

Victoria's Road-Train Network

Information Sheet June 2020

Introduction

The following provides information on Road-Trains operating in the North West of Victoria either under the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) *National Class 2 Road Train Authorisation Notice 2020* or operating under a permit.

Gazette Arrangements

The *National Class 2 Road Train Authorisation Notice 2020* fully harmonises access conditions across borders, with Victoria adopting – for the first time – the Axle Space Mass Schedule (also known as the bridge formula) that features in Schedule 1 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulations*.

Mass and Dimension Limits – Gazette Notice

In Victoria the NHVR's Gazette Notice applies only to two-trailer Road-Trains (Type 1) with a tandem axle dolly and a maximum mass of 79.5 tonnes.¹

The mass limits are as follows:²

| Axle Group | Mass Limit (tonnes) |
|---|---------------------|
| Steer Axle | 6.0 |
| Steer Axle (where the tyre section is at least 295mm) | 6.5 ³ |
| Steer Axle (where the tyre section width is at least 375mm) | 7.1 |
| Drive Axle and Tandem Axle Dolly | 16.5 ⁴ |
| Tri-Axle Group | 20.0 ⁵ |

The dimension limits are as follows:

| Dimension | Maximum Limit (metres) |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Length | 36.5 |
| Height | 4.3/4.6 ⁶ |

¹ Road-Trains participating in Concessional Mass Limits (CML) (<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/mass-dimension-and-loading/concessional-mass-limits>) may operate at up to 81.5 tonnes.

² Road Trains operating under the Notice must comply with the Axle Space Mass Limits Table (Table 4) in Schedule 1 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

| | |
|-------|-----|
| Width | 2.5 |
|-------|-----|

Operating Conditions – Gazette Notice

Road Trains operating in the North West of Victoria must:

- Display a “road train” warning sign at the front and rear of the combination.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has produced a *National Class 2 Road-Train Operator's Guide* that provides more information regarding the Notice, particularly vehicle standards Road Trains must comply with, such as braking and the minimum rating for couplings.

Access

Victoria's approved Road Train network is restricted to the North West of Victoria, with access no further south than Ouyen and Swan Hill. The approved network can be found [here](#).

For operators looking to travel beyond the approved Road Train network, High Productivity Freight Vehicles (HPFV), such as A-Doubles, provide that access. Further information on Victoria's HPFV networks can be found [here](#).

³ If the tyre section width is less than 295mm the steer axle may still be 6.5 tonne as long as the prime mover meets the conditions set out in Schedule 3 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

⁴ 17.0 tonnes under CML

⁵ 21.0 tonnes under CML

⁶ 4.6 is permitted for Livestock Vehicles and Car Carriers

Permit Arrangements

Two year permits on the approved Road Train network are available for combinations either fitted with a tri-axle dolly and/or operating at Higher Mass Limits (HML). Consideration will also be given to B-Triples (including a modular B-Triple), A-Triples and A-B-Triple combinations.

- be accredited under the Mass Management module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme; and
- be fitted with certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS).

Please note: Road Trains transporting livestock on the approved Road Train network must provide proof that the company and driver are enrolled in the [New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme](#).

Mass and Dimension Limits – Permit

The mass limits are as follows:

| Axle Group | Mass Limit (tonnes) |
|---|---------------------|
| Steer Axle | As per Gazette |
| Steer Axle (where the tyre section is at least 295mm) | As per Gazette |
| Steer Axle (where the tyre section width is at least 375mm) | As per Gazette |
| Drive Axle Group and Tandem Axle Dolly | 17.0 |
| Tri-Axle Group and tri-axle dolly | 22.5 |
| Quad-Axle Group | 27.0 |

The dimension limits are as follows:

| Dimension | Maximum Limit (metres) |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Length | As per Gazette |
| Height | As per Gazette |
| Height – Livestock | 4.6 |
| Height – Hay ⁷ | 4.6 |
| Width | As per Gazette |

Operating Conditions – Permit

As with the Gazette, Road Trains operating under two-year permit must:

- Not exceed a speed of 90 km/h or any lower speed limit applying to the route;
- Displays a “road train” warning sign at the front and rear.

