

## Victoria's HPFV networks for 36.5 metre 85.5 tonne A-Doubles

### What is the difference between the North West Road Train Network and the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks?

Victoria's High Productivity Freight Vehicle (HPFV) 36.5m A-Double networks will extend across all HPFV routes and will not be limited to the North West. Consistent with Victoria's HPFV access requirements, A-Doubles up to 36.5 metres and 85.5 tonne will be required to meet Performance Based Standards (PBS) to access Victoria's HPFV 36.5m A-Double network.

### Can existing North West Road Trains access the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks?

Road Trains currently approved to operate in the North West will be required to obtain PBS approval to gain access to the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks south of Ouyen.

### What roads can be accessed by HPFVs?

The Victorian HPFV network is being developed with a focus on providing access to primary freight routes connecting Victorian Ports, interstate links and key industries.

VicRoads is progressively assessing more freight routes to continue to expand the HPFV networks. The HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks are available on VicRoads website via:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/heavy-vehicle-map-networks-in-victoria>

### Why are the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks different to Victoria's current B-Double network?

Not all roads and road infrastructure can safely provide access to HPFVs that are longer and heavier than 68.5 tonne B-Doubles. This can be because of bridges that have not been built to cater for the heavier HPFVs or the road geometry is not suitable for vehicles longer than 26 metres.

### What do the different coloured roads stand for on the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks?

To help distinguish the HPFV access status of different roads the following colours have been used:

- Green = approved for HPFV at full mass
- Orange = approved for HPFV at reduced mass
- Blue = approved for HPFV at full mass following highway upgrade
- Red = restricted to 68.5 tonnes
- Purple = currently under assessment

### What do the different symbols stand for on the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks?

Given the added length of the HPFV 36.5m A-Double and the increased Low Speed Swept Path (LSSP), which can be up to 10.6m under PBS Level 3, the following map symbols have been introduced:



Intersections where turns do not provide LSSP access up to 10.6m



Rest areas that provide entry, egress and parking for HPFVs up to 36.5m

### What are the specific axle group mass limits?

The mass limits for HPFV 36.5m A-Doubles operating on the network are as follows:

- Steer Axle – 6.0 tonnes
- Steer Axle – 6.5 tonnes<sup>1</sup>
- Drive Axle or Tandem Axle Group – 17.0 tonnes
- Tri-Axle Dolly – 17 tonnes
- Tri-Axle Groups – 22.5 tonnes
- Gross Combination Mass (GCM) – 85.5 tonnes

<sup>1</sup> Provided the complying steer axle requirements as set out in the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation* are met by the prime mover.



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## Why are HPFV 36.5m A-Double Tri-Axle Dolly's limited to 17 tonne?

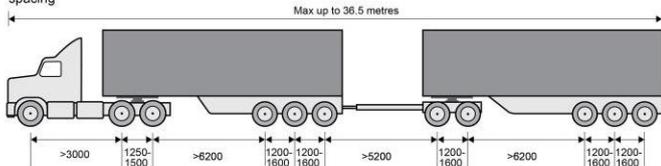
This is to provide operators options to utilise Tri-Axle Dolly's (which are common in other jurisdictions) whilst further work is undertaken to assess HPFV access above 85.5 tonne GCM.

## What are the specific axle group spacings?

In relation to axle spacings, the combination must meet the following minimum and maximum axle spacings to safely cross all the structures on the network (the figures are in millimetres):<sup>2</sup>

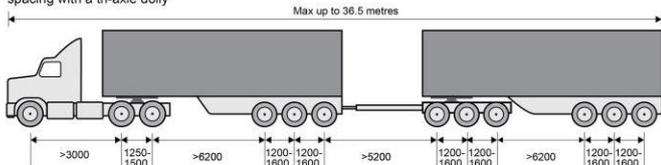
### HPFV 36.5m A-Double Reference Vehicle 1 (not to scale)

A-Double up to 85.5 tonne and 36.5 metres - 5.2 metre 'central trailer spacing' and 6.2 metre trailer axle spacing



### HPFV 36.5m A-Double Reference Vehicle 2 (not to scale)

A-Double up to 85.5 tonne and 36.5 metres - 5.2 metre 'central trailer spacing' and 6.2 metre trailer axle spacing with a tri-axle dolly



Note – 'central trailer spacing' length is the distance between the centre point of the rear axle of the lead Semi Trailer and the centre point of the front axle of the Dolly Trailer.

## What if an A-Double does not comply with the above reference vehicles?

Over the coming months we will introduce new A-Double reference vehicles that will provide more flexibility for operators, especially those who use a short draw-bar. Over time we also intend to introduce networks for B-Triples and A-B-Triples. Until then, a bridge assessment will be required to access the network if you don't comply with the above reference vehicles.

## What are the specific dimension limits?

The dimension limits for HPFV 36.5m A-Doubles on the HPFV 36.5m A-Double network are as follows:

- Maximum Length – 36.5 metres
- Maximum Height – 4.3 metres
- Maximum Width – 2.5 metres

## What are the operating conditions on the HPFV 36.5m A-Double Networks?

The following conditions apply to operate HPFV 36.5m A-Doubles on the HPFV 36.5m A-Double networks:

- Satisfy Level 3 Performance Based Standards (PBS) (refer the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#) website for further information);
- HPFV 36.5m A-Doubles are fitted with a GPS device accredited under the Intelligent Access Program (IAP);
- Fitment of a certified On Board Mass (OBM) system that can be integrated with IAP<sup>3</sup>;
- The HPFV 36.5m A-Double (prime mover and trailers) is accredited under the Mass Management module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme;
- The HPFV 36.5m A-Double has an anti-lock braking system fitted on all axles;
- Certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS) is fitted to the HPFV 36.5m A-Double; and
- The A-double displays a road train warning sign at its front and rear, or a long vehicle warning sign at its rear.

## What about rail level crossings on the network?

In line with the *Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983*, heavy vehicles that exceed 26.0 metres in length require a permit before they are allowed to cross a rail level crossing.

Consequently, prior to operating the combination, 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 A-Double and the time of day(s) of the journey must be sent to [odlpermit@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](#)).

## How do I obtain approval to operate a HPFV 36.5m A-Double on the network?

A PBS vehicle approval must be obtained to operate a 36.5m A-Double on the HPFV 36.5m A-Double network. A permit will be required to operate on the network. More information on PBS and permits can be found on the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#) website.

<sup>2</sup> Combinations that do not comply with the minimum and maximum axle spacings noted above will require a bridge assessment on the nominated route.

<sup>3</sup> While fitment of an approved OBM system has been specified as an access condition, it is recognised that such systems are not currently available. Accordingly, this requirement is waived until such time as when advice is provided by VicRoads that an OBM system must be fitted to the combination in accordance with the specifications and standards set by Transport Certification Australia.



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