

Information Sheet

Mass limits for twin steer prime movers towing tri-axle semitrailers

This information sheet informs heavy vehicle operators of mass limits applicable to a twin steer prime movers towing a tri-axle semitrailer.

Background

The *Heavy Vehicle (Mass Dimension and Loading) National Regulation* (MDL) allows a combination involving a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer (Figure 1) to operate at 46.5t at General Mass Limits (GML).

General Mass limits



Figure 1 Twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer

Table 1 (below) outlines the limits prescribed in the MDL for a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer operating at GML.

Table 1 General Mass Limits

Axle Group	GML Mass Limit (t)
Twin steer axle group	11.0 ¹
Tandem drive axle group	16.5
Tri-axle semitrailer	20.0
Total Combination Mass	46.5 ²

¹ 10t limit when the twin steer axle group is not fitted with a load-sharing suspension system.

² The sum of all axle groups must not exceed the combination mass limit.

Concessional Mass Limits (CML)

CML allows an operator to operate at mass limits above GML, provided the operator is accredited under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS). Companies wishing to benefit from the productivity gains of CML are required to meet the eight standards of compliance in the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) Mass Management Accreditation Guide.

At CML, the total mass for an eligible twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer increases to 47.5t.

More information on CML can be obtained from the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/cml>

More information on the NHVAS can be obtained from the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/nhvas>

Higher Mass Limits (HML)

HML allows particular heavy vehicles to access additional mass entitlements over GML and CML, providing operators of vehicles or combinations running HML on tri-axle groups are accredited under the Mass Management Module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS), with an accreditation label fitted to the hauling unit.

To be eligible for HML, vehicles must be fitted with certified road friendly suspensions.

HML provides a significant increase in the productivity of road freight transport vehicles.

HML vehicles can only travel on an authorised HML route or under a HML permit.

More information on HML can be obtained from the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/hml>

More information on how to apply for a HML permit can be obtained from the NHVR website at www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/applications/higher-mass-limits-permit

More information on the NHVAS can be obtained from the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/nhvas>

Victoria

Under the *Victoria Class 3 Heavy Vehicle Twinsteer Prime Mover and Semitrailer Combination Mass Exemption Notice 2016 (No.1)* and the MDL, a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is permitted to go up to 49.5t at HML.

Tasmania

Schedule 8 of the *Tasmania and Victoria Consolidated National Heavy Vehicle Mass and Dimension Exemption (Notice) 2014 (No. 1)* allows a complying twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer to operate up to a total combination mass of:

- 47.5t on all roads within Tasmania except where signed otherwise.
- 50.5t on the Tasmanian Declared Higher Mass Limit Route Network.

The network maps can be obtained from the Department of Stage Growth (DSG) website at https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicles/heavy_vehicles/access/pages/tasmanian_declared_higher_mass_limit_route_network

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Under the MDL, a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is permitted to go up to 49.5t at HML.

Queensland (QLD)

A twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is not an eligible vehicle type under the QLD *Guideline for Higher Mass Limits for Vehicles with Road Friendly Suspensions in Queensland Form Number 10*.

However, under the MDL, a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is permitted to go up to 49.5t at HML.

New South Wales (NSW)

A twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is not an eligible vehicle type under the *NSW HML Declaration*.

However, under the MDL, a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is permitted to go up to 49.5t at HML.

South Australia (SA)

A twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is not an eligible vehicle type under the SA *Higher Mass Limits for Vehicles Fitted with Road Friendly Suspension*.

However, under the MDL, a twin steer prime mover towing a tri-axle semitrailer is permitted to go up to 49.5t at HML.

Maximum Combination Masses

Table 2 outlines the maximum combination masses for twin steer prime movers towing a tri-axle semitrailer in each state and territory that is permissible under Notice or may be permissible under a permit exemption.

Table 2 State and Territory Combination Mass Limits

State	Maximum mass limit (t) ³		
	GML	CML	HML
VIC	46.5	47.5	49.5
TAS	47.5 ⁴	47.5	50.5
ACT	46.5	47.5	49.5
QLD	46.5	47.5	49.5
NSW	46.5	47.5	49.5
SA	46.5	47.5	49.5

³ Must not exceed manufacturer's ratings.

⁴ Under Notice.

How to Apply?

To apply for new twin steer prime mover and tri-axle semi-trailer permit exemption at HML:

1. Go to 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.
3. Click on the 'New Application' button (on the right) and enter a customer reference for your application.
4. Click on the green 'Select Configuration' button and select the 'Prime and semi-trailer (incl. HML)' configuration set.
5. Select the 'Prime and Semi-trailer (Freight)' option.
6. Click the diagram of the prime mover (next to the 'overall' tab and from the 'component' drop down, select the 'Prime mover long bonnet 2-2 axle' option.
7. Add in all VIN and registration details under the vehicle tab.
8. Select the 'overall' tab and select the 'Prime and semi-trailer - Higher Mass Limit (HML)' check box.
9. Add in vehicle height and ensure 'Length' field is 'No greater than 19m'.
10. Add in the permit period requested as well as the 'freight' type.
11. Add in requested route. Please note: only a single route will be considered.
12. Follow the prompts to complete the 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.