

# Multiple Loads on Class 1 Load-Carrying Vehicles - Information Sheet

## Purpose

To clarify the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) requirements when transporting more than one large indivisible item or other goods with a large indivisible item on Class 1 load-carrying vehicles.

## Definitions

A **Class 1 heavy vehicle** is one that, due to its construction or when carrying a large indivisible item, does not comply with a prescribed mass or dimension requirement applying to it.

These include oversize overmass vehicles, special purpose vehicles and agricultural vehicles.

**E.g.** a common class 1 heavy vehicle is a combination of a prime mover towing a low loader (i.e. a load-carrying vehicle).

**Large indivisible item** means an item that:

- cannot be divided without extreme effort, expense or risk of damage to it; and
- cannot be carried on any heavy vehicle without contravening a mass requirement or dimension requirement.

**Load-carrying vehicle** means a heavy vehicle carrying, or designed for the purpose of carrying, a large indivisible item, including, for example, a combination including a low loader.

### Please note:

- There are a number of Class 1 notices that authorise the use of oversize overmass vehicles that do not comply with prescribed mass or dimension requirements. For more information, see [Notices and permit-based schemes](#).
- If your oversize overmass heavy vehicle is not exempted from prescribed mass or dimension requirements by an existing Class 1 notice, you are required to obtain a permit from the NHVR. For more information, see [Oversize Overmass permit](#).

## Requirements for Carrying Multiple Items

Under Schedule 8, Part 1, Division 2, and Section 13 of the Regulation:

1. A load-carrying vehicle must not carry more than 1 large indivisible item unless:

- a. the vehicle, together with its load, complies with the general mass limits; and
- b. the vehicle carrying more than 1 large indivisible item does not cause the vehicle, together with its load, to exceed a prescribed dimension requirement that would not be exceeded if the vehicle carried only 1 of the large indivisible items.

2. A load-carrying vehicle carrying 1 or more large indivisible items must not carry any other goods unless:

- a. the vehicle, together with its load, complies with the general mass limits; and
- b. the other goods are contained within the limits set by the prescribed dimension requirements.

### Additional Indivisible items must not be loaded:

- side by side if the resulting width exceeds 2.5 metres;
- one on top of another if the resulting height exceeds 4.3 metres; or
- one behind another if the resulting length (from front of the vehicle to the rear of the load) exceeds 19 metres for a combination or 12.5 metres for a rigid vehicle
- if the additional indivisible item causes the vehicle to exceed general mass limits.

## Loading Requirements

The following principles are applicable to Class 1 load-carrying vehicles:

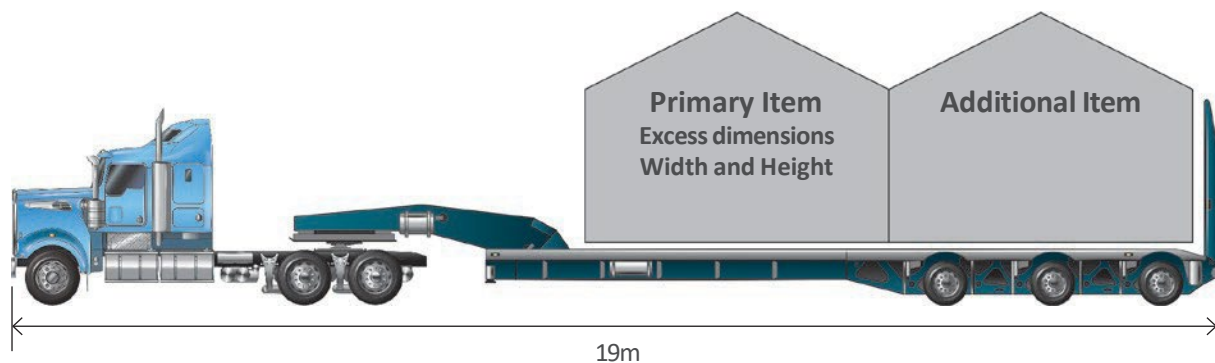
- A load on a heavy vehicle must not be placed in a way that makes the vehicle unstable or unsafe.
- A load on a heavy vehicle must be secured so it is unlikely to fall or be dislodged from the vehicle.
- An appropriate method must be used to restrain the load on a heavy vehicle.
- If a load can be safely loaded in more than one way, it must be loaded in a way that minimises the safety risks (such as width) of the vehicle or combination.

