Victoria's Performance-Based Standards (PBS) Level 2B Network (Cubic)

What is the Performance-Based Standards (PBS) Scheme?

Established nationally in 2007 the PBS Scheme provides industry with the potential to design and build innovative, safe and productive heavy vehicles. Vehicles that apply for the Scheme are tested against a set of 16 safety standards and 4 infrastructure standards. These include assessments that determine the vehicle's stability and its capacity to negotiate intersections and roundabouts.

More information about the PBS Scheme can be found on the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator website.

What is the Level 2B Network?

Vehicles assessed under the PBS Scheme are classified into four levels of network access based on the combination's performance. For example, a vehicle that complies with all the Level 1 standards gets access to the PBS Level 1 Network. The table below describes how each of the levels are split:

PBS Network Classifications

PBS Level	Access Class 'A'	Access Class 'B'
1	Up to 20.0m long	N/A
2	Up to 26.0m long	Up to 30.0m long
3	Up to 36.5m long	Up to 42.5m long
4	Up to 53.5m long	Up to 60.0m long

Consequently, the PBS Level 2B Network applies to PBS combinations that meet the PBS Level 2 standards and do not exceed an overall length of 30.0 metres.

Why is Victoria's PBS Level 2B Network specified as cubic?

While PBS Level 2B combinations operating on this network may be up to 30.0 metres in length, the overall weight of the vehicle cannot exceed the mass limit of a conventional B-Double, i.e. 68.5 tonnes. Increasing a vehicle's length while restricting its mass is in line with Victoria's 2013 Moving More With Less policy which looks to protect Victoria's infrastructure while also providing productivity benefits for the movement of light freight.[1]

[1] This is reinforced by a National Transport Commission Discussion Paper that promotes the development of national volumetric (cubic) networks by increasing a vehicle's length and height rather than mass.

What vehicles can use the PBS Level 2B Network?

The PBS Level 2B Network is open to any vehicle configuration that:

- Does not exceed an overall length limit of 30.0 metres; and
- Complies with all the PBS Level 2 safety standards.

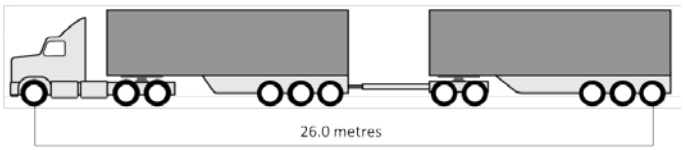
What are the specific mass limits?

As noted, combinations operating on the PBS Level 2B will be restricted to 68.5 tonnes. The permitted individual axle groups are as follows:

- Single Steer – 6.5 tonnes[2]
- Drive Axle or Tandem Axle Group – 17.0 tonnes
- Tri-Axle Group – 22.5 tonnes
- Quad-Axle Group – 22.5 tonnes
- Overall – Not to exceed 68.5 tonnes

What are the minimum spacings?

When operating at the maximum mass of 68.5 tonnes a B-double configuration must be a minimum of 21.0 metres from the first axle to the last axle. An A-Double configuration must be a minimum distance of 26.0 metres from first axle to last axle. [3]



What operating conditions apply?

The following conditions apply to combinations operating on the PBS Level 2B network:

- The combination satisfies the Level 2 Performance Based Standards (as noted above);
- The combination is fitted with a GPS device accredited under the Intelligent Access Program (IAP);
- The combination is accredited under the Mass Management module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme;

[2] Provided the complying steer axle requirements as set out in the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations* are met by the prime mover.

[3] B-Double configurations must also comply with the X – Y spacing rule. Combinations that have non-standard axle-groups may be subject to a bridge assessment even if the overall mass of the combination does not exceed 68.5 tonnes.

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- The combination has an anti-lock braking system fitted on all axles;
- The combination is fitted with Certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS);
- The combination does not exceed a speed of 90 km/h or any lower speed limit applying to the route; and
- The combination displays a "Long Vehicle" warning sign at the front and rear.

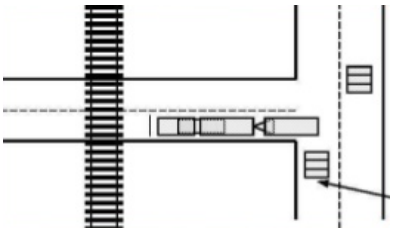
Why are the majority of rail level crossings marked as orange?

The *Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act* limits the length of heavy vehicles crossing a rail level crossing to 26.0 metres. Consequently, if access is required over an orange crossing, the registered owner must obtain a permit from the Over Dimension Load team as part of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. Applications stating the length of the Road-Train and the time of day(s) of the journey must be sent to odlpermit@ecodev.vic.gov.au. Please be aware that applications can take up to **five days** to process.

For more information please contact the following number – (03) 8392 7720. (More information can also be found at the Department's website).

Why are some rail level crossings marked as red (restricted)?

For longer combinations not all rail level crossing are safe to travel across due to the tight distances between the crossing and an adjacent intersection (known as the stacking distance).



Each level crossing on the network was assessed to ensure a safe stacking for combinations of up to 30.0 metres in length.

What about Last Mile access?

The PBS Level 2B network currently has limited last mile access. VicRoads will continue to work closely with Local Government and other road managers to progressively expand access to the network.

My vehicle is longer than 30.0 metres; can I still operate on this network?

In line with the PBS Network Classifications, the network is limited to 30.0 metre combinations. However, case by case consideration will be given to combinations that are longer than 30.0 metres as long as they comply with the conditions noted above (with the exception of the length limit).

My vehicle is heavier than 68.5 tonnes; can I still operate on this network?

No. The network is expressly limited to 68.5 tonnes to protect bridge infrastructure.

However, Victoria has published two maps for High Productivity Freight Vehicles (HPFVs) that exceed 68.5 tonnes. They can be found here and here

Do I need a permit to operate on this network?

Yes. Class 2 Permits to operate on this network can be obtained from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator