

Class O Field Bins

Dimensions limits and operating conditions

A Victorian Government Gazette Notice has been published that allows oversize light field bins to operate in the Broad-Acre and Flat Area of the state without the need for pilot vehicles.

This information bulletin sets out the maximum dimensions limits and operating conditions for a Class O Field Bin.

What is Class O?

Class O refers to a category of vehicles that are oversize - they exceed one or more of the dimension limits set out in Chapter 4 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations - and have a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) or Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) less than 4.5 tonnes.

Schedule 7 of the *Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations* sets the parameters for the majority of Class O vehicles. In particular, they cannot exceed:

- a width limit of 3.5 metres;
- a height limit of 4.6 metres;
- a combination length limit of 25.0 metres; and
- a rear overhang of 4.0 metres or 90% of the wheelbase of the combination.



Figure 1: Field bin with an auger attachment towed by a light vehicle

Schedule 7 also features a section dealing specifically with agricultural vehicles and implements. This section recognises that agricultural equipment can be larger than the majority of Class O vehicles. In particular, augers and conveyors may have a rear overhang of 8.0 metres, while agricultural equipment operating in the Flat region of Victoria can be up to 6.0 metres wide.

What is required for a Field Bin to be classified as a Class O vehicle?

For a Field Bin to be categorised as a Class O vehicle it must:

- have an ATM less than 4.5 tonnes;
- exceed the dimension limits set out in Chapter 4 of the *Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations*;
- be empty when travelling on the road network; and
- be towed by a vehicle that has a GVM less than 4.5 tonnes, like a car or utility vehicle.

What type of Class O Field Bin is covered under the Gazette?

Schedule 7 of the *Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations* does not cater for Field Bins that exceed:

- a height limit of 4.6 metres;
- a rear overhang limit of 4.0 metres; and
- a rear projection limit of 1.2 metres.*

Consequently the Class O Field Bins Gazette Notice applies to a Field Bin that does not comply with dimension limits as set above.

* This is specific to Field Bins that are fitted with an auger attachment as illustrated in Figure 1.

Dimension Limits

The maximum dimension limits for a field bin and combination when travelling under the Gazette Notice are shown in Table 1. Figure 2 further illustrates the maximum dimension limits.

Where can I travel?

A Field Bin that complies with the dimension limits in Table 1 is permitted to travel on all roads in the Broad-Acre and Flat Areas except for where the road is prohibited.

VicRoads has published an online map on its website that defines the boundaries for the Broad-Acre and Flat areas in Victoria. Prohibited roads are marked in red.

To see the network map visit: goo.gl/436ADi

Railway crossings

Permission from the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is required if a Field Bin combination exceeds the dimensions shown in Table 2. Contact the Traffic Services Unit on (03) 9655 6134 or Transport Compliance Officer on 0417 054 626.

Visit economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/odl for more details.

Table 1: Dimension limits of field bins

Dimension	Limits under the Gazette Notice
Width	5.0m
A: Height	5.0m
B: Rear overhang	6.5m
C: Length of field bin	11.0m
D: Length of combination	20.0m
E: Rear projection of auger when fitted from the edge of bin	90% of bin's diameter

Table 2: Maximum dimension limits for level crossing

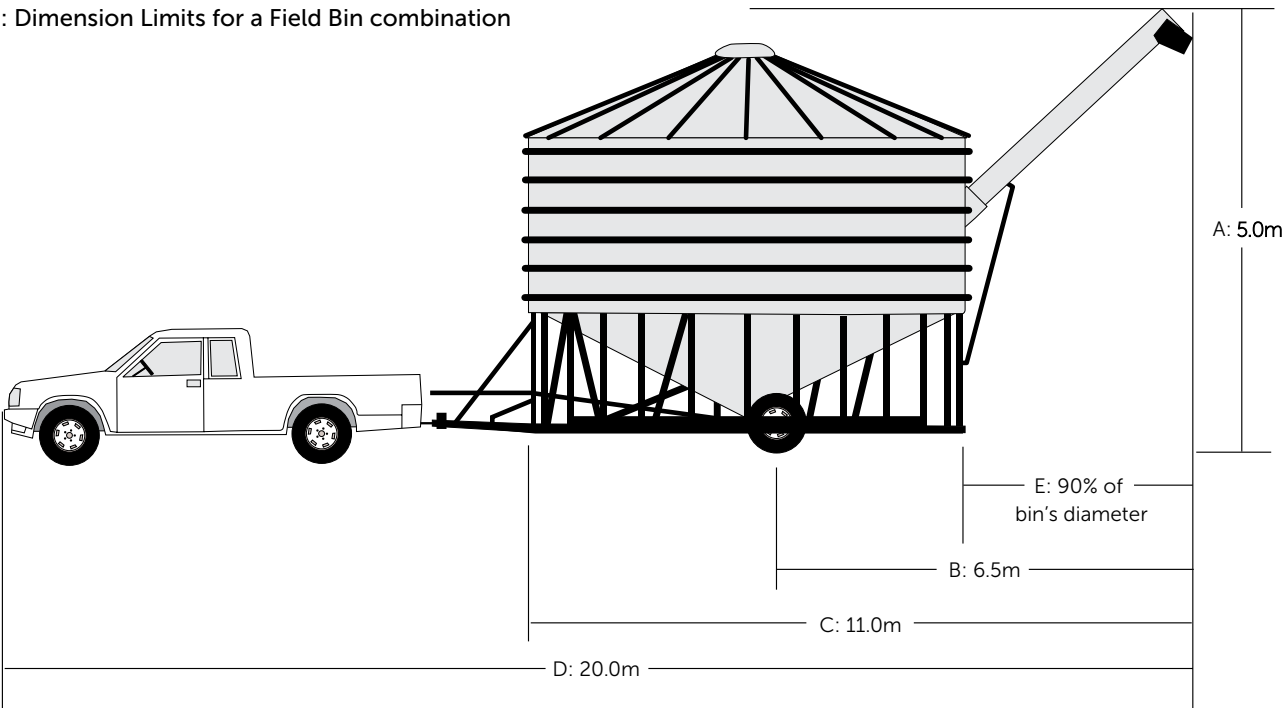
Dimension	Limits
Width	3.0m
Height	4.9m
Length of combination	26.0m

