

# Victoria's platform trailer network

## Information Sheet

August 2023

### Introduction

Victoria's platform trailer networks provide pre-approved permit access for a range of platform trailer configurations up to 206.0t on key corridors.

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with information supplied by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).

### Reference vehicles

Reference vehicles and their minimum ground-contact widths and gross combination mass (GCM) are listed in Table 1. Configurations differ according to whether the permit is single trip or period permit.

Table 1 Reference vehicles

Single-trip permit				
Ref veh	Combination type	Minimum ground contact width dolly	Minimum ground contact width trailer	Maximum GCM
1	Prime mover/6x8 platform trailer	NA	4.2m	115.0t
9	Prime mover/7x8 platform trailer	NA	4.3m	130.0t
2	Prime mover/8x8 platform trailer	NA	4.2m	145.0t
10	Prime mover/9x8 platform trailer	NA	4.3m	160.0t
11	Prime mover/10x8 platform trailer	NA	4.3m	175.0t
12	Prime mover/11x8 platform trailer	NA	4.3m	190.0t
13	Prime mover/12x8 platform trailer	NA	4.3m	205.0t

Single-trip permit with dolly				
Ref veh	Combination type	Minimum ground contact width dolly	Minimum ground contact width trailer	Maximum GCM
19	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/7x8 platform trailer	3.6m	3.7m	128.0t
5	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/5x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.2m	131.0t
6	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/6x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.3m	146.0t
20	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/7x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.0m	147.0t
3	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/7x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.2m	161.0t
4	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/8x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.2m	176.0t
7	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/9x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.3m	191.0t
8	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/10x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.3m	206.0t

Period permit				
Ref veh	Combination type	Minimum ground contact width dolly	Minimum ground contact width trailer	Maximum GCM
16	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/10x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.2m	176.0t
15	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/11x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.2m	188.0t
14	Prime mover/14x8 platform trailer	4.0m	4.3m	193.0t

Low loader single-trip permit				
Ref veh	Combination type	Minimum ground contact width dolly	Minimum ground contact width trailer	Maximum GCM
17	Prime mover/5x8 short low loader	NA	4.2m	100.0t
23	Prime mover/5x8 long low loader	NA	4.2m	100.0t
22	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/5x8 low loader	3.5m	3.5m	113.5t
18	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/5x8 short low loader	4.0m	4.2m	131.0t
21	Prime mover/2x8 dolly/5x8 long low loader	4.0m	4.2m	131.0t

## Axle mass limits

In addition to an upper mass limit, maximum axle and axle group limits apply. These are contained in Table 2.

Table 2 Axle mass limits

Ref vehicle	Axle type	Maximum mass limit
1-18, 21, 23	Steer axle <sup>1</sup>	6.5t
	Drive group (no dolly)	18.5t
	Tandem dolly (eight tyres)	31.0t
	Drive group and tandem dolly	49.5t
	Axle on platform trailer (eight tyres) with single-trip permit	15.0t per line
	Axle on platform trailer (eight tyres) with period permit	12.0t per line
	Low loader (5-axle)	15.0t per line

Ref vehicle	Axle type	Maximum mass limit
19	Steer axle <sup>1</sup>	6.5t
	Drive group (no dolly)	18.5t
	Tandem dolly (eight tyres)	26.0t
	Drive group and tandem dolly	44.5t
	Axle on platform trailer (eight tyres) with single trip permit	11.0t per line
20	Steer axle <sup>1</sup>	6.5t
	Drive group (no dolly)	18.5t
	Tandem dolly (eight tyres)	31.0t
	Drive group and tandem dolly	49.5t
	Axle on platform trailer (eight tyres) with single trip permit	13.0t per line
22	Steer axle <sup>1</sup>	6.5t
	Drive group (no dolly)	18.5t
	Tandem dolly (eight tyres)	26.0t
	Drive group and tandem dolly	44.5t
	Low loader (5 axle)	12.5t per line



1. When operating at 6.5 tonnes, the steer axle must comply with the requirements specified in *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations*.

## Dimension limits

Dimension limits and specific requirements for dimensions are contained in Table 3 and 4.

Table 3 Dimension limits

Width	Height <sup>3</sup>	Rear overhang	Deck height	Length
6.0m	6.0m	7.3m	1.2m	46.0m

Table 4 Specific requirements related to height

Route condition	Vehicle height	Requirement
No overhead structures	< 6.0m	Nil
No overhead structures	> 6.0m	Transport Management Plan
Overhead electrical or telecommunications infrastructure	> 5.0m	Third-party permission
Crossing rail tracks in a metropolitan area	>4.9m	Rail permit
Crossing tram tracks	>4.3m	Rail permit

## Axle-spacing limits

Minimum and maximum dimensions between axles on reference vehicle platform trailers are specified in Table 5.

A maximum 50mm tolerance (plus or minus) is permitted on specified axle spacings to allow for manufacturing error. Only one tolerance is permitted per vehicle. Cumulative tolerances are not permitted. Tolerances are not permitted on new vehicles.

Table 5 Axle-spacing limits

Group or axle <sup>2</sup>	Minimum spacing	Maximum spacing
Last axle of the drive group to first axle of the platform trailer (no dolly) except reference vehicle 23	6.0m	6.3m
Last axle of the drive group to first axle of the platform trailer (no dolly) reference vehicle 23 only	8.9m	10.1m
Last axle of the drive group to first axle of the tandem dolly	2.6m	3.6m
Last axle of the tandem dolly to first axle of the platform trailer except reference vehicle 21	6.0m	6.3m
Last axle of the tandem dolly to first axle of the platform trailer reference vehicle 21 only	8.9m	9.1m
Between each axle of a platform trailer for reference vehicles 1-16, 19, 20	1.8m	1.83m
Between each axle of a platform trailer for reference vehicles 17, 18, 21-23	1.2m	1.22m



1. When operating at 6.5 tonnes, the steer axle must comply with the requirements specified in *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations*.

