

# Information Sheet – National Class 3 Truck and Trailer Mass Exemption Notice

## Purpose

This information sheet describes key access conditions of the National Class 3 Truck and Trailer Mass Exemption Notice (the Notice).

The Notice exempts truck and dog combinations from stated prescribed mass requirements in Schedule 1 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation* (MDL).

## What vehicles are covered?

The Notice allows the following combinations to operate:

**Table 1 Eligible combinations**

3-axle truck and 3-axle dog trailer



4-axle truck and 3-axle dog trailer



3-axle truck and 4-axle dog trailer



4-axle truck and 4-axle dog trailer



## Axle spacing limits

Where the combination is more than 42.5t, it must not be more than the mass limit stated in:

- Table 2 (Axle spacing mass limits general table) of Schedule 1 of the **MDL**, where the length of the axle spacing is not more than 10m; and
- Table 2 below, where the length of the axle spacing is more than 10m.

**Table 2 Extension of axle spacing mass limits general table for axle spacing exceeding 10m**

Length of axle spacing (m)		Mass limit (t)
At least	Less than	
10.0	10.5	42.5
10.5	11.0	43.0
11.0	11.5	43.5
11.5	12.0	44.0
12.0	12.5	44.5
12.5	13.0	45.0
13.0	13.5	45.5
13.5	14.0	46.0
14.0	14.5	46.5
14.5	15.0	47.0
15.0	15.5	47.5
15.5	16.0	48.0
16.0	16.5	48.5
16.5	17.0	49.0
17.0	17.5	49.5
17.5	–	50.0

## Conditions

The following conditions apply to all eligible vehicles operating under the Notice:

- The truck must have a single steer axle or a twin steer axle group at the front, and a dual-drive tandem axle group at the rear.
- The dog trailer has either a single axle or a tandem axle group at the front, and a tandem axle group at the rear.
- The mass of a truck and dog heavy vehicle must not exceed a mass requirement for the vehicle specified in the Schedules to this Notice.
- The mass of a dog trailer with 4 axles must not exceed by more than 25 per cent the loaded mass of the towing vehicle.

- The drive axle group of the truck and all axles of the dog trailer must be fitted with air suspension with effective dampers.

## Summary of allowances






Table 3 provides a summary of all requirements and allowances for operators of 19m long truck and dog heavy vehicles who wish to operate under the Notice.






It is important to note:

- All operators must comply with the requirements of the notice – Refer to the Summary of allowances in Table 3.

For a complete list of conditions, please refer to the Notice.

**Table 3 Summary of allowances in the Notice**

Summary of allowances					
Item	 ACT	 NSW	 QLD	 SA	 VIC
<b>Vehicles covered</b>	(a) 3-axle truck and 3-axle dog trailer (b) 4-axle truck and 3-axle dog trailer (c) 3-axle truck and 4-axle dog trailer (d) 4-axle truck and 4-axle dog trailer				
<b>Maximum height, width and length (m)</b>	4.6, 2.5 and 19.0				
<b>Maximum mass (t)</b> *Add 0.5t if eligible for steer axle mass exception	(a) 48* (b) 50 (c) 50* (d) 50	(a) 48* (b) 50 (c) 50* (d) 50	(a) 45* (b) 45 (c) 50* (d) 50	(a) 45* (b) 45 (c) 50* (d) 50	(a) 45* (b) 45 (c) 50* (d) 50
<b>Specific vehicle and combination axle spacings</b>	N/A	N/A	Refer to Notice schedule	Refer to Notice schedule	Refer to Notice schedule Additional (wheelbase requirements also apply)
<b>Extreme axle spacing for dog trailer with 3 axles</b>	At least 4.3m	At least 4.3m	At least 3.8m	Refer to Notice schedule	At least 3.8m
<b>Height of load on dog trailer with 3 axles must not exceed</b>	3.5m	3.5m	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Starting capability (on a 10% gradient)</b>	Maintain 70km/h @ 1% grade	Maintain 70km/h @ 1% grade	Maintain 70km/h @ 1% grade	N/A	N/A

Summary of allowances					
Item	 ACT	 NSW	 QLD	 SA	 VIC
<b>Power to mass ratio</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>For 3- or 4-axle truck and 4-axle dog trailer:</b> Must not be less than 6.4 brake horsepower per tonne or 4.8 kilowatts per tonne	<b>All types:</b> Must not be less than 6.4 brake horsepower per tonne or 4.8 kilowatts per tonne	<b>For 3- or 4-axle truck and 4-axle dog trailer:</b> Must not be less than 6.0 kilowatts per tonne
<b>Maximum mass of 4-axle dog trailer</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Must not be more than 27.5t	Must not be more than 27.5t
<b>Mass of 3-axle dog trailer</b>	Must not exceed by more than 25% the loaded mass of the truck	Must not exceed by more than 25% the loaded mass of the truck	N/A	Must not be more than the mass of the towing vehicle or 22.5t  The mass of a dog trailer with 3 axles in the combination must not be more than the mass of the towing vehicle	Must not be more than the mass of the towing vehicle or 22.5t
<b>Access</b>	Approved Routes for National Class 3 Heavy Vehicles 19m Truck and Dog Trailer Combination Mass Exemption	All roads in NSW	All roads in QLD	All roads in SA subject to restricted structure list in Notice schedule	All roads in VIC

## Complying steer axle vehicle

For all masses listed in Table 3, 0.5 tonnes can be added to the total mass if the rigid truck is a ‘**complying steer axle vehicle**’.

Complying steer axle vehicle means a heavy vehicle with a single steer axle if the vehicle has all of the following—

- a) an engine complying with the emission control requirements contained in—
  - (i) ADR 80/01 or a later version of ADR 80; or
  - (ii) if a version of ADR 80 later than ADR 80/01 applied to the vehicle at the vehicle’s date of manufacture—the version of ADR 80 that applied to the vehicle at the vehicle’s date of manufacture or a later version of ADR 80;
- b) a front underrun protection device that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 93 or ADR 84–Front Underrun Impact Protection;
- c) a cabin that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 29;
- d) appropriately rated tyres, axle and suspension to permit 6.5t on the steer axle;
- e) a GVM of 15t or more.

## Contact the NHVR

For further information regarding the operation of this Notice, the NHVR can be contacted as below.

### For more information:

Visit: [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au)  
 Subscribe: [www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe)  
 Email: [info@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:info@nhvr.gov.au)  
 Phone: 13 NHVR\* (13 64 87)

\*Standard 13 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.  
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