Assessing your route before travel

The registered operator and/or driver must ensure the Field Bin combination can be safely operated on its intended route. The combination must not be driven along a route where the followings will be likely caused:

- Disruption to telecommunications, electricity, rail, gas, water or sewage service; and
- Damage to a road, bridge, structure, rail level crossing or tree.

Figure 2: Dimension Limits for a Field Bin combination



What operating conditions apply?

OVERSIZE Warning signs

Because Field Bins are wider than 2.5 metres they must display an OVERSIZE warning sign on the front of the towing vehicle and the rear of the Field Bin. The only exception is if the Field Bin is being towed by a tractor. In this instance the OVERSIZE sign is only required on the rear of the Bin.

Specifications for OVERSIZE warning signs

The OVERSIZE sign must:

- have the word OVERSIZE in black letters on a yellow retro-reflective background that conforms with class 1 or 2 of Australian Standard AS 1906 Retro-reflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes; and
- be made of flat*, weatherproof material that has the manufacturer's name or trademark and brand or class of retro-reflective material permanently marked; and
- be mounted with its lower edge above the bottom of the bumper bar or at least 500 mm above the ground if there is no bumper bar; and
- comply with the border, lettering and minimum dimensions shown in the diagram below;
- letters must be uppercase and conform with typeface Series C(N) in Australian Standard AS 1744 Forms of Letters and Numerals for Road Signs;

The OVERSIZE sign may be split into two parts, in which case:

- the word OVER must be on the left part and the word SIZE on the right part; and
- both parts must be mounted at the same height.



* An OVERSIZE sign may be made of flexible material if the warning sign is held taut and is clearly visible and is unlikely to become dislocated, furl or otherwise become difficult for other road users to read.

Warning lights

The *Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations* requires that a Class O vehicle, including an agricultural implement or trailer, that is wider than 3.0 metres is fitted with a warning light. For reasons of practicality, this condition does not apply to Field Bins. Instead, the vehicle towing the Field Bin – whether it's a car, utility vehicle or tractor – must display the appropriate warning light.

Specifications for warning lights

The warning light must be a yellow rotating beacon which flashes between 120 and 200 times per minute and has a power of at least 55 watts.

The warning light must be clearly visible at a distance of 500 metres in all directions. It may be supplemented by another warning light to ensure that at least one light is clearly visible in all directions.

The warning light must not be switched on unless it is required to be, or the vehicle is stationary in a position where it may cause a danger to other road users.

In addition, strobe lights are not permitted.

It is an offence to use lights or display warning devices when they are not required.

Can I use an LED warning light?

The Gazette Notice does permit the use of an LED warning light provided that the light mimics the function of a conventional yellow rotating beacon, i.e. it flashes between 120 to 200 times per minute. The power output of the LED light must be 24 watts.

Please note that warning signs and warning lights are not required if the vehicle and Field Bin combination is crossing a road or travelling along a grass reservation beside a road.

Warning flags

Brightly coloured red or/and yellow flags at least 450 mm long and 450 mm wide must be mounted at each side of the Field Bin.

As with an OVERSIZE sign, warning flags are not required on a light tractor towing a Field Bin.

Low-beam headlights

The vehicle towing a Field Bin must have its low-beam headlights or daytime running lights switched on during daylight travel.

Night time travel

The Gazette Notice does not permit a Field Bin to travel at night.

Low visibility

The vehicle must not travel if the visibility is less than 250m during the day. If a Field Bin combination is already travelling when visibility is reduced to 250m then the driver must drive to the nearest safe parking area and wait until visibility improves.

Speed limit

As Field Bins are generally not fitted with brakes the vehicle towing the Field Bin must travel at a speed limit 20 km/h less than the posted speed limit.

Pilot vehicle

The Gazette Notice removes the need for a pilot vehicle to accompany a Field Bin combination.

Carrying loads

A Field Bin is not allowed to carry a load when travelling on the road network.

More information

For more information, refer to [Schedule 7 of the Road Safety \(Vehicles\) Regulations and Victorian Government Gazette S 393](#) published on 21 December 2016.