

Myths and Facts about Bullbars

TUFF Bullbars has made bullbars in Australia for 20 years and we are proud to have helped prevent injuries and vehicle damage for thousands of customers across our wide brown land.

So what are the facts and the myths when it comes to bullbars?

What is happening in NSW regarding bullbars?

In August 2014 NSW Police conducted an operation to 'crack down' on non-compliant bullbars. This led to a public outcry from bullbar owners who felt they were being unfairly targeted. It also led to a Ministerial Order being passed by the NSW Minister for Roads and Freight which provided a two year grace period for bullbars within a 'reasonable tolerance' of the current Australian Standard for bullbars. A review is currently being undertaken by the NSW Vehicle Standards Working Group about how bullbars protect vehicles and their occupants as well as pedestrian safety. Although TUFF is pleased with the passing of the Ministerial Order, TUFF considers that it is of no relevance to its bullbars, as they were already compliant before the Ministerial Order was passed.

Is there a new bullbar law?

Apart from the Ministerial Order, there are NO NEW laws about bullbars in New South Wales.

Are 5 Post bullbars illegal?

NO! The TUFF 5 Post bullbar has never been illegal. There is nothing whatsoever in the Australian Standard AS4876.1-2002 or the relevant Australian Design Rules which prohibits 5 post bullbars. The relevant requirement under AS4876.1-2002 is that the bullbar "*generally conforms to the shape, in plan view, front view and side view, of the front of the vehicle to which it is fitted.*" All of TUFF's bullbars fulfil this requirement. NSW Police have confirmed to TUFF in writing that 5 Post bars are not illegal simply because they are of a 5 Post construction.

What makes a bullbar legal?

In NSW (in particular) bullbars need to comply with the Australian Standard AS4876.1-2002 and Australian Design Rules, in particular ADR69/00 and ADR73. TUFF's bullbars meet the current Australian Standard and relevant Australian Design Rules. TUFF supplies clients with certification that confirms this. In NSW, the current legislative requirements only apply to vehicles of a model type first manufactured after 31 December 2002; *if your vehicle is older than 31 December 2002, these standards do not apply.* Different requirements apply in other states and territories in Australia. If you require more information please contact TUFF on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

What is this exemption document in NSW?

TUFFbars are already compliant and so this document is not relevant for TUFFbars. The exemption document (or Tolerance document) issued under the Ministerial Order in NSW, applies to those bullbars within a 'reasonable tolerance' of the current Australian Standard. The exemption document allows two years (from September 2014) for those bullbars to be checked, and if necessary modified or replaced. This is only in force in NSW and not throughout Australia. Please contact TUFF if you would like a copy of this document on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

Are 5 post bullbars going to be outlawed?

There has been no suggestion as far as TUFF is aware from the NSW Vehicle Standards Working Group that steps will be taken to outlaw 5 Post bullbars. TUFF is firmly of the view that 5 Post bullbars should not be outlawed as they are an important and indeed vital tool for those of us who drive in rural and regional Australia. TUFF has seen no evidence that a 5 Post bullbar is any more dangerous to pedestrians in an accident than a 3 Post or 4 Post bullbar. Our clients have told us how important their bullbars are to their safety and we will continue to lobby MPs, Ministers and the Police to get clarity around this issue.

How do I know if my bullbar complies?

TUFF can supply you with compliance certificates for your TUFF bullbar. If you have a TUFF bullbar and do not have compliance certificates, please contact customer service on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

Why are people saying the 5 Post is illegal and the 4 Post isn't? What's the difference?

There were a number of media reports last year following the 'bullbar blitz' which reported that 5 Post bullbars are illegal simply by virtue of their 5 Post characteristic. These media reports are incorrect. NSW Police have confirmed to TUFF in writing that 5 Post bars are not illegal simply because they are of a 5 Post construction. Apart from having one less post, there is really no difference between a 5 Post and 4 Post bullbar. TUFF's 5 and 4 Post bullbars use the same bracket system and are built the same in terms of the channel, tabs, wings etc. If you are unsure on the legality of your bullbar, TUFF recommends that you contact the manufacturer of your bullbar. If you have a TUFF bullbar and have not been in touch with Customer service, please call 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833) to obtain your copy of certifications for your bullbar.

What do I do if I am issued a Defect notice?

Please contact customer service, on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833) so TUFF can assist

My vehicle does not have air bags. Does the bullbar need to be legal and compliant?

Even if your vehicle does not have air bags, bullbars still need to comply with the Australian Standard - for example, some 79 SERIES Landcruisers built before 2009 do not have air bags, however the TUFF bullbar built for this make and model, complies with Australian Standard AS4876.1.

Do I need to take my TUFF bullbar off?

No, provided you have not made any alterations to your bullbar since it was delivered to you by TUFF.

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What about side air bags (e.g. rails and side steps)?

Bullbar manufacturers need to take into account side air bags to make sure they deploy correctly when a bullbar is installed, the same as the driver and passenger air bags. An engineer's certificate should be provided by the manufacturer of the bullbar to confirm compliance with the relevant Australian Design Rule. If you have a TUFF bullbar and would like a copy of the compliance certificates please contact customer service on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

What do I need to register my TUFF bullbar?

The Australian Standard suggests that a bullbar manufacturer which states that their bullbars comply with the Standard should be able to ensure that the compliance is able to be verified. TUFF suggests that if you have your TUFF certification papers with you to show that the bullbar complies, you should be able to register your vehicle in any state or territory of Australia. If you have a TUFF bullbar and do not have compliance certificates please contact customer service on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

My vehicle is older than 2003, do the rules apply?

Different rules apply in different states and territories in Australia. In NSW, the current legislative requirements basically only apply to vehicles manufactured on or after 1 January 2003. If you want to know the situation with your bullbar, please contact customer service on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

What about a factory bullbar as an alternative?

Branded factory bullbars have their place as do TUFFbars. TUFFbars are fully compliant and tested by independent engineers for air bag and vehicle compatibility. About 30,000 TUFFbars have been sold over the past 20 years and they have become the bar of choice for heavy duty use in regional and rural Australia. While dealers will naturally want to sell the same brand of bullbar as the vehicle, the choice is ultimately yours as to what type or quality of protection you choose.

There seem to be so many mixed messages from all states as to what is legal and illegal – why can't they be all the same?

As an Australian manufacturer, TUFF designs bullbars in accordance with the Australian Standard, Australian Design Rules and relevant State and Territory Laws and Regulations. If you have any concerns, please contact Customer service on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833).

What if my vehicle has a higher Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) than 3500kg – do these rules apply to me?

No. If your vehicle's GVM is higher than 3500kg, the Australian Standard AS4876.1 does not apply to your vehicle. Most 4WD's have a GVM of less than 3500kg and therefore, the Australian Standard will most likely apply to bullbars fitted on any 4WD.

What do I do if I am queried about my TUFF bullbar by police or motor registry staff?

Please contact customer service on 1300 BE TUFF (1300 23 8833) and TUFF can provide you with all necessary information to be supplied to the relevant public officials.

What makes TUFF Bullbars different?

TUFF Bullbars offer you the best frontal protection systems on the market, going above and beyond the requirements for most makes and models, TUFF can provide you certification to assure you that your bullbar is compliant.