## Complying

The following scenarios are combinations that may operate under existing exemption notices or a permit.

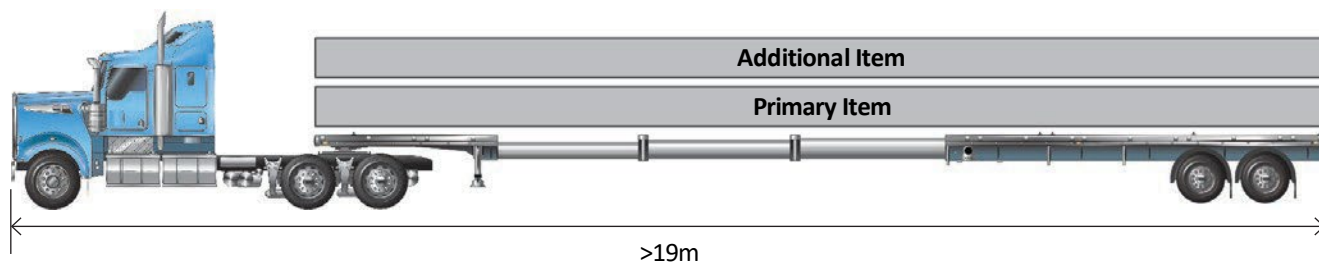
- It is important to note that some states and territories may provide different exemptions under notices and permits.
- For all the example scenarios below, general mass limits cannot be exceeded.

### Example 1

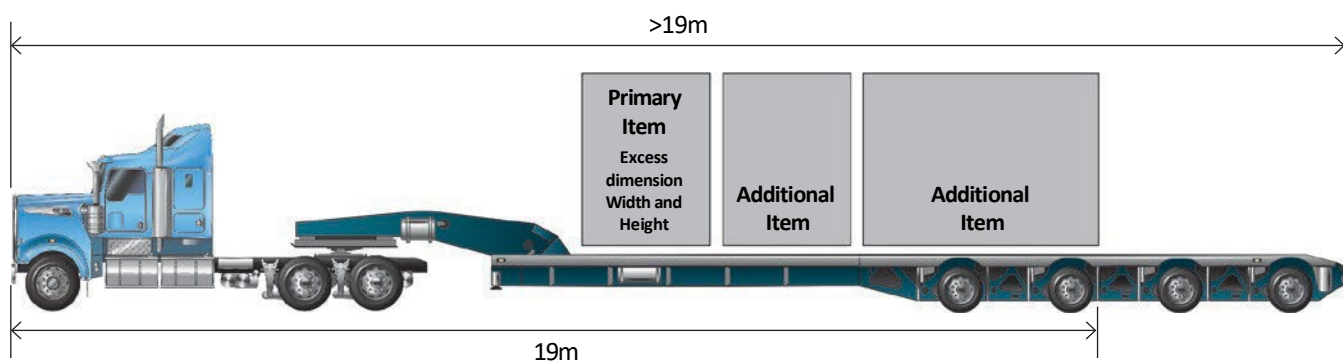


### Example 2

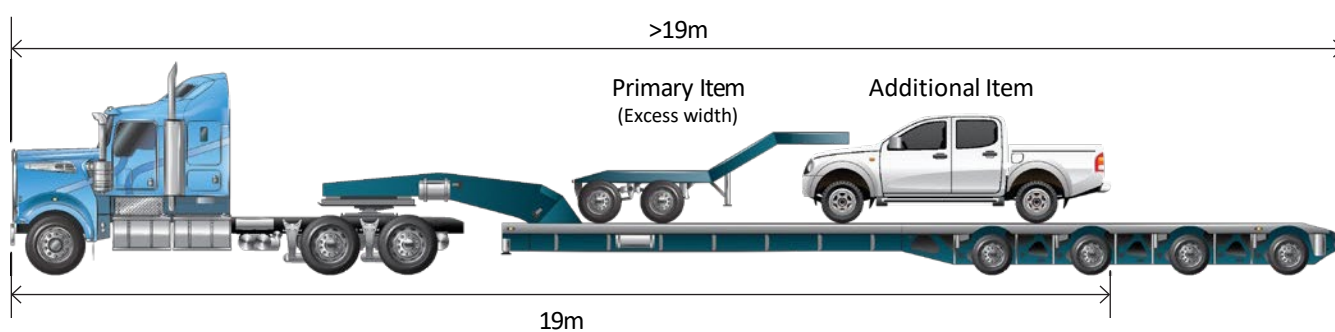
\*This example has excess length, but may be eligible to operate under an existing notice or permit.



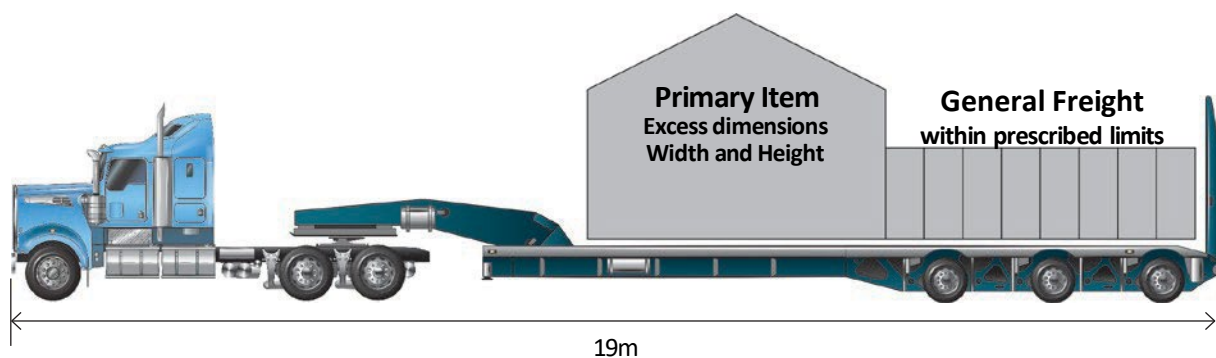
### Example 3



### Example 4



### Example 5

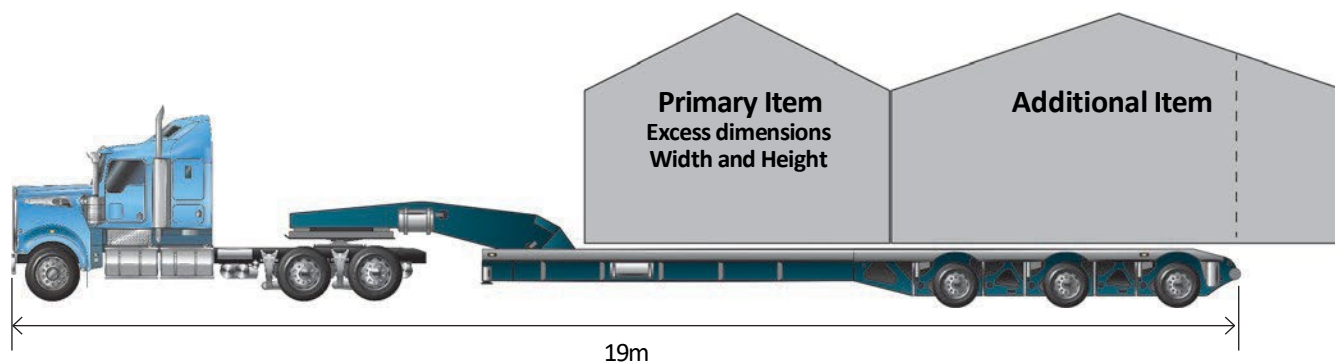


### Non-Complying

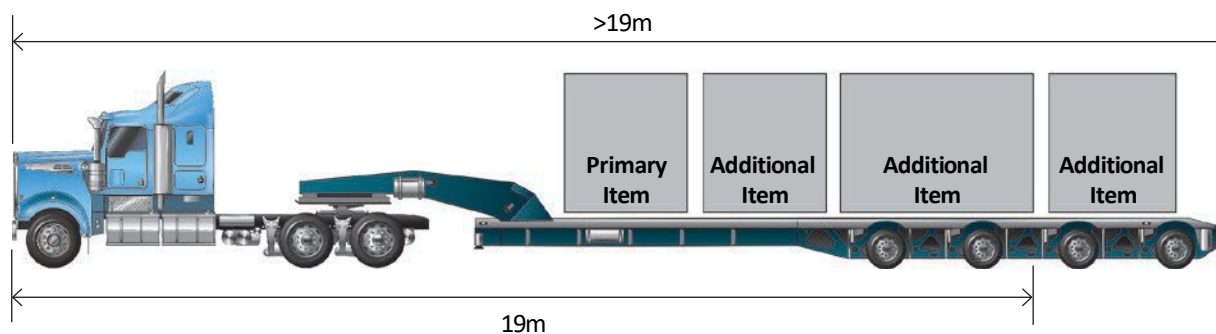
The following scenarios do not comply with the requirements of Schedule 8 of the MDL Regulation, as a prescribed dimension limit has been exceeded by additional loading.

- (a) The additional large indivisible item causes the prescribed length of 19 metres to be exceeded.

#### Example 1

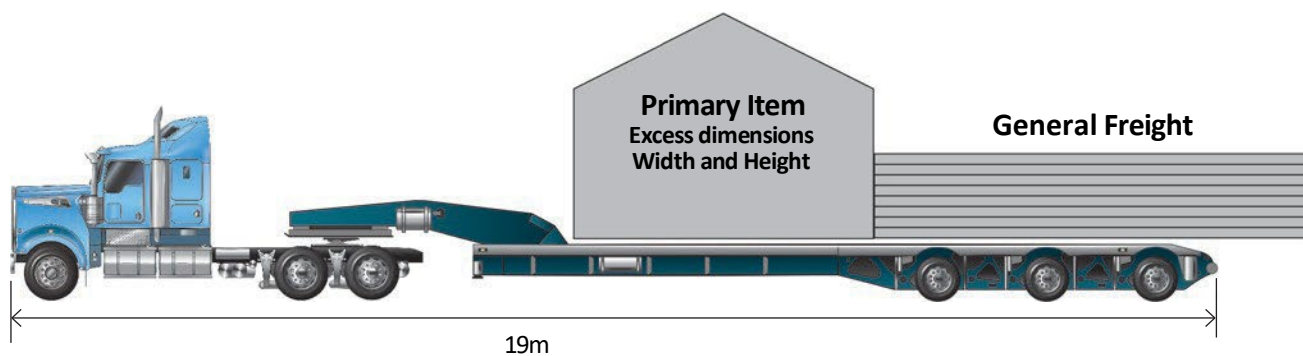


#### Example 2



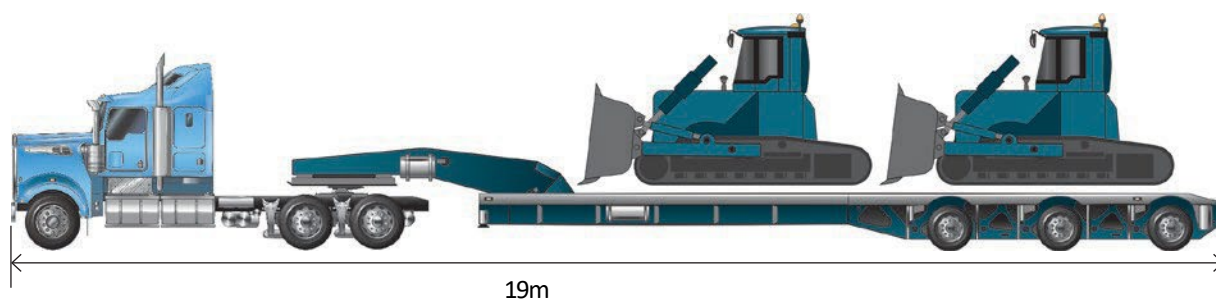
- (b) The additional loading (general freight) is not contained within the limits set by the prescribed dimension requirements. The prescribed length dimension of 19 metres is exceeded.

### Example 3



- (c) The additional loading (second dozer) is contained within the prescribed length limit of 19m, but **general mass limits are exceeded**.

### Example 4



## Loading Restraint Guide

The **Load Restraint Guide 2018** provides drivers, owners, operators, freight consigners, vehicle manufacturers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers with the basic safety principles that should be followed when designing a load restraint system to ensure the safe and efficient transportation of loads.

Find more information, see [Loading](#).

### Contact the NHVR

If operators have any further queries regarding the content of this information sheet, the NHVR may be contacted using the details below.

#### For more information

Subscribe: [www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe)

Visit: [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au)

Email: [info@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:info@nhvr.gov.au)

Telephone: 13 NHVR (13 64 87)\*

© Copyright National Heavy Vehicle Regulator 2020, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/au)  
Disclaimer: This information is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.  
\*Standard 13 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.