2. Axle spacings specific to each reference vehicle are at Appendix 1.

3. Maximum height limit is subject to available clearance on the network. Height clearance information is at <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/heavy-vehicle-road-safety/height-clearance-on-roads>

## What if my platform trailer exceeds dimension limits?

Platform trailer combinations that exceed the dimension limits in Table 5<sup>6</sup> may operate on the approved network provided a Transport Management Plan (TMP) forms part of the permit application.

Road Manager consent on approved arterial roads will not be required where the TMP demonstrates, through a swept-path analysis, that the combination can safely navigate the route without the need to remove road furniture or operate contra-flow (in the opposite direction to the traffic). The TMP should also include evidence of third-party permission as per Table 7.

## What if my platform trailer doesn't match one of the reference vehicles?

A structural assessment will be required if your vehicle:

- exceeds the axle limits specified in Table 2; or
- does not comply with the dimensions or axle spacings specified in Table 3, 4 or 5; or
- exceeds 206.0t GCM.

An assessment may incur costs, particularly if the platform exceeds more than 15.0t per line.

## Travel conditions

Platform trailers are only permitted to travel during the periods specified in Table 6.

A 'holiday period' means a period of three or more consecutive days consisting of any of the following:

- a state-wide school holiday;
- a public holiday;
- a Saturday or a Sunday.

A 'public holiday' means any day ratified by the Victorian Government as a public holiday.

A 'rural area' means an area of operation in Victoria other than the following:

- Colac Surf Coast area;
- Gippsland Ranges area;
- Melbourne and Geelong urban area;

- Mountainous area; and
- Otway area.

A platform trailer combination must not travel from 23 December to 3 January inclusive on:

- the Calder Highway; or
- the Hume Highway; or
- a freeway outside the Melbourne and Geelong urban areas.

Table 6: Permitted travel times<sup>7</sup>

Road or area	Day	Up to 5.0m wide and/or 30.0m long	Over 5.0m wide and/or 30.0m long
Melbourne and Geelong urban area	Mon - Sat	9am-4pm 12am-6am	1am-5am
	Sunday and public holidays	12am-4pm	1am-5am
Rural area	Any day	Sunrise-sunset	Sunrise-sunset
Freeway/ Hume Hwy	Any day (all times)	Except for the day of a holiday period	Except for the day before a holiday period



6. Except for deck height, which must be 1.2m or less.

7. With the exception of the Hume Highway, where a freeway transitions to a highway, the rural area travel conditions apply.

# Getting a permit

Based on the configuration you choose, a single trip (12-month maximum) or period permit (issued for 3 years) is available to access the pre-approved network. If you choose a configuration that has been assessed at 15.0t per line, a single trip permit will apply. If you choose a platform that has been assessed at 12.0t per line, a period permit will be made available.

See *How to apply* below.

## Requirement for a rail permit

Permission is required to cross tram or train tracks where the vehicle exceeds one of the dimensions contained in Table 7.

Table 7. Dimension threshold to seek permission to cross tracks

	Width	Height	Length
Rail	5.0m	4.9m*	26.0m
Tram	3.0m	4.3m	26.0m

\*Applies to metropolitan areas only

For more information on rail permits, see <https://transport.vic.gov.au/getting-around/roads/over-dimensional-load-permits-for-travel-across-railways-and-tramways>



## Requirement for third-party permissions

Where third-party permission is required, the driver of the combination must keep a copy of the approval (physical or electronic) and show it to an authorised officer on request.

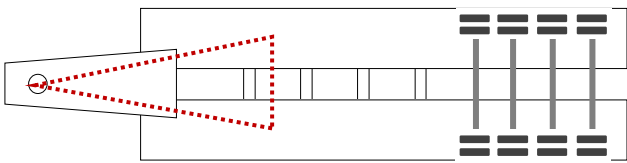
# General operating requirements

The platform trailer’s suspension system must be capable of load sharing across all axles.

The coupling on a gooseneck connection must be height adjustable so that the platform can be levelled prior to travel.

Platform trailers with a gooseneck must be arranged in a three-point connection to maintain stability, as per Figure 1.

Figure 1. three-point connection required for trailers with goosenecks.



If a gooseneck connection has a mass compensating mechanism, it must remain operational and maintain a constant mass on the tandem drive.

To maintain traction when towing a laden trailer, the mass on the drive group must exceed 14.0t.

The laden combination must not exceed 70kmh.

A stand-by prime mover must accompany the combination when the total mass of the platform combination exceeds 150.0t.

A vehicle-mounted variable message sign (VMS) is required when crossing any structures at 5kmh when the posted speed limit is 100kmh.

## Requirement for warning signs, flags and lights

A platform trailer combination that, together with its load, is wider than 2.5m or longer than 25.0m must have:

- a warning sign attached to the front of the vehicle; and
- a warning sign attached to the rear of the vehicle or, if a load projects from the rear of the vehicle, to the rear of the load; and

- four brightly coloured red, red and yellow, or yellow flags, each at least 450mm by 450mm, fixed as follows:
- at each side of the front of the vehicle or, if a load projects from the front of the vehicle, at each side of the front of the load;
- at each side of the rear of the vehicle or, if a load projects from the rear of the vehicle, at each side of the rear of the load.

If a load projects more than 150mm beyond a side of a platform trailer, and the projection is less than 500mm thick from top to bottom, a warning light and two delineators must be attached to the vehicle. Schedule 8, Part 1 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations* specifies the minimum requirements for lights and delineators.

If a platform trailer, together with any load, is wider than 3.0m, a warning light must be attached to the vehicle while it is being used in the daytime.

