



**Tow trucks—Tilt, slide and underlift vehicles**

**STANDARDS**  
Australia

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This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee ME-005, Cranes. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 25 September 2015. This Standard was published on 19 October 2015.

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- The Crane Industry Council of Australia
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- MTA
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- North Shore City Towing
- NRMA
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- Suburban Towing and Equipment

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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 1418.20:2014.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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vehicles**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee ME-005, Cranes.

The objective of this Standard is to set out requirements for the design of tow trucks for reference by tow truck designers, users and regulators.

All road-going vehicles in Australia are subject to the *Motor Vehicles Standards Act 1989*, and are required to comply with the associated safety and environmental standards, known as the Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

The ADRs concern the design of tow trucks as a vehicle but they do not cover the design, testing and other aspects of the hoisting, winching and other equipment associated with towing operations. These were previously covered in an earlier edition of AS 1418.5 but were excised from the 1995 edition of the Standard. Standards Australia was approached by the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board and the Technical Liaison Group, which comprise the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, all jurisdictions' vehicle regulators, and industry and peak user stakeholders, to facilitate developing a standard that will incorporate these items.

This Standard has no legal standing in its own right, and only has the legal status afforded it if it is incorporated in the ADRs or Commonwealth or State/Territory legislation, or called up in a contract, e.g. a contract to supply. The requirements specified in this Standard are not intended to be retrospective, but to apply once the Standard is referenced in the ADRs or legislation, or otherwise adopted.

In addition to the ADRs, tow trucks may also be subject to other national and local legislation relating to their design, registration and use. These include National Heavy Vehicle Legislation, which is model legislation enacted in most Australia jurisdictions in February 2014. This Standard does not provide any guidance on these other requirements, and a person intending to use a tow truck should ensure they comply with the necessary legislation and procedures in place in their registering jurisdiction.

At the time of publication the National Heavy Vehicle Legislation has not been enacted in Western Australia or the Northern Territory.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard****Tow trucks—Tilt, slide and underlift vehicles**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard specifies the requirements for the lifting and winching mechanisms for tow trucks of the tilt and/or slide, and underlift variety, including those fitted to the tow truck's tray, and ancillary items used to secure the towed vehicle and to help safeguard operators in the removal operation.

NOTE: Unless specified otherwise, the term 'tow truck' is used to describe all the vehicle types defined in this Standard.

This Standard does not apply to the design of the host vehicle and integral components relative to its operation as a vehicle in road transport. These aspects of the vehicle are covered by the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) and Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB 6).

This Standard does not apply to mobile cranes or vehicle loading cranes used in towing operations. Mobile cranes used for over-lift operations shall comply with AS 1418.5, and vehicle loading cranes used for all-up lift operations shall comply with AS 1418.11.

This Standard does not apply to devices used for A-frame towing, to vehicles intended to be used for shunting operations or to car carriers.

This Standard does not designate vehicle categories and associated operational activities for the purposes of registration, licensing and other regulatory requirements.

**1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referenced in this Standard:

## AS

1353	Flat synthetic webbing slings
1353.1	Part 1: Product specification
1418	Cranes, hoists and winches
1418.1	Part 1: General requirements
1418.5	Part 5: Mobile cranes
1418.11	Part 11: Vehicle-loading cranes
1666	Wire-rope slings
1666.1	Part 1: Product specification
2500	Short-link chain for lifting purposes
2550	Cranes, hoists and winches—Safe use
2550.1	Part 1: General requirements
2741	Shackles
3569	Steel wire ropes—Product specification
3775	Chain slings—Grade T(80) and V(100)
3775.1	Part 1: Product specification
3776	Lifting components for Grade T chain slings