Do trailers need roadworthiness evidence for ACA-Mass?

Mass and load restraint - checked 6 Nov 2026

Yes - under HVA, every truck and trailer you nominate for ACA-Mass must be registered and have roadworthiness evidence no more than 12 months old when it enters. It is an entry requirement only. Trailers that were never under the old roadworthiness rule get 6 months from your HVA grant date.

What has changed for trailers

Under NHVAS Mass, only the truck or prime mover was nominated, and trailers didn't get labels or need roadworthiness evidence. Under HVA, GSA-MAP and ACA-Mass operators nominate every vehicle covered by their accreditation - trucks and trailers alike.

What counts as roadworthiness evidence

- A certificate of roadworthiness statement issued by a state road transport authority or an approved inspection station in the last 12 months.
- For a brand-new trailer: evidence of its first registration as a new vehicle in the last 12 months.
- The trailer must also be currently registered.

What you need for each trailer

Your trailer What you need

Already nominated under NHVAS Maintenance Nothing extra when you move to HVA.

Only under NHVAS Mass (never needed roadworthiness evidence) Roadworthiness evidence within 6 months of the date your HVA is granted. This is a condition of your accreditation.

Added to HVA later Roadworthiness evidence (no more than 12 months old) when you nominate it.

Brand new Evidence of first registration as a new vehicle in the last 12 months.

Don't miss the 6 months

Put the date your HVA is granted in your diary and book inspections early. The 6-month deadline is a condition of your accreditation.

After entry

- Roadworthiness evidence is an entry requirement only - HVA doesn't need a new certificate every year.
- If your trailers are only in ACA-Mass (not GSA-MAP), your state may still need an annual inspection for registration.
- Keep your trailers maintained, including suspension - the auditor will check.

Labels and fees

- Every nominated vehicle displays an HVA accreditation label, trailers included. The NHVR suggests fixing trailer labels to Perspex at the rear of the trailer, near the number plate.
- Until labels arrive, carry the approval letter in the vehicle - for up to 21 days after it was issued.
- Nominated vehicle fees for ACA-Mass trailers are on hold for now while the NHVR reviews its fees.

What to do now

1. List your trailers

Write down every trailer that runs under your mass accreditation, with its rego.

2. Check their history

Mark which ones are already nominated under NHVAS Maintenance - they need nothing extra.

3. Book inspections

For the rest, book inspections at an approved inspection station or your state road transport authority.

4. Keep the evidence

File each certificate against the trailer so you can show it at audit.

5. Track the deadline

Count 6 months from your HVA grant date and check every trailer is done before then.

General information, not legal advice.

Sources

NHVR - NHVAS updates (28 July 2026: Nominated vehicles and roadworthiness requirements) - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/national-heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/nhvas-updates

NHVR - Manage your HVA scheme - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/hva-for-operators/manage-your-hva-scheme

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