The prime mover towing the platform trailer must have its low-beam headlights or front fog lights on while being used in daytime.

A warning light attached to a platform trailer combination must only be switched on when the heavy vehicle is travelling or stationary in a position that is likely to pose a danger to other road users.

If a platform trailer is being used at night:

- side markers must be displayed, not more than 2.0m apart, along the total length of each side of the vehicle and any load projecting from the front or rear of the vehicle; and
- two rear markers must be fitted to the rear of any load projecting from the rear of the vehicle, within 400mm of each side of the load and at least 1.0m, but no more than 2.1m, above the ground; and
- a warning light must be attached to the combination if it, together with any load, is wider than 2.5m or longer than 22.0m; and
- a pilot vehicle is required when the unladen platform has a width greater than 3.1m, but not more than 3.5m.

## Requirement for skid rails

Non-conductive skid rails, designed in accordance with electricity authority requirements, must be attached to the top of the load in the direction of front to rear for the entire length of the load when the vehicle height exceeds:

- 4.8m under tram wires; and
- 5.0m under railway, electricity authority and telecommunication wires.

## Rear overhang

For information on rear overhang limits see <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/mass-dimension-and-loading/general-mass-and-dimension-limits/rear-overhang>

## Requirement for pilots

Pilots must comply with the pilot requirements set out in Schedule 8 of the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations.

A minimum of two certified pilots are required per load. Additional pilots may be required as per the Pilot and Escort Requirement Guide (see Appendix 2).

## Requirements for jinkers

Where a jinker is used and overall length exceeds 40.0m, high-visibility webbing is to be placed along the entire length of the load to alert other road users.

## Requirements for push-pull vehicles

Push-pull vehicles may need to be assessed for use on routes that involve steep inclines or descents. You will be advised of this requirement during your permit application.



## Requirements during unladen travel

The *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations* specify that when operating unladen, a platform trailer must be kept at its smallest practicable dimensions. This requires the deck to be fully closed and any deck or gooseneck extensions retracted.

The dolly must be removed from the combination but may be carried as a load.

An unladen platform trailer combination cannot exceed the following maximum dimensions:

- Maximum length: 30.0m
- Maximum width: 3.5m
- Maximum height: 4.6m

The unladen platform trailer combination must not exceed the following mass limits:

- Steer axle: 6.5t
- Drive axle: 18.5t
- Eight-tyred axle: 5.0t per line

Unladen platform trailers that comply with the above may apply for annual permits to operate on Victoria's oversize and over-mass network.

## General responsibilities

DoT platform trailer maps do not absolve a driver or a transport company of their responsibilities.

Before the driver operates on the approved routes they must:

- show the details of their permit to any pilot escorting the load;
- ensure there is sufficient clearance under wires, structures and trees, and sufficient ground clearance at rail level crossings;
- determine any road closures or conditions by checking the [VicTraffic](#) map and Victoria's [Big Build](#) website.
- ensure that any road furniture removal is to be undertaken by staff other than the driver of the pilot or escort vehicle. Road furniture removal and reinstatement are the responsibility of the transport company.

## How to apply

These steps detail how to obtain a 12-month Class 1 single-trip permit oversize over-mass (OSOM) permit on the NHVR portal.

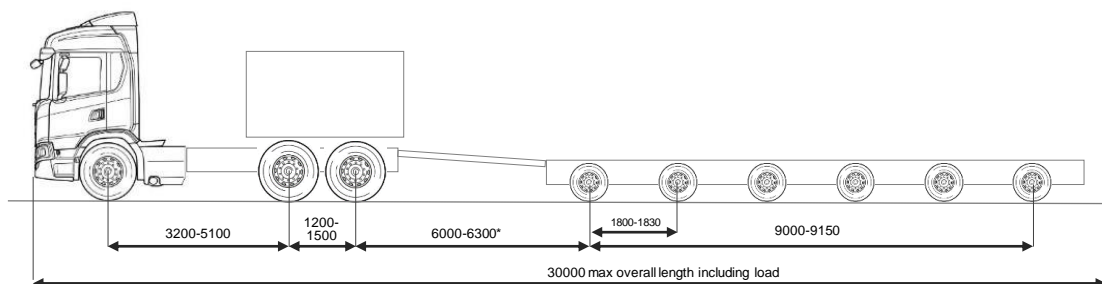
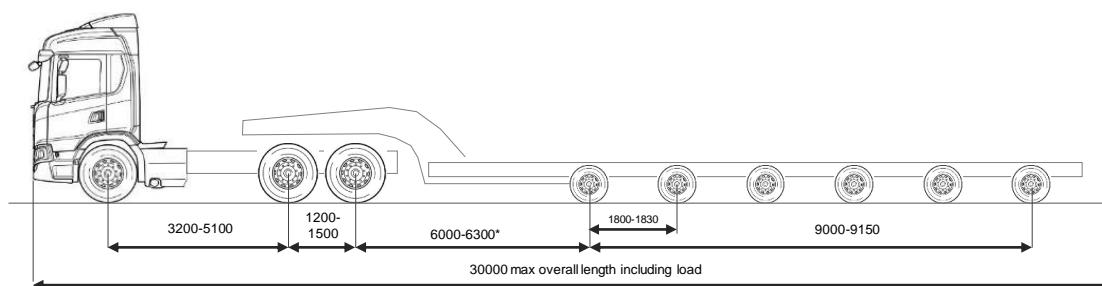
1. Go to <https://www.service.nhvr.gov.au> and if not registered, follow the prompts to set up an account.
2. Once registered, from the home screen, click on the 'Application Tracker' tile.
3. Click on the 'New Application' button and enter a reference for your application.
4. Click on the green 'Select Configuration' button and then select the OSOM heading.
5. Select the 'Prime Mover towing OS/OM/OSOM Load'. Remove the trailer component and add the platform trailer to the application.
6. Complete all fields in the 'Vehicle' step of the application and then select the 'Next' button.
7. In the 'Travel Details' tab under 'Travel Requirements' select 'Single Trip'.
8. In the 'Route' step of the application, select the 'Single Route' option and plot your trip's start and finish address, ensuring you nominate the roads identified on the platform trailer network.
9. Tick the confirmation box located under the 'Confirm' tab and add the following note into 'Route Notes': 'Requesting access to roads contained in Victoria's platform trailer network'.
10. Navigate the remainder of the application form, completing all mandatory fields. Attach supporting documentation where required. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment.

