

PAS 2012 Technical Interpretation		Interpretation number	023
Title	Marking of powered ramp controls		
PAS Version	2012 - 1 : 2015 and 2012 - 1 : 2019		
Clause(s)	5.3.7.2 (2015 and 2019)	Powered ramp	
Enquiry	<p>Clause 5.3.7.2 demands that: “The powered ramp controls shall be marked as such and shall be located at the point of entry served by the ramp”. It is becoming increasingly common to use a remote control to open both the tailgate and deploy the ramp on such vehicles. This makes the remote key fob, the “powered ramp control”.</p> <p>However, due to the size and design of the key fob (often the one supplied with the base vehicle), marking the actual fob with the functions is very difficult and dictates the use of very small and / or complex symbols or text that are difficult to read and not durable.</p> <p>Would it be permissible to supply the markings on a separate tag, attached to the same keyring as the key fob? This would allow the symbols / instructions to be displayed at a more appropriate size.</p>		
Decision	<p><b>Yes</b>, this is acceptable. Although not strictly “to the letter of” the requirements, it is clear that the essential purpose of the clause has been met.</p>		
Rationale	<p>The intention behind this clause, is to ensure that the operator (who, in a hired or new vehicle situation, may not be familiar with the vehicle controls), has ready access to the information necessary to operate this feature of the vehicle. As technology improves, WAV manufacturers are better able to integrate their systems with those of the base vehicle, resulting in sometimes being able to re-program the base vehicle’s remote fob, to carry out operations it was not originally intended to do (e.g. open the tailgate and deploy the ramp, by pressing the buttons in a particular sequence). Such complex operations are extremely difficult to communicate in symbols or words on a small object like a key fob, leading to illegible (and therefore useless) information being provided to the user.</p> <p>Providing the same information on a separate tag, kept on the same keyring, meets the original intention of the requirement and might even provide a better solution than marking the fob.</p> <p>Changes to the test of PAS 2012 will be considered at the next review to reflect this.</p>		
Effective date	14/05/2021	Signed off by: WAVCA Board	