

Rear Overhang Limits for Water Sport Devices and Gliders

New rear overhang limit and operating conditions

The Victorian Government recognises the important role water sports and recreational activities play in promoting health and well being in the community.

Accordingly, a Gazette Notice has been published to allow trailers transporting water devices and gliders to exceed the regulatory rear overhang limit. This information bulletin sets out the new rear overhang limit and operating conditions for these trailers to ensure the equipment is transported safely.

Which vehicles and trailers are covered?

The trailers covered under the rear overhang exemption must be fitted with a single axle or axle group and constructed to transport:

- Gliders; and
- Water sport devices such as a yacht, rowing shells, dragon boats, surf skis, canoes and kayaks.

Please note that the vehicle towing the trailer must have a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of less than 4.5 tonnes. Likewise, the trailer transporting the equipment must have an Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) of less than 4.5 tonnes. The GVM and ATM of your vehicle and trailer are specified by the manufacturer.



Figure 2: Example of a trailer combination transporting rowing shells

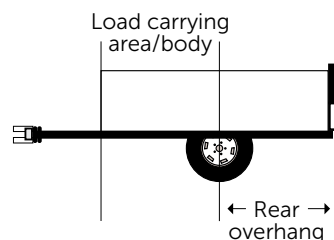
What is "rear overhang"?

Rear overhang is a length limit measured from the centre of a single axle or axle group (the rear overhang line) to the rear of a vehicle or any protruding load as illustrated below.

Under the *Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations* the rear overhang for a pig & tag trailer is the lesser of:

- the length of the load carrying area, or body, ahead of the rear overhang line; and
- 3.7 metres.

Figure 1: Rear overhang of a trailer



Limiting a vehicle's rear overhang ensures that when turning at an intersection or a roundabout the rear of the vehicle will stay within its lane and not impede other road users.

Generally, trailers transporting water devices like canoes or yachts, or specially constructed glider trailers, exceed this rear overhang limit. In the case of water devices, the transported equipment protrudes beyond the rear of the trailer whereas glider trailers, to accommodate a variety of glider types and sizes, are constructed with an excessive rear overhang. Therefore an exemption is needed to allow these trailers to legally operate on the network.

What is the maximum rear overhang?

The Gazette Notice sets a maximum rear overhang of 5.0 metres for glider trailers and trailers transporting water sport devices.

The increase in the rear overhang limit means that the maximum length of the trailer when carrying a load increases from the regulatory limit of 12.2 metres to a new maximum of 13.5 metres.

Otherwise, as shown in Table 1, all other regulatory dimension limits must be complied with.

What operating conditions apply?

Assessing your route

While VicRoads has deemed a rear overhang limit of 5.0 metres to be safe for other road users, there is still an obligation for the owner and/or driver of the towing vehicle to ensure the combination can be safely operated on the intended route.

Warning flags and lights

If the load projects more than 1.2 metres behind the trailer the following conditions apply depending on the time of travel.

- Daytime: brightly coloured flags or piece of material with each side at least 300 millimetres long, must be attached to the extremities of any projecting load such as the stern of a yacht
- Night time: a red light that can be seen for at least 200 metres.

Secure restraint of load

It is the responsibility of the owner and/or driver of a vehicle to ensure the load is reduced or retracted to its smallest practicable dimensions and securely restrained to maximise safety on roads.

Trailer coupling

The trailer should exert a positive downward force on the towing vehicle's trailer coupling. This means that a portion of the mass of the trailer should be transferred to the towing vehicle.

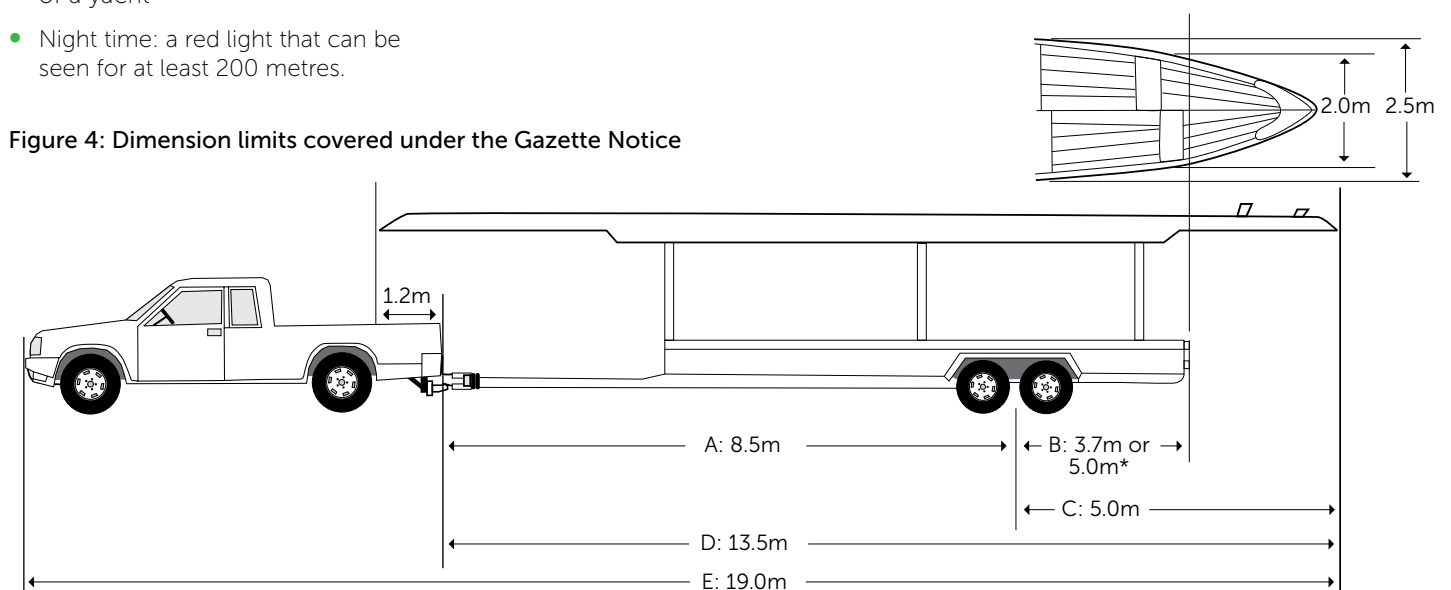
More information

For more information, refer to [Victorian Government Gazette S S2](#) published on 4 January 2017.

Table 1: Dimension limits covered under the Gazette Notice for laden trailer

Dimension	Limits
Width	2.5 m
Height	4.3 m
A: Coupling to rear overhang line	8.5 m
B: Rear overhang of trailer as constructed	3.7 m for water devices or 5.0 m for glider trailers
C: Rear overhang of trailer with load	5.0 m*
D: Length of laden trailer (A + C)	13.5 m
E: Length of laden combination	19.0 m
Front projection from the tow hitch	1.2 m

* Beyond the rear overhang of 3.7 m the load must not be more than 2.0 m wide.



*The rear overhang of a glider trailer as constructed must not exceed 5.0m