MODIFICATION GUIDELINES

The Mercedes-Benz Body/Equipment Mounting Directives and Supplemental Information released by Vans Sales Engineering (together referred to as the B/EMD) provide guidelines for vehicle bodies, conversions and modifications.

The aim of the B/EMD is to ensure that the safety, reliability, function, comfort, and service life of the base vehicle is not adversely affected by vehicle modifications, by providing guidelines in line with Mercedes-Benz quality design standards. Additionally, the B/EMD provides important technical information about the base vehicles, details of restrictions for vehicle conversions as well as relevant legislative information.

Following the B/EMD ensures the vehicle remains reliable, avoiding potential vehicle downtime caused by vehicle modification. It also ensures that the base vehicle warranty remains valid in the unfortunate event that a modification may cause a base vehicle fault.

As such, it is important that the B/EMD are adhered to when modifying vehicles, including modifications performed/arranged by Retailers when preparing the vehicle for sale or by Customers when they take possession of the vehicle.

Links to the Primary Directives available for download from the Mercedes-Benz Van Bodybuilder portal, as well as supplements with unique Australian & New Zealand content are conveniently provided on the Mercedes-Benz Vans Australia and New Zealand websites.

Australia

New Zealand

Customers/Bodybuilders/Modifiers can use the contact information in the Mercedes-Benz Bodybuilder portal, also described in Section 2.1 of the supplements, if they have any questions.

! NOTE

Any cost of repairs or diagnostic time spent by the Dealer prior to identifying the cause of the complaint relating to the modification, rather than a quality issue relating to the base vehicle, will be at the customer's expense.

COMMON MODIFICATION ISSUES

The following list contains examples of typical modifications performed that are either not allowed, or often do not meet the guidelines prescribed in the B/EMD.

Modification	Potential issue	Applicable B/EMD Section[i]	
		VS30	VS20
Drilling, cutting and welding of the vehicle body	• May cause structural issues, corrosion, cracking, warping of panels and supporting sheetmetal.	3.9 6.2	3.7 6.2
Unapproved paint preservation products	• May cause damage to paintwork	3.11 5.4	3.9 5.4
Unapproved seats	• May cause issues with mountings • Not tested with the vehicle's safety systems	4.5 6.4 7.3	6.4 7.1
Relocation of safety systems	• May cause inaccurate, premature or delayed activation/operation	4.5 6.4	6.4
Chassis/frame modifications	• May cause cracking, bending, stress or distortion of frame • May cause a reduction in safety performance during an accident	6.2 7.1	6.2
Underbody protection	• May cause overheating of components • May cause damage to chassis/ body/assemblies	6.2	6.2
Engine tunes	• May cause premature failure of engine/driveline components/ mountings	4.4 6.3	6.3
Exhaust modifications	• May cause engine management issues • May invalidate emissions regulation compliance • May cause exhaust aftertreatment issues	6.3	6.3
Snorkels	• May cause restriction of airflow • May cause engine management issues	4.4 6.3	6.3
Mounting of external equipment (bicycle racks, spare wheel carriers, Jerry can holders etc.)	• May cause cracking of doors, hinges and vehicle body	4.3 6.2 6.6	4.3 6.2 6.6

Awnings	• May cause cracking of the body, cracked paint, corrosion • May cause failure of attachment	4.3 6.2 6.6	4.3 6.2 6.6
Electrical equipment installations (auxiliary power points, lighting etc.)	• May cause failure of electrical systems/components	4.6 8.4 8.10	4.4 8.4 8.8
Diesel heaters	• May cause issues with fuel supply	6.3 6.5	6.3 6.5
Suspension modifications	• May cause wheel alignment issues, excessive or uneven tyre wear, cracking of chassis/ suspension components • May cause inaccurate, premature or delayed activation/operation of ESP/ABS	4.2 6.1	4.2 6.1
Lift kits	• May cause damage to wiring harnesses, hoses etc. • May cause vehicle stability/ handling issues • May cause inaccurate, premature or delayed activation/operation of ESP/ABS	4.2 6.1 9.1	4.2 6.1 9.1
Installation of telematics via the OBD	• May cause issues with CAN bus system/diagnostics/software updates • May cause excessive current draw/premature battery failure	8.4 8.10	8.4 8.8
Bullbars	• May cause excessive stress on vehicle frame • May cause front axle overload • May obstruct air flow causing issues with, cooling systems/air conditioning/intercooler performance • May obstruct safety systems causing inaccurate, premature or delayed activation/operation	4.4 8.9	6.3 8.7
Larger wheels and tyres	• May increase fuel consumption • May cause perceived loss of engine power • May cause inaccurate speedometer reading, inaccurate, premature or delayed activation/ operation of ESP/ABS, excessive tyre wear, wheel alignment issues	3.8 4.2	3.6 4.2

Additional driving lights	• May obstruct air flow causing issues with, cooling systems/air conditioning/intercooler performance • May cause failure of electrical systems/components	4.4 8.4 8.5 8.10	4.4 8.4 8.5 8.8
UHF antenna	• Improper mounting location may cause interference with multifunction camera	8.2 8.4 8.6 8.9	8.2 8.4 8.6 8.7
Rear protection bar	• May cause improper operation of rear blind spot radar and parking sensors	8.9	8.7

[i] Section references are current as at date of publication of this guideline, but are subject to change without notice.