This document provides information on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) which are approved to operate under the National Class 1 Special Purpose Vehicle Notice 2016 – amendment notice 2017 (National SPV Notice). This Notice should be referred to prior to operating to ensure legal compliance.

Purpose of the SPV notice

The National SPV Notice establishes a consistent framework for SPV operations by harmonising access and vehicle standards exemption conditions in all participating jurisdictions. This Notice will drastically reduce the number of permits required to operate SPVs in Australia. Permits will still be required for SPVs that are not eligible to operate under the Notice and to access roads which are not part of the approved SPV network.

What are Class 1 SPVs?

SPVs are vehicles built for a purpose other than carrying goods, such as a mobile crane, a concrete pump or drill rig. Agricultural vehicles and tow trucks are not SPVs. SPVs that exceed one or more of the general mass and dimension limits set out in the Heavy Vehicle Mass, Dimension and Loading National Regulation (the National Regulation) is a Class 1 restricted access heavy vehicle.

Dimension requirements

SPVs operating under the National SPV Notice are exempt from compliance with certain prescribed dimension requirements set out in Schedule 6 of the National Regulation. However, they must meet a set of dimension requirements specified in the National SPV Notice. Relevant key dimension requirements are outlined in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>4.6m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>3.5m (vehicle standard exemption not applying to SPVs which are not mobile cranes and exceeding 2.5m in width)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>14.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection in front of the centre of the steering wheel for any SPV but mobile cranes</td>
<td>3.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection in front of the centre of the steering wheel for mobile cranes</td>
<td>5.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Overhang (measured as the distance from the centre of the last two axles to the rear of the vehicle for 3-axle all terrain cranes)</td>
<td>Lesser of 4m or 90% of the wheelbase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Overhang for concrete pumps meeting PBS Level 1 tail swing and low speed swept path performance (subject to conditions specified in notice)</td>
<td>May exceed 4.0m without exceeding 4.5m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mass requirements

**Total vehicle mass**

The total mass of a SPV must not exceed the lesser of:

a. The gross vehicle mass (GVM); and

b. The sum of the mass limit for each single axle and axle group on the vehicle (limited by the tyre width of the narrowest tyre on the axle); and

c. 40 tonnes; and

SPVs operating under this notice

This Notice applies to heavy motor vehicles which are Class 1 SPVs and which meet the conditions and requirements set out in the Notice, including state schedules. It does not apply to special purpose combinations or trailers.
d. The mass worked out using the Gross Mass Limit Formula: \( \text{Mass in tonnes} = (3 \times L) + 15 \pm G \) where:

"L" is the distance in metres between the centre lines of the vehicle’s foremost and rearmost axles; and

"\( \pm G \)" is a number of tonnes

a. to be added at the rate of 1 tonne for each 100mm by which the ground contact width of the heaviest axle or axle group exceeds 2.5m; or

b. to be subtracted at the rate of 1 tonne for each 100mm by which the ground contact width of the heaviest axle or axle group is less than 2.4m.

Note: 3-axle all terrain mobile cranes are exempted from compliance with the Gross Mass Limit Formula in NSW.

Note: In addition to the above limits, specific mass-related requirements apply to 2 and 3-axle all terrain mobile cranes.

**Other key mass requirements**

SPVs operating under the National SPV Notice are exempted from compliance with certain prescribed mass requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the National Regulation. They still must meet a set of mass requirements specified in the National SPV Notice. Relevant key mass requirements are outlined in Table 2. Please refer to the National SPV Notice for a comprehensive list of mass requirements applicable to SPVs operating under the Notice.

### Table 2 Key Mass Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single axle or single axle group fitted with single tyres on:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- all terrain mobile cranes</td>
<td>12.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- any other SPV</td>
<td>7.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single axle or single axle group fitted with dual tyres on:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- pick and carry cranes</td>
<td>12.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- any other SPV</td>
<td>10.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twinsteer axle group:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- without a load-sharing suspension system</td>
<td>10.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- with a load-sharing suspension system</td>
<td>16.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandem axle group fitted with single tyres</td>
<td>14.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-axle group fitted with single tyres</td>
<td>18.0 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandem axle group and tri-axle group fitted with dual tyres</td>
<td>Dependent on axle group spread and ground contact width.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Warning lights and markings**

Further to the requirements of Schedule 8 of the National Regulation that apply to all Class 1 heavy vehicles, SPV operators wishing to operate under the National SPV Notice may be required to fit their vehicles with additional warning lights and markings. These requirements are outlined in Part 5 of the National SPV Notice.

