

Short B-double combinations – Information sheet

This document provides information to heavy vehicle operators running short B-double combinations up to 19 metres in length.

The information provided in this document is based on the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation and the *National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle B-double Authorisation (Notice)*.

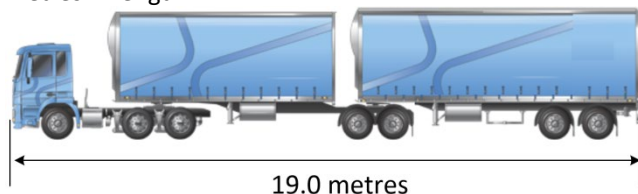
What is a short B-double combination?

A short B-double combination consists of a prime mover towing two semitrailers, with the first semitrailer being attached directly to the prime mover by a fifth-wheel coupling and the second semitrailer being mounted on the rear of the first semitrailer by a fifth-wheel coupling located on the first semitrailer.

Length Limits

General access “Short B-double” combinations are limited to a maximum length of 19.0 metres in all participating states, except Tasmania.

Tasmania allows short B-double combinations up to 21.0* metres in length.



*21.3 metres in length is also permitted if the rear trailer has a rear load restraining guard that complies with the Tasmanian Forestry Safety Code. Further information can be found in the *National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle B-double Authorisation (Notice)*.

Mass limits

The axle group mass limits are:

Mass limits (t)	
Steer axle ¹	6.0
Tandem axle	16.5

¹6.5 t if the vehicle is fitted with a complying steer axle.

A complying steer axle vehicle means a heavy vehicle with a single steer axle if the vehicle has all of the following –

- (a) an engine complying with the emission control requirements contained in ADR 80/01 (Euro IV engine) or a later version of ADR 80;
- (b) a front underrun protection device that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 93 or ADR 84–Front Underrun Impact Protection;
- (c) a cabin that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 29;

- (d) appropriately rated tyres, axle and suspension to permit 6.5t on the steer axle;
- (e) a GVM of 15t or more.

General access Gross Combination Mass (GCM) limits

Short B-double combinations have the following GCM limits:

State	Approved Area ²	GML ⁴	CML
NSW	All roads	up to 50.0t	up to 51.0t
QLD	All roads	up to 50.0t	up to 51.0t
SA	All roads	up to 42.5t	up to 43.5t
TAS ³	All roads	up to 50.0t	up to 51.0t
VIC	All roads	up to 50.0t	up to 51.0t

² Unless signposted.

³ Note: Tasmania – The vehicle combination must be fitted with no more than 7 axles.

⁴ Add 0.5 tonnes to the vehicle combination GCM if it is fitted with a complying steer axle.

Please note that the short B-double combinations must meet the axle spacing requirements
National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle B-Double Authorisation (Notice).

What access is available for greater than 50 tonnes?

Short B-double combinations may operate up to **55.5 tonnes** on approved networks as per the *National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle B-double Authorisation (Notice)*.

Any additional roads outside of these networks require a permit from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

The table below indicates the network access available and mass restrictions associated with the notice and applicable schedules:

State	Approved Area	GML (t) ⁵	CML/HML (t) ⁵
NSW	Roads and Maritime Services - Restricted Access Vehicle Maps 19.0m B-double Routes (over 50 tonnes) Network	up to 55.5	up to 57.0

State	Approved Area	GML (t) ⁵	CML/HML (t) ⁵
QLD	Department of Transport and Main Roads – Multiple Combination Routes in Queensland Maps (23.0m B-doubles)	up to 55.5	up to 57.0
SA	Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure – RAVnet Maps (23.0m B-doubles GML)	up to 55.5	up to 57.0
TAS	Department of State Growth - Tasmanian Declared Higher Mass Limit Route Network	up to 55.5	Up to 57.0
VIC	VicRoads – Heavy Vehicle Network Maps	up to 55.5	up to 57.0

⁵ Add 0.5 tonnes to the vehicle combination GCM if it is fitted with a complying steer axle.

Concessional Mass limits (CML)

CML are applicable to operators accredited under the National Heavy Vehicle Mass Management Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).

State Network Links

For more information, see [State road transport authority mapping sites](#).

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au

Phone: 13 NHVR* (13 64 87)

Email: info@nhvr.gov.au

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