

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Green Stamp Plus?

The Green Stamp Plus Program is an environmental initiative developed by the various national Motor Trade Associations, including the VACC/TACC, as well as the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The program assists businesses in the automotive trades to incorporate processes and practices that allow for them to avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of their wastes. The program essentially aims to assist businesses in the industry become resource efficient and more environmentally aware, whilst also giving them advice on their responsibilities when it comes to legal compliance. The program focuses on several key areas considered essential in improving environmental management within the industry. These areas include storage practices, wastewater disposal, spill management, waste disposal, air quality and energy consumption. Depending on how businesses manage these key environmental areas will determine if they are awarded Green Stamp Plus Accreditation or not.

Which States offer Green Stamp Plus Accreditation?

Victoria (VACC), Tasmania (TACC), ACT (MTA ACT), Queensland (MTA QLD), South Australia (MTA SA), Western Australia (MTA WA) and New South Wales (MTA NSW) all offer Green Stamp Plus Accreditation. The Northern Territory (MTA NT) have also adopted the Green Stamp Plus Program, however do not offer Accreditation to members. Green Stamp Plus Accreditation in Victoria and Tasmania is set to be launched in the later months of 2010.

How do I achieve Green Stamp Plus Accreditation?

Businesses have the opportunity to become Green Stamp Plus Accredited if they believe that they have reached legal compliance and implemented environmental initiatives within their business. Level 1 is the first level which members must achieve in the Green Stamp Plus Program. This level focuses on the businesses legal environmental compliance i.e. their compliance with environmental laws and regulations. However, those members that only reach Level 1 – Compliance, are not eligible to receive Accreditation, as this can only be granted once Level 2 – Beyond Compliance or Level 3 – Best Practice, has been achieved. To know if your business will reach accreditation it is helpful to complete an environmental audit of the business beforehand.

How can I complete an environmental audit?

If you believe that you should have an environmental audit undertaken at your workplace before you apply for Green Stamp Plus Accreditation then it is best to do so, as achieving Accreditation is only given to businesses who go above and beyond legal compliance. There are two ways to complete an environmental audit. The first option is to review the Green Stamp Plus criteria in the Accreditation booklet. Reading through this criterion will allow you to gauge whether your business is legally compliant with environmental laws, and more importantly environmentally friendly. The second option is to contact your States Motor Trade Association. The Environmental Advisor/Co-ordinator there will be able to conduct an environmental audit of your business, providing you with information and tips for improvements. After this audit is complete they will be able to let you know if you are ready for Green Stamp Plus Accreditation, and will be able to provide you with assistance in meeting the accreditation criteria.

Where can I get information to help me meet compliance?

Your State Motor Trade Association will be able to give you comprehensive advice on environmental compliance and how you can meet this; it is worth giving them a call. It is important to be aware of legal compliance, as noncompliance with laws and regulations can result in prosecution from the State Environment Protection Authorities. Having a read of the criteria in the Green Stamp Plus Accreditation will also give you information on your legal responsibilities. However, if you would like to know more about environmental compliance you may want to visit your States Environment Protection Authority, as these Government departments specialise in compliance and how you can achieve this in your business.

How would I benefit from achieving Green Stamp Plus Accreditation?

There are many benefits to gain from achieving Green Stamp Plus Accreditation. The most important benefit of the Green Stamp Plus Program is that your business will be minimising its impact on the environment, by decreasing its ecological footprint. Becoming more resource efficient and environmentally friendly can also save your business money. By using fewer resources (water, energy) and reusing products (paper, cardboard), businesses will notice that there are also financial incentives for being environmentally friendly. Installing new sustainable technologies has also proven to benefit the bottom line in the long run.

On top of these benefits Green Stamp Plus Accreditation is also an excellent marketing tool, as businesses are able to show their customers that they are environmentally conscience and aware. Many consumers are aware of the automobile industries environmental impacts and are interested in finding

businesses that minimise these impacts. You might also find that Green Stamp Plus makes your business more efficient, increases staff morale and creates a better working environment.

How many businesses have achieved Green Stamp Plus Accreditation in Australia?

Given that Green Stamp Plus Accreditation is available in all States and Territories apart from the Northern Territory, there have been many automobile businesses that have achieved Accreditation. These businesses range from mechanical repairers and automotive dealerships to body repairers and automotive parts recyclers. As the program is available to MTA and VACC/TACC members, it is possible to give a wide range of motor trade businesses Accreditation.

Who do I contact to get apply for Green Stamp Plus Accreditation?

If your business would like to achieve Green Stamp Plus Accreditation you should contact your States selected Motor Trade Association. They will be able to provide you with advice on Green Stamp Plus, as well as the Accreditation booklet and related materials.

Victoria/Tasmania (VACC/TACC) – (03) 9829 1111

ACT (MTA ACT) – (02) 6241 6266

New South Wales (MTA NSW) – (02) 9213 4222

Queensland (MTA QLD) – (07) 3237 8777

Western Australia (MTA WA) – (08) 9453 7900

South Australia (MTA SA) – (08) 8291 2000

Northern Territory (MTA NT) – (08) 8947 6990

Where do I go to find further information on Green Stamp Plus?

If you need any further information on Green Stamp Plus that you cannot find on this website, please contact your State Motor Trade Association (details above), or go to the your States Motor Trade Association website. Details can be found at <http://www.greenstampplus.com.au/contact.html>.