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Q PARTS - QUALIFICATION

Hotline Car Parts South Australia & Northern Territory Distributor for All Crash Parts offers an increasing range of CAPA, TUV, THATCHAM certified body parts and ADR compliant lighting.

To qualify as a Q Part the part must be either CAPA, TUV or THATCHAM certified or ADR compliant.

Detailed below is information on these certification bodies and processes.

JOINT THATCHAM TUV CERTIFICATIONSCHEME

TUV (www.tuev-sued.de)

The TUV SUD mark is a voluntary quality mark that manufacturers advertise for their product. This mark of quality assures that the product meets the TUV quality standards, that exceed the statutory minimum standards. Before awarding of the mark, quality assurance audits of the production facility are required as well as technical testing of the product. The requirements are always based on those of recognized European vehicle manufacturers.

THATCHAM (Thatcham.org.uk)

Thatcham is a UK body that tests and accredits crash repair parts. It was established in 1969 by British insurers and is independently operated with a board made up of representatives of the insurers who fund its work. It is a not for profit organizations whose aim is to contain or reduce the cost of insurance claims whilst maintaining safety and quality standards.

The following is an except from the Thatcham website regarding the joint certification scheme between Thatcham and TUV.

The Thatcham TUV Certified scheme is a joint co-operation between Thatcham and TUV Rheinland which combines Thatcham's expertise in the automotive repair sector with TUV's worldwide reputation in conformance and quality certification.

The all new Part certification program launched 1st September 2008, replaces the Thatcham Approved Parts scheme that has been running since 2001.

Parts under the old scheme will remain Thatcham Accredited until their certification expires. At this point, should the manufacturer wish to have the part re-certified it will be to the new Thatcham TUV Rheinland criteria.



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This joint co-operation between Thatcham and TUV Rheinland provides the UK and European body repair industry with an alternative source of proven quality cosmetic crash parts. Thatcham and TUV Rheinland have verified the correct fitment of these parts from the independent sector in a workshop environment as well as surveyed the production to ensure robust and repeatable processes are used and maintained in the manufacture of certified items.

The certification process includes —

- The part - Each part is evaluated for fit to vehicle by a Thatcham or TUV trained engineer to verify that it can be fitted accurately and without the need for additional time.*
- The manufacturer - The manufacturer's production facilities are regularly assessed to exacting standards established by Thatcham and TUV Rheinland.*

It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to comply with the rules and guidelines of the parts certification process and any local, national or international legislation applicable.

CAPA CERTIFICATION - (www.capacertified.org)

The Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA) is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to develop and oversee a test program guaranteeing the suitability and quality of automotive parts in the United States. CAPA encourages competition in the marketplace in the hope that their program will ultimately reduce expense to the consumer and the industry while increasing and assuring part quality. CAPA Certification Process involves the certification of the manufacturer's facility and parts/vehicle fit test.

In order for a part to be certified by CAPA, a participating manufacturer (the Participant) must first allow a detailed review and inspection of its factory and manufacturing process. An independent testing laboratory (the Validator) determines whether the factory is able to meet CAPA's Quality Standards. This evaluation determines whether the factory will be approved by CAPA.

Once the factory has been approved, the Participant may submit individual parts for certification.

Samples of each part are tested for material properties, fit, finish, paint adhesion, coating performance, weld integrity, adhesive performance and corrosion, and are examined to confirm that they include markings identifying the participant and the country and date of manufacture.

If the sampled parts comply with all of the CAPA quality standards, then -- and only then -- the participant is allowed to apply a CAPA Quality Seal to that part -- the final step in the certification process.

CAPA has 3 specifications that set quality standards:

Metal - CAPA 101;

Plastic - CAPA 201; and

Lighting – CAPA 301.



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ADR COMPLIANCE (www.infrastructure.gov.au)

Australian Design Rules (ADRs) are national standards for vehicle safety, anti-theft and emissions.

ADRs do not apply to cosmetic crash parts such as guards, bonnets, grilles, bumpers and the like. There are a number of ADRs that apply to vehicle lighting. These ADRs incorporate the UN/ECE regulations.

The Australian Courts have recognized that there is no generally applicable or conclusive administrative procedure for establishing ADR compliance. Having an e-mark is evidence of ADR Compliance. E-Marking is a widely recognized mark in the automotive industry covering the safety requirements of automotive vehicles and their component across Europe. Europe typically does not differentiate between OEM and aftermarket parts, at least not as far as e-marks and ECE rules go (ECE rules are the same for both OEM and aftermarket).

The method we use to establish ADR compliance for our Q Part lighting range is by including e-mark products in our Q Parts range. This ensures the lights are manufactured in accordance with the manufacturing process set out in the relevant UN/ECE Regulations.

For example ADR -1 is Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 1/00-Reversing Lamps) 2005. In Australia lamps must be manufactured so as to meet the requirements of sections 6 and 8 of UN/ECE Regulation No. 23/00 – Uniform Provisions Concerning the Approval of Reversing Lights for Motor Vehicles and Trailers (the “Reg”). Sections 6 and 8 prescribe the photometric and colour requirements for reversing lights.

The Reg sets out a manufacturing process . Any light made in accordance with the manufacturing process is to be deemed compliant with the ADRs whether or not considered as an individual item it does in fact comply with the requirements of sections 6 and 8 of the Reg. The ADRs operate by setting up primary quantitative standards and then by allowing the manufacturer to bring itself within those standards by reference to the manufacturing process.