**SPV operations in NSW**

There are four legal instruments for SPV access in NSW:

- National SPV Notice
- NSW Class 1 Special Purpose Vehicles Notice 2014 (NSW SPV Notice)
- Access permits

**National SPV Notice**

If operating under the National SPV Notice, a permit is not required for a SPV complying with the relevant requirements of this Notice and travelling on an approved route. Some vehicle and route conditions are specific to each state. These conditions are set out in state schedules which are part of the National SPV notice. For instance, in NSW a mobile crane exceeding 2.50 metres in width must be enrolled and monitored in the Roads and Maritime Services Intelligent Access Program (IAP) to operate under this Notice. Mobile cranes that require IAP will continue to require carrying in the vehicle a valid Certificate of Enrolment issued by Roads and Maritime (RMS).

In NSW, SPVs meeting the relevant mass and dimension requirements set out in the Notice and the NSW schedule will be able to operate on two networks:

- **SPV Level 3 Approved Routes** for 3-axle all terrain mobile cranes.
- **SPV Level 1 Approved Routes** for SPVs other than 3-axle all terrain mobile cranes.

A vehicle that exceeds 4.3 metres in height but not 4.6 metres must only travel on routes that are also approved for 4.6 metre high vehicles as displayed on the map and/or list titled ‘NSW Special Purpose Vehicle Network’.
The ‘NSW Special Purpose Vehicle Network’ is published as an interactive map on the RMS website that can be accessed via the NSW Schedule of the National SPV Notice.

**NSW SPV Notice**

The NSW SPV Notice will continue to provide access in NSW, as there are differences in the types of SPVs that can operate under the NSW SPV Notice as well as differences in the routes/areas approved for access. Table 3 compares the mass/dimension limits of the National SPV Notice and the NSW SPV Notice.

**Table 3 Comparison of National and NSW SPV Notice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension/Mass/Access</th>
<th>National SPV Notice Limit</th>
<th>NSW SPV Notice Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>4.6m</td>
<td>4.6m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>3.5m (vehicle standard exemption not applying to SPVs which are not mobile cranes and exceeding 2.5m in width)</td>
<td>3.5m (2.5m for Truck-Based SPVs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>14.5m (special purpose trailers or combinations not covered in National SPV Notice)</td>
<td>14.5m (single vehicle/trailer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25.0m (special purpose combination)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection in front of the centre of the steering wheel for any SPV but mobile cranes</td>
<td>3.5m</td>
<td>3.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection in front of the centre of the steering wheel for mobile cranes</td>
<td>5.5m</td>
<td>3.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Overhang (measured as the distance from the centre of the last two axles to the rear of the vehicle for 3-axle all terrain cranes)</td>
<td>Lesser of 4m or 90% of the wheelbase</td>
<td>Lesser of 4m or 90% of the wheelbase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Overhang for concrete pumps meeting PBS Level 1 tail swing and low speed swept path performance (subject to conditions specified in notice)</td>
<td>May exceed 4.0m without exceeding 4.5m</td>
<td>Lesser of 4m or 90% of the wheelbase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross mass</td>
<td>40t</td>
<td>40t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>SPV Level 3 (3-axle all terrain mobile cranes)</td>
<td>All state and council roads, subject to restrictions in Appendix 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Access permits**

SPVs that are not eligible to operate under either the National SPV Notice or the NSW SPV Notice will continue to require an access permit to operate in NSW.

