

# 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.

## Other requirements

- 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.

## 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.

### Victoria

Victoria may consider this policy in the future.

### Other states and Territories

This policy does not apply.

## For more information:

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## 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 Guide for guidance on the certification of load restraint systems.

### How do I apply for a permit?

#### To apply for new a permit:

1. Go to [www.service.nhvr.gov.au](http://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 'Application tracker' tile in the centre of the top row or on the Menu bar.
3. Click on the 'New Application' button (on the right).
4. A window will pop up, please enter your reference (this should be a reference relevant to you).
5. Click on the green 'Select Configuration' button and then click on the heading 'Permit Schemes'.
6. Select the '*QLD – Transport cylindrical cotton bales up to 4.6m high*' permit scheme by clicking on the image or scheme title.  
*For NSW – Operate under Notice*
7. Select '4.3m – 4.6m' for height and 'By Load' for the height reason.
8. Click on 'Up to 36.4m (Type 1)' for the configuration length.

9. In the 'Freight' section, click on the radio button for 'Commodity' then type in the 'Description of load – Cotton Bales'.
10. Navigate through the rest of the application completing all mandatory information and attaching any supporting documentation.
11. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.