

Load Restraint Guide – Edition 4

Amendment Summary

General

Copyright/publishing section

Updated to reflect transfer of ownership and publication by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).

Spelling, minor changes

There have been minor edits included to improve clarity and consistency, including spelling corrections and terminology updates. For example:

- pg 70: 'insufficient' to 'insufficient'
- pg 199: 'pantechicon' to 'pantechnicon'- Fig 473
- pg 268-281: 'conveyer' to 'conveyor'
- Update 'semi-trailer' to 'semitrailer' to align with spelling in the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Change of focus from “your load” to “the load”

This change has been implemented in several areas throughout the guide, to highlight that considerations should be by parties in the Chain of Responsibility and not only the driver.

Change from “checklist” to “guidelines”

This revision was made to emphasize that the content in the guide provides practical guidance rather than a rigid process. The term “guidelines” better reflects the flexibility required in different loading scenarios while still ensuring compliance with load restraint principles.

Visual and formatting updates

Rebranding and styling

Edition 4 reflects a full rebranding, signifying the transition of the LRG from the National Transport Commission (NTC) to the NHVR. The guide now adopts the NHVR's styling and branding elements, creating a consistent appearance throughout the document.

Updated Imagery

Images throughout the guide have been refreshed using modern base trucks and trailers.

The colour palette used has been updated to mute the vehicles and highlight the loads.

The use of red has been reduced and is used to highlight an issue.

Appendices - Tables

An additional page has been inserted after page 266 in the appendices so that the blocked and unblocked tables by lashing/tensioner type are on the same spread.

This will result in a difference in page numbers between Edition 3 and Edition 4 from page 267 onwards.

Standardised information boxes

The blue “For more information” boxes have been standardised, with hyperlinks to the relevant section (such as inflatable dunnage) rather than the overarching module or section (such as vehicle and equipment), making navigation easier.

Symbol updates

A number of symbols have been updated throughout the document for consistency and clarity. For example, ticks have been changed to warning symbols or vice versa to more accurately reflect the intent of the message or to better align with supporting text and figures.

Loading Performance Standards

The loading performance standards (on page 4 and 241) were updated to reflect schedule 7(2) of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

Conveyor belt

The friction level for conveyor belt has been updated in the document and is now consistently referred to as **low**. The relevant tables and details on pages 24, 243, 247 to 280 have been updated to reflect this change.

Know your legal obligations

The wording on page 9 has been updated to closer reflect the current obligations and covers:

- Choosing how to restraint your load
- Sharing responsibility for safety and compliance
- Duty to ensure safety of all transport activities

The blue information box covering ‘Who has committed an offence’ has been updated to reflect Chain of Responsibility parties.

Case study 7: Direct restraint using calculations or load tables

In case study 7, Step 5 (page 225), the calculations have been updated to reflect the use of 13mm Grade ‘T’ chain, rather than 13mm transport chain.

A note has been included to clarify that chain capacity is reduced by 25% due to contact with coaming rail.

Appendices

Contact details

The contact information has been updated for:

- Appendices – Commonwealth, state and territory transport regulatory authorities
- Appendices – Competent authorities for road transport of dangerous goods.

List of Relevant Standards

The Load Restraint Guide references several standards. The following standards have been withdrawn and references removed from the Load Restraint Guide:

- AS/NZS 4384 Motor vehicles – Anchorages and anchor points for securing internal cargo
- AS 4142 (parts 1 and 2) Fibre Ropes

The following standards have been withdrawn and retained in Edition 4, with a note advising that they have been withdrawn:

- AS/NZS 4380:2001 Motor vehicles - Cargo restraint systems - Transport webbing and components
- AS/NZS 4344:2001 Motor vehicles - Cargo restraint systems - Transport chain and components
- AS/NZS 4345 Motor vehicles – Cargo Restraint Systems – Transport Fibre Rope

The term withdrawn indicates that the product:

- Is not up to date technically;
- Does not reflect current practice;
- Is not suitable for new and existing applications (products, systems, or processes); or

- Is not compatible with current views and expectations regarding quality, safety, and the environment.

Withdrawn Standards remain available and can still be purchased from distributors for [Standards Australia](#).

Note: The NHVR will start a review of the Load Restraint Guide in 2025. A review of the impacts of withdrawn standards will be incorporated into this review. Withdrawn standards have been retained in Edition 4 for completeness and to allow time for consideration of appropriate alternatives.

Load Restraint Guide 2018 (Edition 3) remains current

The Load Restraint Guide 2018 (Edition 3) remains current and valid for use. Edition 4 introduces updated images, minor grammatical adjustments, and notes on withdrawn standards. These changes are primarily cosmetic, intended to enhance usability, rather than altering the content.

Change table

For a list of detailed changes that have been made please see the [Load Restraint Guide 2025 change table](#).

For more information:

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

*Standard 13 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.
 © Copyright National Heavy Vehicle Regulator 2024, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au
 Disclaimer: This information is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Load Restraint Guide Amendment Summary

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| First Published | June 2025 | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|