In addition to the above, Road Trains and B-Triples operating at Higher Mass Limits must:

- be fitted with a GPS device accredited under the Intelligent Access Program (IAP);⁸

⁷ See Appendix A for details on the transport of hay and feed to drought affected areas in New South Wales and Queensland.

⁸ In line with New South Wales Modular B-Triples that are given access to Victoria’s Road Train

Access

As with the Gazette, permits will be granted to Victoria’s approved Road Train network, with access no further south than Ouyen and Swan Hill. The approved network can be found [here](#).

For operators looking to travel beyond the Road Train network, High Productivity Freight Vehicles (HPFV), such as A-Doubles, provide that access. Further information on Victoria’s HPFV networks can be found [here](#).

network do not need to be enrolled in IAP. However, B-Triples operating at Higher Mass Limits and AB-Triple operating at General Mass, Concessional Mass and Higher Mass Limits that are provided access to the network **do need to be enrolled into IAP**.

FAQ

Can I access the approved Road-Train network if my depot/farm/property is not an approved road?

The Department will consider applications for properties that are within **15.0** kilometres of the approved network.

Access beyond the approved network is likely to require a geometric assessment to ensure that the Road Train can safely exit the property and negotiate any turns. If a geometric assessment is required it will be conducted at the expense of the operator and may involve engaging a [PBS Assessor](#) or a physical trial of the route.

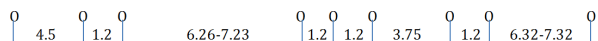
Depending on the route, an assessment of structures may also be required. Please note that these assessments can take between 8 to 15 business days to complete.

The operator will need to seek first kilometre access from Local Government if their property is located on a municipal road.

If I want to operate above the Gazetted masses, will I need a bridge assessment?

A bridge assessment **is not required** if you comply with the minimum and maximum axle spacings shown in **Section 4.4 (36.5 metre A-Doubles)** of [Victoria's High Productivity Freight Vehicle \(HPFV\) networks – information sheet](#), or;

- the following minimum and maximum axle spacings illustrated below (the figures are in metres):⁹



Road-Trains that do not comply with the above will require a bridge assessment. **Please note:** a bridge assessment can take up to 3 weeks.

Can I operate a B-Triple, A-B Triple, Modular B-Triple or A-Triple on the approved network?

Yes you can, provided:

- The combination is no longer than 36.5 metres; and
- A bridge and geometric assessment is conducted to ensure that the combination can safely negotiate the network and does not place undue stress on infrastructure.

Can I cross at a rail level crossing?

Yes you can, provided you obtain a permit from the Department of Transport's Over Dimension Load Team. Applications stating the length of the Road Train and the time of day(s) of the journey must be sent to odlpermit@transport.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 / 0417 054 626. (More information can also be found at the [Department's website](#)).

⁹ If the combination has an axle spacing that is less than or exceeds the spacings described above, then a bridge assessment will be required.

Appendix A: Special arrangements for Road Trains Transporting Hay and Feed to Drought Affected Areas in New South Wales & Queensland

Please note: The special arrangements outlined in Appendix A will conclude on 31 December, 2020.

In addition to the above, for the purposes of transporting Hay and Feed to drought affected farms in New South Wales and Queensland, access will be provided to Road Trains operating outside the approved network.

Transport of Hay

A Road-Train transporting hay must:

- not exceed a height of 4.6 metres;
- not to exceed a width of 2.83 metres;
- operate at mass that does not exceed the General Mass Limit (GML) for that combination (e.g 79.5 tonnes for a Road Train, 83.0 tonnes for a B-Triple, etc);
- comply with the [Guidelines for transporting hay](#) and the operating conditions outlined in that document.

Transport of Feed

A Road Train transporting feed must:

- not exceed a height of 4.3 metres;
- not exceed a width of 2.5 metres;
- operate at a mass that does not exceed the Higher Mass Limit (HML) for that combination (e.g. 85.5 tonnes for a Road Train, 91.0 tonnes for a B-Triple, etc)¹⁰

Please Note: All permit applications must also include first mile access requests.

Permit Duration

All permits will be issued (or extended) up until 31 December 2020.

Access

A dedicated “drought” network has been published which can be found here.

¹⁰ Combinations operating at HML will need to be fitted with IAP.