

Information Sheet

Road Train Access in Victoria

This document provides information on the Victoria road access policies for road trains.

Operators wishing to operate outside of the already approved Class 2 Road Train Network may be required to be an approved PBS A-double combination. Please refer to the applicable PBS fact sheet for further information.

What changes have been made to the existing road train network?

In 2011, VicRoads expanded its Road Train network in the North West of Victoria to include Red Cliffs, Hattah, Robinvale, Piangil and Ouyen. Road trains operating on this network were limited to 79.5 tonnes and 4.3 metres high. Under VicRoads' new policy the following changes have been made:

- The network has been expanded to include Swan Hill
- The maximum mass for road trains has been increased to 85.5 tonnes
- Road-Trains transporting livestock will be allowed to operate at 4.6 metres high as long as they comply with the New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme
- The operating conditions for road trains have been brought in line with the conditions that apply in New South Wales
- An updated and comprehensive road train network has been published on the VicRoads website.

Why have these changes been made?

The bulk of road trains operating in the North West of Victoria either originate in New South Wales or service transport companies in that State. Consequently, by harmonising operating conditions and mass and height limits with those allowed in New South Wales, VicRoads has improved cross border consistency while also reducing the red tape for operators in both States.

What vehicles are covered?

Access is currently limited to A-Double Road-Trains with a tandem-axle dolly. VicRoads will however consider A-Double with a triaxle dolly, B-Triple and AB-Triple access on a case by case basis. VicRoads may ask for:

- A full route assessment, especially if the combination has a swept path that is more onerous than a 36.5 metre A-Double;

- A bridge assessment of the combination; and
- The fitment of a GPS device that complies with the Intelligent Access Program (IAP). **(This does not apply to an A-double with a tri-axle dolly if they are operating at General Mass Limits (GML) or Concessional Mass Limits (CML).**

Operation by Notice (without Permit)

The Victorian Road Train network map has a limited number of roads marked as green that are located in Mildura and adjoin the New South Wales border. These green roads are covered in Schedule 4 of the *National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle Road Train Authorisation (Notice) 2015*.

Operation by Permit

The majority of the approved roads on the Victorian Road Train network map are marked as orange. These roads require a permit issued by the NHVR to access, subject to specific operating conditions.

Victoria Road Train Permit Map

To view the Victorian Road Train network map, please refer to the VicRoads website:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/heavy-vehicle-map-networks-in-victoria>

Dimension Limits

The dimension limits for Road-Trains operating on the network are as follows:

Table 1: Dimension limits

	Approved Dimension
Maximum Length	36.5 metres
Maximum Height	4.3 metres
Maximum Height (for livestock combinations)	4.6 metres
Maximum Width	2.5 metres

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Email: info@nhvr.gov.au

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

Mass Limits

The mass limits for Road-Trains operating on the network are as follows:

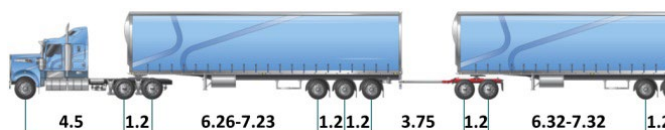
Table 1: Mass limits

	Approved Mass		
	GML	CML	HML
Steer axle	6t	n/a	n/a
Steer axle (tyre section width at least 295mm)*	6.5t	n/a	n/a
Steer axle (tyre section width at least 375mm)	6.7t	n/a	n/a
Drive Axle or Tandem Axle Group (Dolly)	16.5t	17.0t	17.0t
Triaxle Group	20.0t	21.0t	22.5t
Gross Combination Mass	79.5t	81.5t	85.5t

*If the tyre section width is less than 295mm, the steer axle may still be 6.5t as long as the prime movers meet the conditions set out in Schedule 3 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

Axle Spacings

In relation to axle spacings, the combination must meet the following minimum and maximum axle spacings to safely cross all the structures on the network.



*If the combination has an axle spacing that is less than those stated above or exceeds the maximum trailer limits of 7.23 metres and 7.32 metres a bridge assessment will be required.

What are the operating conditions on the network for livestock and non-livestock vehicles?

Road-Train operators transporting livestock under the expanded network must provide proof that the company and driver are enrolled in the New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme. For Road-Train combinations that do not transport livestock, the following conditions apply (These are in line with New South Wales Type 1 Road Train policy):

- When operating at Higher Mass Limits (85.5 tonnes), the road train is fitted with a GPS device accredited under the Intelligent Access Program (IAP);
- When operating at Higher Mass Limits, the road train (prime mover and trailers) is accredited under the Mass Management module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme;
- When operating in excess of 20.0 tonnes on a tri-axle group, certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS) is fitted to the road train;
- The road train does not exceed a speed of 90 km/h or any lower speed limit applying to the route;
- The drawbar length on the road train is not less than 3.0 metres; and
- The road train displays a “road train” warning sign at the front and rear.

Rail Level Crossings on the network

The network features a number of active rail level crossings including those at Ouyen, Managatang and Swan Hill.

In line with the *Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983*, heavy vehicles that exceed 26.0 metres in length require a permit before they are allowed to cross a rail level crossing.

Consequently, prior to operating the combination, the registered owner must obtain a permit from the Over Dimension Load team as part of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. Applications stating the length of the Road-Train and the time of day(s) of the journey must be sent to odlpermit@ecodev.vic.gov.au. Please be aware that applications can take up to **five days** to process.

For more information please contact the following number – (03) 9655 6134. More information can also be found at the Department’s website at <http://economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/transport/freight/over-dimensional-load-permits-for-travel-across-railways-and-tramways>

Further information

For further information and to view the Victorian Road Train network map, please refer to the VicRoads website:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/heavy-vehicle-map-networks-in-victoria>

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 'Permit Schemes'.
5. Select the "Vic - Road Train Scheme - A-Double".
6. Enter the 'Configuration, mass and dimensions'.
7. Enter the 'Load details'.
8. Click on each component tab and select the correct number of axles and enter the 'Axle group' details, including the axle spacing (distance from previous axle).
9. On the 'Route / area details' page, click the 'Route Type – Area' radio button
10. Check on the 'Are you seeking to operate under a network?' option box and select VIC
11. On the 'Period' page, you will be prompted to enter the required permit period.
12. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.
13. On the 'Confirmation' page, enter "**Victorian North West Road Train network (orange roads)**" into the 'Additional comments' field.