An access permit is required for a Class 1 SPV in the following circumstances in NSW:

- A SPV that complies with the mass and/or dimension limits of the National SPV Notice but is not travelling on an approved route, for example, a road that has not been approved by a local council. Access permit required from the NHVR or each relevant road manager.
- A SPV that does not comply with a mass and/or dimension limit in either the National SPV Notice or the NSW SPV Notice. Access permit required from the NHVR or each relevant road manager in NSW.
- A SPV that exceeds the mass and/or dimension limit in the National SPV Notice and wants to utilise the Urban Access Concession (UAC) scheme. Access permit required from the NHVR or RMS.
- A SPV operating under the National SPV Notice or NSW SPV Notice and which exceeds a mass and/or dimension limit for a Limited Access Location or Zone. Access permit required from the NHVR or each relevant road manager in NSW.

**How do I apply?**

To apply for a new permit:

1. Go to [https://www.service.nhvr.gov.au](https://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 ‘Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)’.
5. Select the image that represents the SPV you wish to submit an access application for.
6. Enter your combination’s length, width, height and mass in the fields indicated. Note – if there are
removed parts, such as counterweights, describe what has been removed in the ‘Removed Parts’ field.

7. Select whether IAP enrolment applies and to which state it applies in. Enrolment in the IAP is separate to the application for an access permit. To enrol in the IAP with Roads and Maritime Services, go to [https://myrta.com/iap](https://myrta.com/iap) and select ‘SPV – Mobile crane’ IAP application type.

8. On the ‘Route / area details’ page, select the ‘Route Type’ by using the radio button. For a ‘Single Route’ you will need to enter a 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. For an ‘Area’, provide the start and destination as well as either the Road Manager details or a list the roads with appropriate suburbs.

9. On the ‘Period’ page, you will be prompted to enter the required permit period as well as ‘Return Trip’ details.

10. Upload any attachments that are specific to your application.

11. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.

Examples of SPV operations in NSW

Examples of how SPVs can operate in NSW under the National SPV Notice, NSW SPV Notice and access permits are provided below:

**Example 1 – 3-axle all terrain mobile crane**

A 3-axle all terrain mobile crane (2.7m wide, 12.5m long, 4.1m high and 36 tonnes) that exceeds the mass limits of the NSW SPV Notice but complies with the mass and dimension limits of the National SPV Notice may, if enrolled in the IAP with Roads and Maritime Services:

- Operate on SPV Level 3 Approved Roads under the NSW Schedule of the National SPV Notice.
- Obtain an access permit to travel on roads that are not approved SPV Level 3 Approved Roads.

**Example 2 – 2-axle all terrain mobile crane**

A 2-axle all terrain mobile crane (2.6m wide, 3.1m high, 11.0m long, 2.8m forward projection and 14 tonnes) that complies with the mass and dimension limits of the National SPV Notice and the NSW SPV Notice may, if enrolled in the IAP with Roads and Maritime Services,

operate on SPV Level 1 Approved Roads when operating under either Notice.

**Example 3 – 4-axle all terrain mobile crane**

A 4-axle all terrain mobile crane (2.55m wide, 3.8m high, 2.1m forward projection and 48 tonnes) that exceeds the mass limits of the National SPV Notice and NSW SPV Notice cannot operate under either Notices. However, this crane may, if enrolled in the IAP with Roads and Maritime Services, operate under an access permit on SPV Level 4 Approved Roads or SPV Level 4 and 12 tonnes per axle Approved Roads, depending on axle widths and spacings when travelling on Roads and Maritime managed roads in NSW.

**About the NHVR**

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is Australia’s dedicated independent regulator for heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass.

**For more information**

If you have any questions about the SPV notice, please contact the NHVR on 1300 MYNHVR (1300 696 487) or email info@nhvr.gov.au
Examples of SPVs which may be eligible to operate under the National SPV notice in NSW

*Note: The 6-axle short combination is shown for reference only. The vehicle lengths shown below are typical lengths observed in today’s fleet. They do not represent the maximum vehicle lengths under current regulations.*

2-axle pick and carry crane
Typically approximately 10.0 m long

2-axle all terrain mobile crane
Typically approximately 10.2 m long

3-axle all terrain mobile crane
Typically approximately 11.4 m long

4-axle mobile concrete pump
Typically approximately 12.0 m long

3-axle truck crane
Typically approximately 12.5 m long

4-axle truck crane
Typically approximately 13.2 m long

Short combination
Typically approximately 18.0 m long