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

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 travel time restrictions in Adelaide Metropolitan Area.
- Restricted structures.
- Maximum dimensions:
  - Width – 3.5m
  - Height – 4.6m
  - Length – 50m

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.

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.

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

 NSW maximum tow truck axle masses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstance</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steer axle</td>
<td>7.5t</td>
<td>7.5t</td>
<td>7.5t</td>
<td>7.5t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin steer</td>
<td>13t</td>
<td>13t</td>
<td>13t</td>
<td>13t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single drive</td>
<td>9t</td>
<td>10t</td>
<td>10t</td>
<td>10t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandem drive</td>
<td>16.5t</td>
<td>20t</td>
<td>22t</td>
<td>&gt;22t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triaxle drive</td>
<td>20t</td>
<td>27t</td>
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</table>

 QLD maximum tow truck axle masses

<table>
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<td>16t</td>
<td>16t</td>
<td>16t</td>
<td>16t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single drive</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandem drive</td>
<td>23t</td>
<td>23t</td>
<td>23t</td>
<td>23t</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27t</td>
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 SA maximum tow truck axle masses

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<td>7t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin steer</td>
<td>11t</td>
<td>11t</td>
<td>11t</td>
<td>11t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single drive</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandem drive</td>
<td>16.5t</td>
<td>18.5t</td>
<td>18.5t</td>
<td>21t</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triaxle drive</td>
<td>20t</td>
<td>22.5t</td>
<td>22.5t</td>
<td>24.5t</td>
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</tbody>
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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**

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<td>11t</td>
<td>11t</td>
<td>11t</td>
<td>11t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single drive</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandem drive</td>
<td>16.5t</td>
<td>18.5t</td>
<td>18.5t</td>
<td>21t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triaxle drive</td>
<td>20t</td>
<td>21t</td>
<td>21t</td>
<td>24.5t</td>
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</table>

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](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 –
   - Weigh bridge docket
   - Manufacturer rating letter
   - Any other supporting documents
13. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.