## Appendix 1

### Platform trailer combination reference vehicle designs<sup>8</sup>

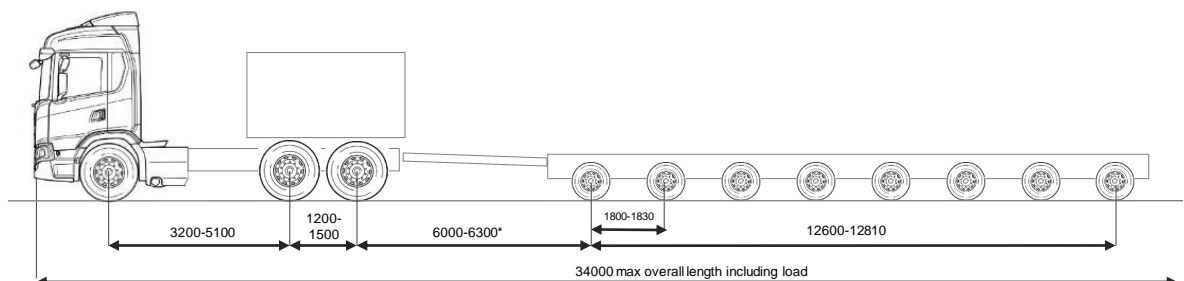
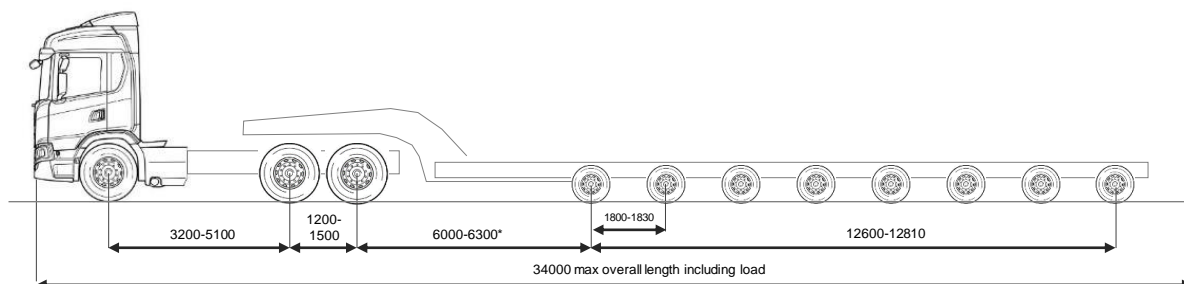
#### Reference vehicle 1

Prime mover and 6x8 platform trailer combination up to 115.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



#### Reference vehicle 2

Prime mover and 8x8 platform trailer combination up to 145.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.

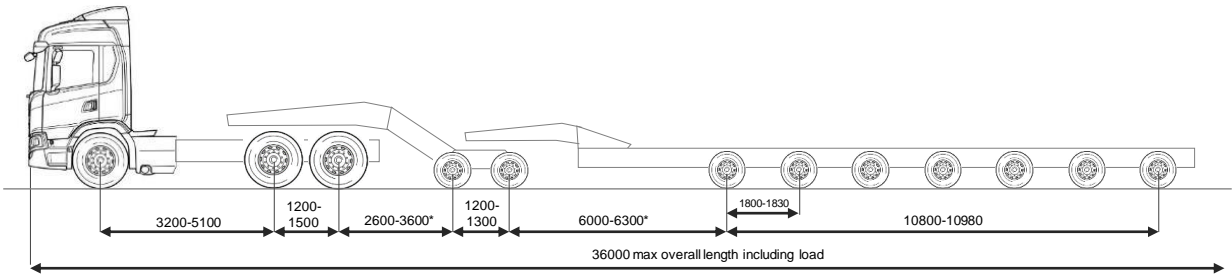


<sup>8</sup> Not to scale. All measurements in millimetres.

\* 50mm tolerance permitted

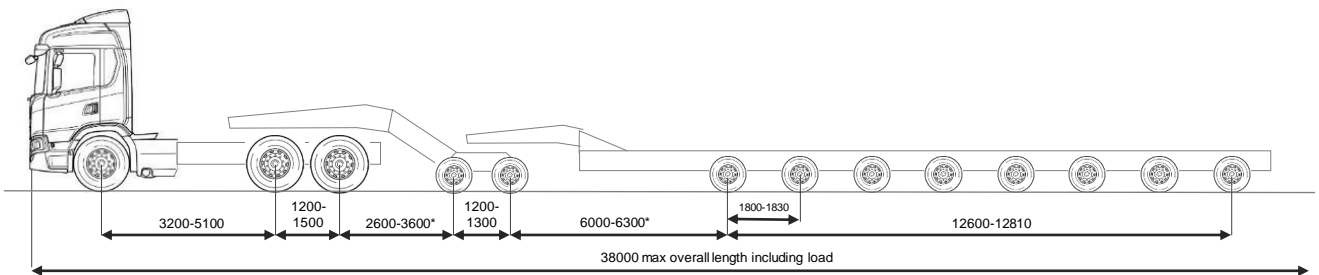
### Reference vehicle 3

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 7x8 platform trailer combination up to 161.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



