

Operating Guidelines

Victorian Grain Harvest Management Scheme

What is the Grain Harvest Management Scheme (GHMS)?

In October 2017, the Victorian Government introduced a Grain Harvest Management Scheme (GHMS) to improve the productivity, safety and efficiency of the grain transport task. The GHMS has been designed to provide eligible vehicles with a five per cent loading concession on vehicles delivering grain from the farm to a Participating Grain Receiver.

With positive results seen at the end of the 2018 harvest, the GHMS will again operate this year from 1 October 2018 to 31 May 2019. The scheme is designed to benefit the grain industry, the road transport industry and the wider community. It allows an efficient grain harvest while protecting road infrastructure by eliminating gross overloading through administrative compliance procedures.

What are the allowable mass limits?

The GHMS allows a five per cent mass concession on top of your vehicles' General Mass Limit (GML). VicRoads has developed a Mass Limit Chart to help you understand the mass limits. This chart can be found on the VicRoads' Grain Harvest Management Scheme webpage.

It is the operator's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle does not operate at a mass that exceeds the limits indicated on the vehicles manufacturer's rating (this can be found on the vehicles compliance plate).

What are the conditions for participation in the GHMS?

Participants operating under the scheme must comply with the following conditions:

- The vehicle is manufactured after 1 January 2002 and is compliant with [Vehicle Standard \(Australian Design Rule 80/00 – Emission Control for Heavy Vehicles\) 2005](#).
- Scheme participants must be aware of the manufacturer's gross vehicle mass or axle/axle group mass limits of their vehicle and must not exceed these limits if lower than the GHMS.
- The operator of the vehicle must not exceed the GHMS limit.
- Participants must affix their GHMS sticker permanently to the front left-hand side of their windscreen in a visible position. The displayed label must be for the current harvest season and affixed to the correct vehicle.
- All expired scheme stickers are to be removed from participating vehicles.
- GHMS mass limits apply only when a participant's vehicle is carrying one of the below Grains:
 - cereals that are wheat, barley, rice, oats, triticale, sorghum, maize or millets;
 - oilseeds that are canola, sunflowers, monola, or safflower; and
 - pulses that are chickpeas, faba beans, lupins, mung beans, field peas, soybeans, vetch or lentils.
- Participation is not restricted to farmers and is open to anyone making heavy vehicle Grain deliveries from a farm to a Participating Grain Receiver.
- The GHMS allowance is only available to grain delivered to a Participating Grain Receiver.

What is Australian Design Rule (ADR) 80?

The Victorian GHMS will promote the use of more environmentally friendly vehicles by applying only to rigid trucks and combinations that were first registered in 2002 and comply with the emission controlled standards outlined in [Australian Design Rule 80/00](#). This ADR is a vehicle standard that prescribes the exhaust emissions requirements for engines used in heavy vehicles in order to reduce air pollution.

This condition also supports the Victorian Government's 'Towards Zero' road safety initiative and promotes the use of newer and safer vehicles.

What if my vehicle isn't ADR 80 compliant?

Under the GHMS, no operator will be disadvantaged. A vehicle that does not comply with ADR80 will continue to operate under the existing vehicle GML without a five percent tolerance.

What is a Participating Grain Receiver?

A participating grain receiver is a bulk handler of grain or end-user who complies with the following:

- Has agreed in writing to the conditions of the GHMS.
- Has advised VicRoads that it has measures in place to—
 - Supply data relating to the receipt of grain from heavy vehicles operating under this notice to VicRoads in a specified timeframe and format; and
 - Communicate with the chain of responsible parties about this data; and
 - Retains evidence of this communication.

A list of Participating Grain Receivers will be shown on the two network maps that have been developed for the Scheme. These maps will go live on the [VicRoads' Heavy Vehicle Map page from October 1](#). The location of participating grain receivers will be progressively updated as they join the Scheme.

To be in the Scheme do I have to deliver to my nearest Participating Grain Receiver?

No, a feature of the Victorian GHMS will provide operators the freedom to travel to a Participating Grain Receiver of their choice, as long as the Grain Receiver accepts the type of grain being delivered.

How do I join the GHMS?

To operate under the Victorian GHMS participants are required to display a sticker confirming eligibility on the front left-hand side of the windscreen. To obtain a label, operators will need to apply through the VicRoads website, by completing a web form and confirming their vehicles date of manufacture. Once VicRoads has confirmed your eligibility, the participant will first be emailed a temporary printable version of the label and will be posted a GHMS sticker within the following 2 weeks.

What happens if I exceed?

Vehicles that exceed the mass limits set out in the GHMS and are detected on the road will be viewed as a severe risk breach under the National Heavy Vehicle Law. If the 5% concession is exceeded, it will no longer apply and the vehicles General Mass Limit will be applicable.

For example, a semi-trailer has a GML of 42.5 tonne. Under the Scheme, with the five percent allowance, the vehicle can load up to a maximum of 44.6 tonnes. However, if the vehicle is detected on the road at 46.0 tonnes, the vehicle will be classified as being $46.0 - 42.5 = 3.5$ tonnes overweight not $46.0 - 44.6 = 1.4$ tonnes overloaded.

Where can I drive?

Although the GHMS is approved by VicRoads the added mass concession means some route restrictions will be in force. VicRoads has developed two maps which indicate the approved routes. These maps will go live on the [VicRoads' Heavy Vehicle Map page from October 1](#).

Is my vehicle eligible?

The best way to check your vehicles eligibility is through the Vehicle Eligibility Chart, which shows an example for each vehicle combination eligible to operate under the GHMS and the maximum mass they are able to operate at. The chart can be found on the VicRoads' Grain Harvest Management Scheme webpage.

Road-Trains, combinations that operate under the Higher Mass Limits Scheme and vehicles that comply with the Performance-Based Standards are not eligible for this Scheme.

Can I apply to the Scheme if I'm an interstate operator?

Yes. Once you sign up to the Victorian GHMS you will be able to deliver your grain to any Victorian Participating Grain Receiver. However, the Victorian Scheme does not recognise other Grain Harvest Schemes managed in other state jurisdictions.