do |
|---|---|
| Expires after mid-January 2027 | Move to HVA before you expire. Need more time? Ask the NHVR for an extension of up to 12 months - before your expiry date. |
| Expiring soon and not ready | Contact the NHVR now. Extensions can't be granted after you expire. |
| Modules expire on different dates | The first expiry date sets your timing. The NHVR wants modules lined up to one date, and they all move to HVA together. |
| Want to add a module (say, BFM) now | You can't add it to NHVAS. You'll need to move everything to HVA. |
| Only had mass for CML | You may be able to exit accreditation. Mass is still needed for HML, PBS and some notices. |

An extended NHVAS accreditation can't run past 3 years from the date it was first granted.

**Watch out**

If your NHVAS expires before your HVA is granted (or an extension approved), your concessions stop that day. You can't keep running HML, PBS or BFM/AFM hours without accreditation. Applications must be submitted 28 days before your proposed entry audit date and, if you are applying for a high risk fatigue template, this may take some time to process. Make sure you are ahead and start the application well before your expiry date.

## What to do now

1. **Check your expiry dates.**
   Log in to NHVR Go and write down the expiry date for each module you hold.

2. **Work out what you actually need.**
   HML or PBS work ACA-Mass. Skip the annual inspection in Qld or NSW GSA-MAP. Different work and rest hours ACA-Fatigue. CML only you may not need mass accreditation.

3. **Get your SMS ready.**
   Check it against the five areas of the SMS Standard 2026. The auditor wants to see it written down and working - records, not just a manual on the shelf.

4. **Book an auditor early.**
   The NHVR expects HVA approved auditors to be in high demand. Don't leave it until the last month.

5. **Apply in NHVR Go.**
   Start an establish accreditation application, pick an HVA approved auditor, date and location. Apply for GSA and your tiers together.

6. **Need more time? Ask before you expire.**
   Email the NHVR accreditation team (accreditation@nhvr.gov.au) with the extension period you need, up to 12 months.

7. **Once you're granted HVA.**
   Fit the new HVA labels to your mass and maintenance vehicles, update your records, and tell your drivers what has changed.

## WA and NT

The Heavy Vehicle National Law doesn't apply in Western Australia or the Northern Territory. They run their own rules, so check with the WA or NT regulator before relying on HVA there.

## Need help?

Call the NHVR on 13 NHVR (13 64 87), or email the accreditation team at accreditation@nhvr.gov.au.

General information, not legal advice.

### Sources

NHVR - Transition options and case studies - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/national-heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/nhvas-transition-to-hva-scheme/transition-options-and-case-studies

NHVR - Changes to accreditation - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/national-heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/nhvas-transition-to-hva-scheme/changes-to-accreditation

NHVR - HVA operator FAQs - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/national-heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/nhvas-transition-to-hva-scheme/hva-operator-faqs