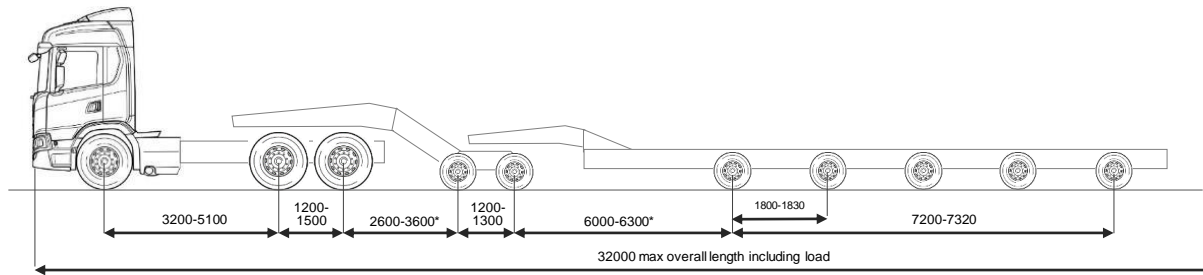
### Reference vehicle 4

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 8x8 platform trailer combination up to 176.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



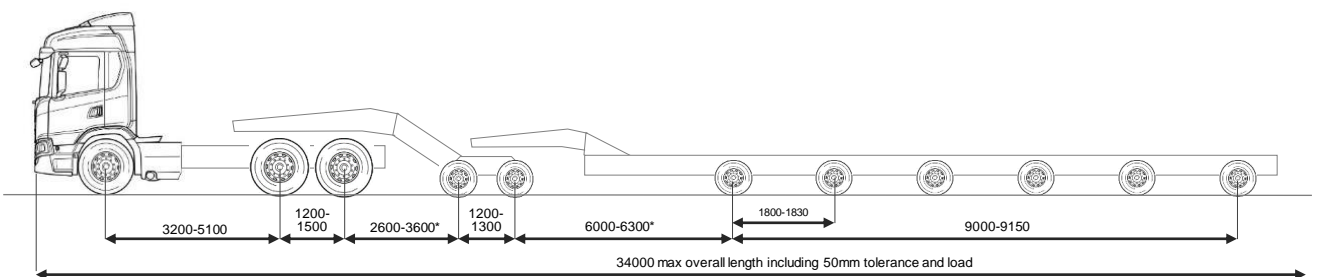
### Reference vehicle 5

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 5x8 platform trailer combination up to 131.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



### Reference vehicle 6

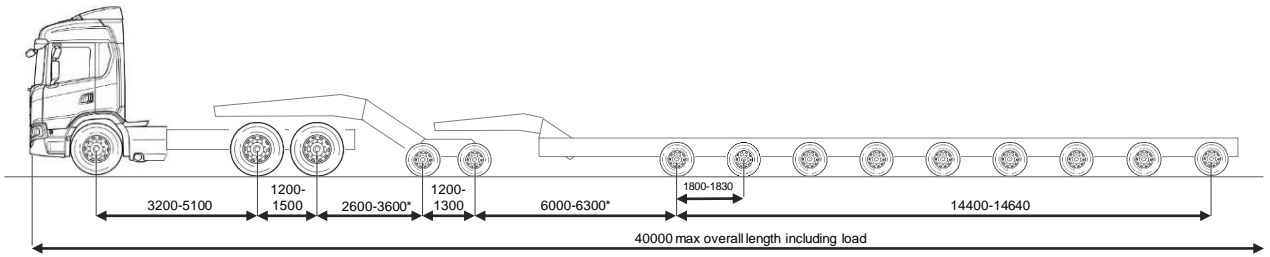
Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 6x8 platform trailer combination up to 146.0 tonnes



\* 50mm tolerance permitted (applies to dolly or trailer, not both)

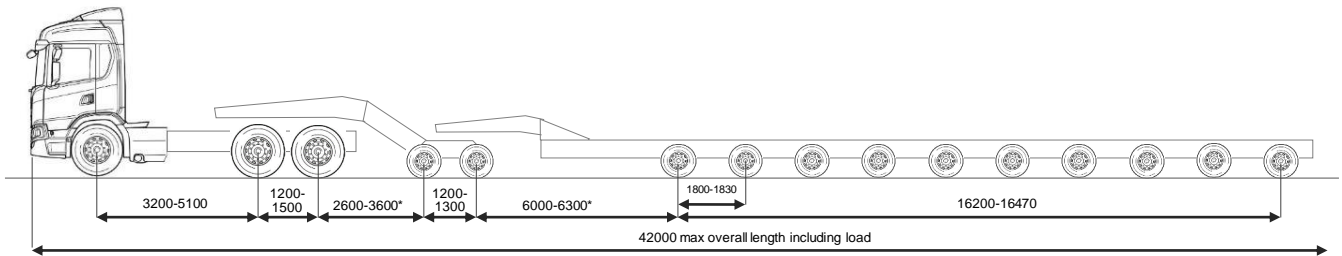
Reference vehicle 7

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 9x8 platform trailer combination up to 191.0 tonnes



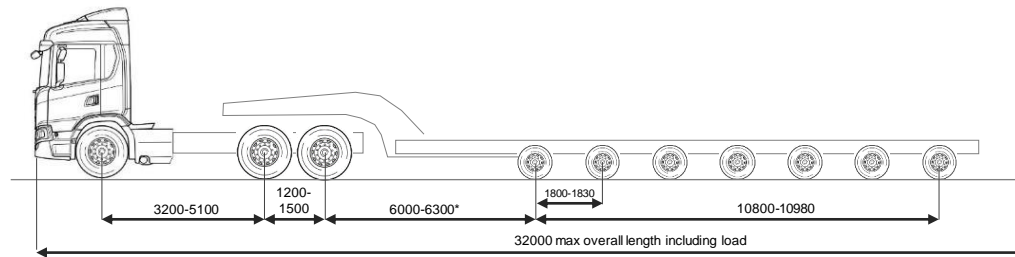
Reference vehicle 8

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 10x8 platform trailer combination up to 206.0 tonnes



