

Heavy Tow Trucks – Information sheet

This document provides information on policies relating to mass and dimension exemption permits for tow trucks.

What vehicles and loads are covered?

This information is specific to the operation of tow trucks exceeding regulation mass or dimensions in the following circumstances:

- A. When tow truck is travelling unladen;
- B. Towing between depots/premises;
- C. Towing accident damaged and disabled vehicles to place of repair or storage;
- D. Towing accident damaged and disabled vehicles to clear an accident site.

Operation by state

Note: all mass limits are the maximum allowable and are subject to axle spacing & tyre size requirements.
All manufacturers' ratings must not be exceeded.

New South Wales

In NSW access is provided by a Class 3 permit with the following features:

- All NSW State Classified roads.
- Restricted to approved routes for towed vehicle.
- Subject to relevant Class 1 Notice conditions with some exemptions from travel restrictions and curfews.
- Maximum dimensions:
 - Width – 3.5m
 - Height – 4.6m
 - Length – 50m

NSW maximum tow truck axle masses

	Circumstance			
	A	B	C	D
Steer axle	7.5t	7.5t	7.5t	7.5t
Twin steer	13t	13t	13t	13t
Single drive	9t	10t	10t	10t
Tandem drive	16.5t	20t	22t	>22t
Triaxle drive	20t	27t	27t	27t

Queensland

In Queensland access is provided by a Class 3 permit with the following features:

- All Qld State controlled roads.
- Restricted to approved routes for towed vehicle. Preference for B-double routes when towing 19m combinations (20m for PBS level 1).
- Subject to specific conditions including travel restrictions and curfews in Brisbane and major cities.
- Maximum dimensions
 - Width – Approved width of towed vehicle
 - Height – Approved height of towed vehicle
 - Length – Combination length of tow truck and towed vehicle
- Pilot/escort and signage requirements apply.

QLD maximum tow truck axle masses

	Circumstance			
	A	B	C	D
Steer axle	7t	7t	7t	7t
Twin steer	16t	16t	16t	16t
Single drive	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tandem drive	23t	23t	23t	23t
Triaxle drive	27t	27t	27t	27t

South Australia

In South Australia access is provided by a Class 3 permit with the following features:

- Specifically approved SA B-double routes.
- Additional access available for emergency towing
- Subject to travel time restrictions in Adelaide Metropolitan Area.
- Restricted structures.
- Maximum dimensions:
 - Width – 3.0m
 - Height – 4.6m
 - Length – 26m, 32m towing long buses, 39m for emergency towing.
- Pilot/escort and signage requirements apply.

SA maximum tow truck axle masses

	Circumstance			
	A	B	C	D
Steer axle	7t	7t	7t	7t
Twin steer	11t	11t	11t	11t
Single drive	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tandem drive	16.5t	18.5t	18.5t	21t
Triaxle drive	20t	22.5t	22.5t	24.5t

Victoria

In Victoria access is provided by a Class 3 permit with the following features:

- Access to both state and local roads
- Restricted to approved routes for towed vehicle.
- Travel time restriction exemptions.
- Maximum dimensions:
 - Width – 3.0m
 - Height – 4.6m
 - Length – 26m, 32m towing articulated buses, 39m for emergency towing.
- Pilot/escort and signage requirements apply.

VIC maximum tow truck axle masses

	Circumstance			
	A	B	C	D
Steer axle	7t	7t	7t	7t
Twin steer	11t	11t	11t	11t
Single drive	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tandem drive	16.5t	18.5t	18.5t	21t
Triaxle drive	20t	21t	21t	24.5t

Other participating States and Territories

This policy is not applicable.

Further information

For further information please refer to the individual jurisdiction's website. Specific eligibility criteria and operational requirements may apply.

How do I apply?

To apply for a new permit:

1. Go to <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 'Tow Truck'.
5. Select the image that represents the vehicle to be applied for (Underlift/hook; Tilt tray rigid truck; Prime mover and tilt deck).
6. Enter the 'Configuration, mass* and dimensions*'.
 - * Note, the maximum mass and dimensions for each state differ; see above for further detail.

7. Select whether 'Forward projection or Rear overhang' is required and enter measurement where selected.
8. Click on the tow truck component tab to enter VIN, registration number and registration state. (Multiple vehicle details may be imported at once by using the 'Import from CSV' option, refer to the help function [?](#) for further details.)
9. Enter the 'Axle group' details and select 'Load sharing' where applicable.
10. On the 'Route / area details' page, click the 'Route Type – Area' radio button then enter the states you wish to operate in. You do not need to enter roads or suburbs.
11. On the 'Period' page, you will be prompted to enter the required permit period.
12. On the 'Attachments' page, upload a copy of the following documents –
 - a. Weigh bridge docket
 - b. Manufacturer rating letter
 - c. Any other supporting documents
13. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

Email: info@nhvr.gov.au

© Copyright National Heavy Vehicle Regulator 2017, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au
Disclaimer: This fact sheet is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.
*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.