

Transporting cotton bales on road trains up to a height of 4.6 metres

This document provides information on the policies relating to the operation of road train combinations, transporting cylindrical cotton bales loaded up to 4.6m high from farm to cotton gin.

Road train combinations exceeding prescriptive dimension limits may operate under either a Class 3 notice or a permit on stated roads and routes.

What vehicles are covered?

This information is specific to the operation of road trains consisting of a prime mover hauling unit towing two trailers connected by a converter dolly, when the combination length is no longer than 36.5 metres.



What loads are covered?

This policy covers the transportation of cylindrical cotton bales loaded up to 4.6 metres high.

Heavy vehicles transporting cylindrical cotton bales loaded up to 4.6 metres high must be restrained in a way that is compliant with the National Load Restraint Performance Standards.

Operation by State

New South Wales

In NSW access is covered by the New South Wales and Queensland Class 3 Heavy Vehicle 4.6m High loaded Semitrailer Dimension Exemption (Notice) 2014 (No. 1).

Queensland

In Qld access is provided by permits issued by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

Conditions of Operation:

- The vehicle combination must meet the requirements of the National Class 2 Road Authorisation notice for operation in Qld, except for the requirement to be limited to 4.3 metres high.
- The deck height of the semi-trailers must not exceed 1.2m for at least 50% of the deck length and must have air suspension fitted with effective dampers.
- The vehicle gross mass and axle mass limits are to be the same limits specified for type 1 road trains operating under the National Class 2 Road Train Authorisation for operation in Qld.

Areas of Operation:

Access to networks or areas of operation will require the consent of the road manager responsible for the road the vehicle will be travelling on.

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads has consented to the operation of the vehicle on type 1 road train routes in Qld that are State controlled roads.
- Access to Local Government roads, including approved type 1 road train routes, will require road manager consent prior to the routes being included in a permit for Qld.

Other States and Territories

Victoria

Victoria may consider this policy in the future.

South Australia, ACT and Tasmania

This policy is not applicable.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use other types of vehicle combinations?

No.

This policy is specifically based on the assessment of road trains up to 36.5 metres.

What are the width requirements?

The maximum width is 2.5 metres.

How do I access roads not managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads?

Operators will need to apply to the NHVR for access to roads managed by local governments.

Can time restrictions and other conditions be placed on permits?

Yes.

Road managers can set vehicle, road and travel conditions; Road managers and the NHVR need to agree to them.

Is the NHVR developing a national notice?

The NHVR is intending to include this policy in its forward work program.

How do I certify a load restraint system?

Please refer to Section I of the Load Restraint Guide¹ for guidance on the certification of load restraint systems.

How do I apply?

To apply for new a permit:

1. Go to www.service.nhvr.gov.au and if not already registered, follow the prompts to set up an account.
2. Once registered, from the home screen, click on the 'Permit Applications' tile in the centre of the top row.
3. Click on the 'New Application' button (on the right) and enter a permit name or reference for your application.
4. Click on the green 'Select Configuration' button and then click on the heading 'Road Train (Inc. HML)'.
5. Select the image that represents 'A doubles' at the top of the list.
6. The radio button 'Class 2 - A doubles' will already be selected, click on 'Height - 4.3m – 4.6m', then 'Length – Up to 36.5m (Type 1)'
7. Select the 'By load' radio button under 'Height reason'.
8. In the 'Freight' section, click on the radio button for 'Commodity' then type in the 'Description of load – Cotton Bales'
9. In the 'Permit Scheme' section, type in 'Cotton Bales up to 4.6m' in the 'Permit Schemes' field.
10. On the 'Route / area details' page, click the 'Route Type – Single Route' radio button then enter your route ID. If you do not have a route ID, click on the 'Create New Route' button and follow the prompts to create your journey.
11. On the 'Period' page, you will be prompted to enter the required permit period.
12. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.

¹ The load restraint performance standards are listed in the Load Restraint Guide published by the National Transport Commission (www.ntc.gov.au)

For more information:

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)*

Email: info@nhvr.gov.au

*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.

Please note: This fact sheet is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.



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