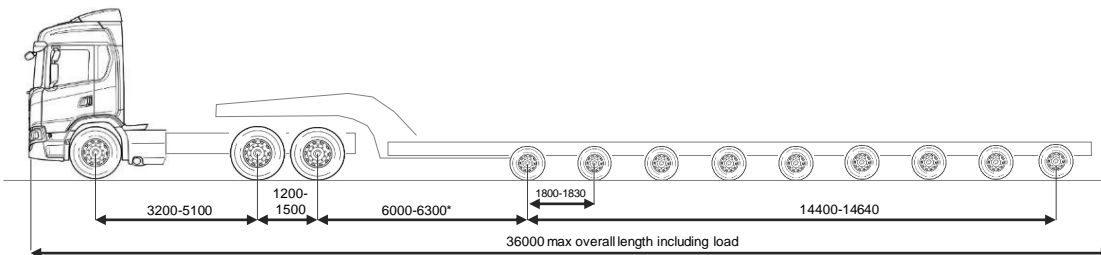
Reference vehicle 9

Prime mover and 7x8 platform trailer combination up to 130.0 tonnes



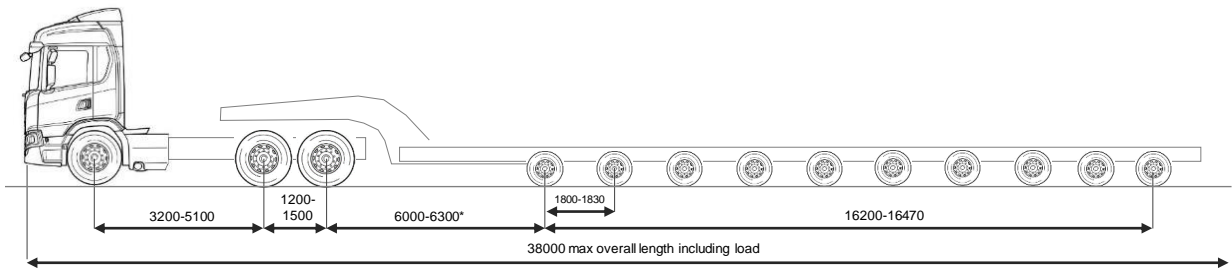
Reference vehicle 10

Prime mover and 9x8 platform trailer combination up to 160.0 tonnes

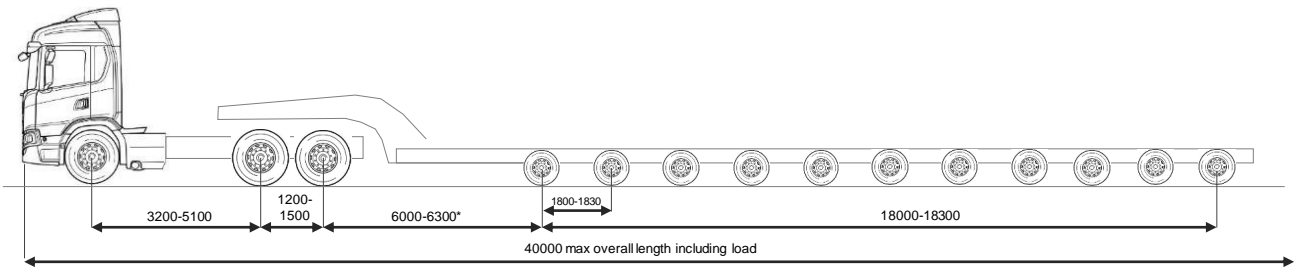


\* 50mm tolerance permitted (applies to dolly or trailer, not both)

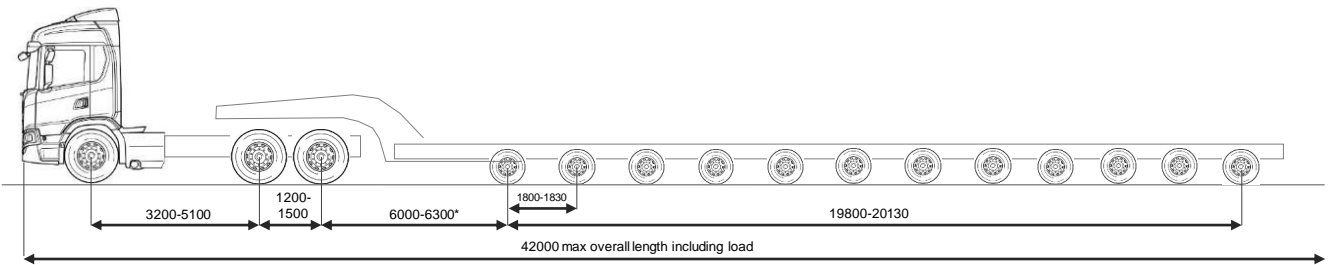
Reference vehicle 11  
Prime mover and 10x8 platform trailer combination up to 175.0 tonnes



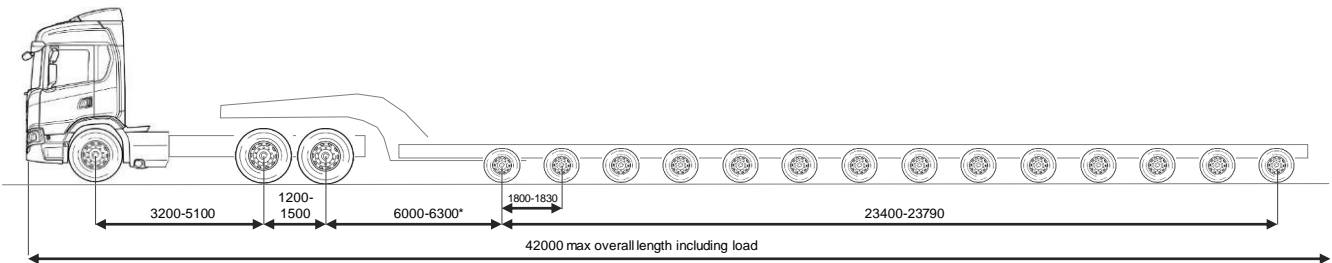
Reference vehicle 12  
Prime mover and 11x8 platform trailer combination up to 190.0 tonnes



Reference vehicle 13  
Prime mover and 12x8 platform trailer combination up to 205.0 tonnes



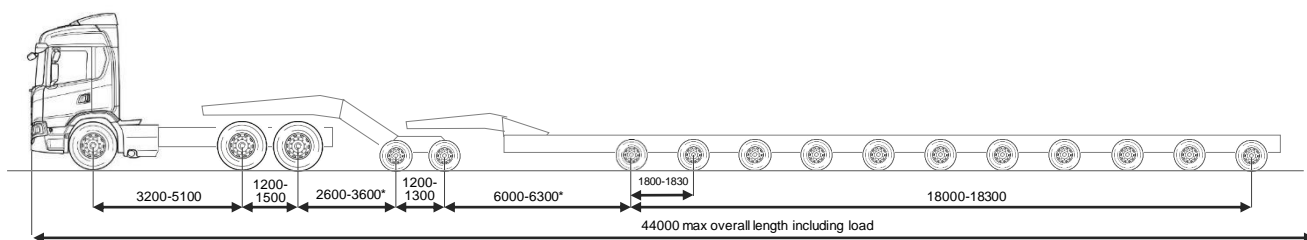
Reference vehicle 14  
Prime mover and 14x8 platform trailer combination up to 193.0 tonnes



\* 50mm tolerance permitted

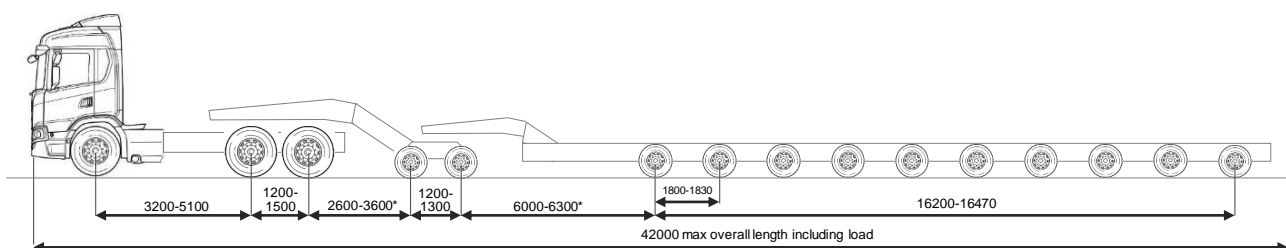
### Reference vehicle 15

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 11x8 platform trailer combination up to 188.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



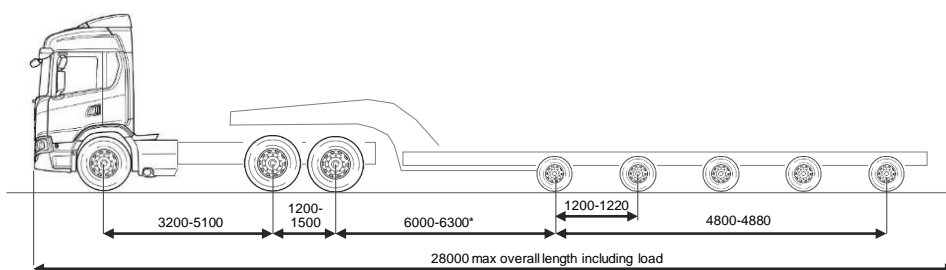
### Reference vehicle 16

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 10x8 platform trailer combination up to 176.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



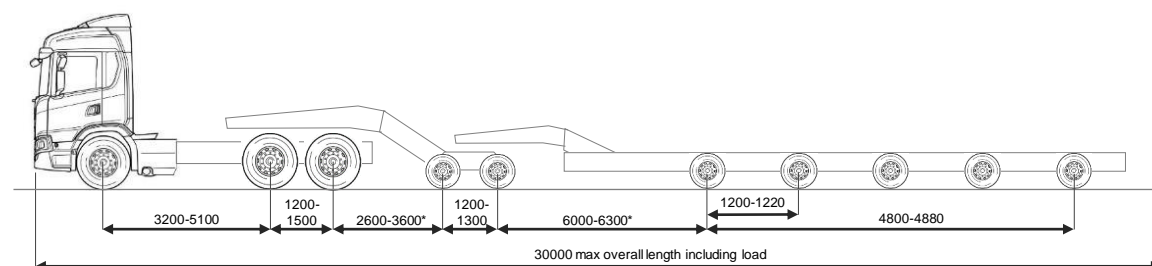
### Reference vehicle 17

Prime mover and 5x8 low loader combination up to 100.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



### Reference vehicle 18

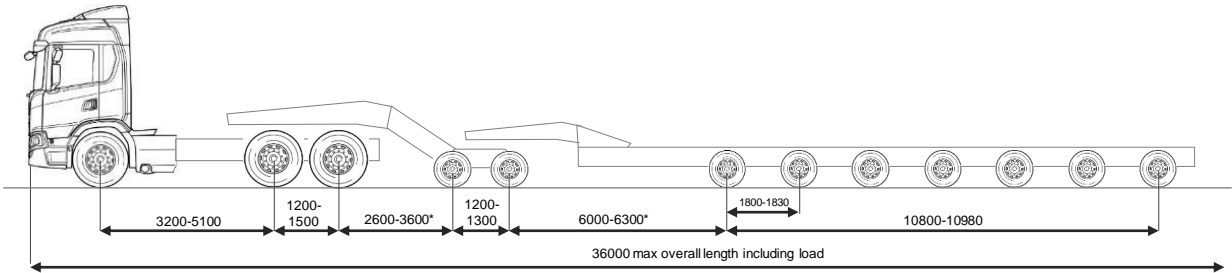
Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 5x8 low loader combination up to 131.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



\* 50mm tolerance permitted (applies to dolly or trailer, not both)

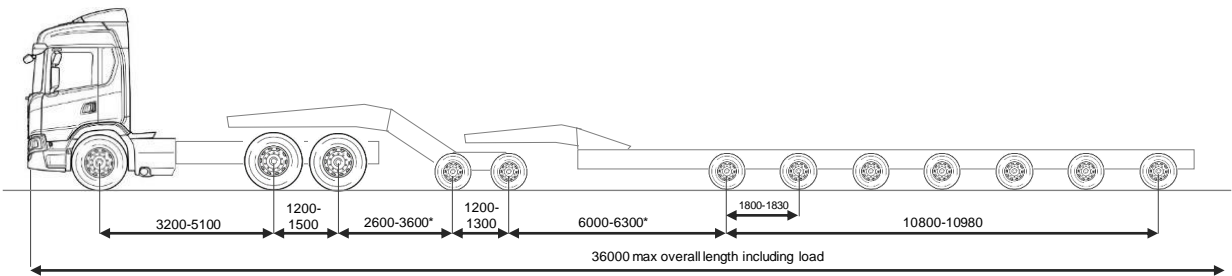
#### Reference vehicle 19

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 7x8 platform trailer combination up to 128.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 3.7m.



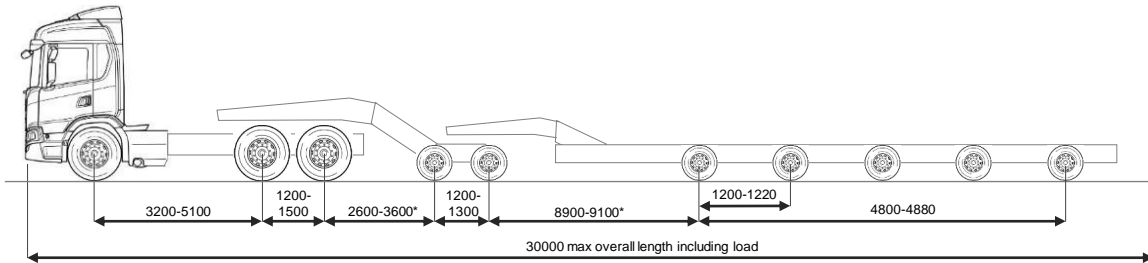
#### Reference vehicle 20

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 7x8 platform trailer combination up to 147.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.0m.



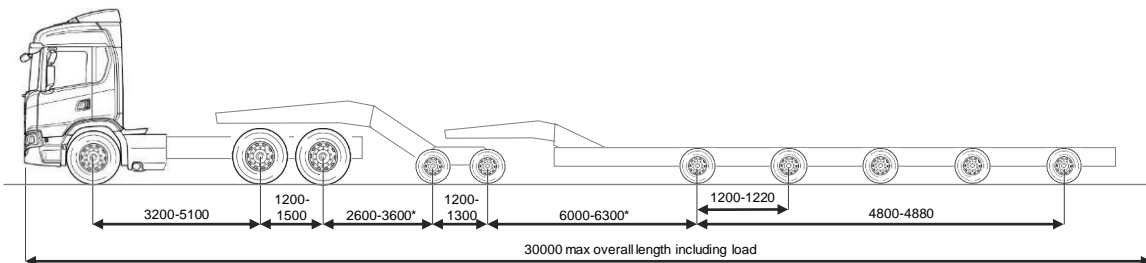
#### Reference vehicle 21

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 5x8 low loader combination up to 131.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



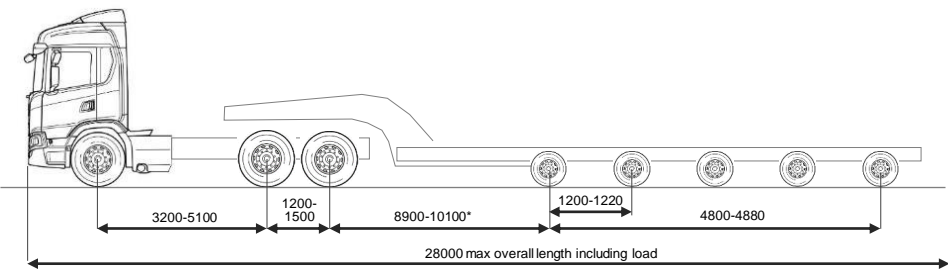
#### Reference vehicle 22

Prime mover, 2x8 dolly and 5x8 low loader combination up to 113.5 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 3.5m.



\* 50mm tolerance permitted (applies to dolly or trailer, not both)

Reference vehicle 23  
Prime mover, 5x8 long low loader combination up to 100.0 tonnes. Minimum ground contact width: 4.2m.



# Appendix 2

## Pilot and escort requirement guide

This is a guide only and may be amended to accommodate specific traffic conditions; specific road conditions; or loads larger than 6.0m wide or 60.0m long. The number of pilot/escort vehicles required will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



\*Reduces to 1 certified pilot on a freeway outside the Melbourne and Geelong urban areas