

Information Sheet

Increased Mass Limits for Eligible 3-axle Buses in New South Wales

Purpose

The purpose of this information sheet is to describe the increased mass limits for eligible 3-axle buses and operating conditions in New South Wales. Eligible buses will need to apply to the NHVR and applications will be assessed on case by case basis.

Please note: this increase only applies to 3-axle buses that have a tandem axle group fitted with single tyres on 1 axle and dual tyres on the other axle (six-tyred).

Background

The *Multi-State Class 3 Bus Mass Exemption Notice 2014* authorises 3 axle buses up to 14.5m long in length to operate up to the following:



Variable	Maximum Limit (tonnes)
Steer axle	6.5
Drive axle	14.0
Gross Vehicle Mass	20.5

What are the increased mass limits?

Below outlines the increased mass limit on the tandem axle group.



Variable	Maximum Limit (tonnes)
Steer axle	6.5
Drive axle	15.5
Gross Vehicle Mass	22.0

Note: Conditions apply and operators must apply for a permit.

Conditions

To be eligible for the mass increased, bus operators must ensure they comply with the following:

1. The 15.5 tonnes six-tyred tandem axle group mass limit must be distributed across the two axles (comprised of a dual tyred axle and a single tyred tag axle) with a weight distribution ratio of 60:40 *i.e.* 60% of the mass on the dual tyred axle and 40% of mass on the single tyred tag axle.
2. The single tyred tag axle must be fitted with minimum 295/80R22.5 tyres or equivalent
3. The drive axle must be fitted with 295/80R22.5 tyres or equivalent
4. Comply with the following braking and stability control requirements. If a bus is fitted with an Identification Plate which indicates that the vehicle was manufactured:
 - a. before 1 January 2015, it must be fitted with a properly functioning:
 - i. Anti-lock braking system; or
 - ii. Electronic stability control
 - b. If a bus is fitted with an Identification Plate which indicates that the vehicle was manufactured on after 1 January 2015, it must be fitted with properly functioning:
 - i. Anti-lock braking system and Electronic braking system; or
 - ii. Electronic stability control
 - c. Compliance with the requirements of subclauses (a) and (b) must be verified by either-
 - i. an *Identification Plate* issued by a person authorised by an Australian Road Authority to affix an Identification Plate; or
 - ii. a *Certificate* verifying modifications issued by a person authorised by an Australian Road Authority to certify heavy vehicle modifications

Operator Responsibilities

Operators should ensure that:

- They have business practices or systems in place to ensure that the vehicle complies with the relevant HVNL requirements, such as vehicle standards, maintenance and mass and dimension requirements
- The driver is provided with any appropriate documents required to operate the heavy vehicle in compliance with the HVNL
- The driver is aware of their responsibilities in regard to the safe operation of the vehicle
- They must comply with relevant jurisdictional legislation
- The mass limits for Eligible 3-axle buses are not intended to increase the existing passenger carrying capacity.
- A vehicle operating under a permit may not carry more seated and standing passengers than the number determined by the manufacture in accordance with Australian Design Rules.
- Regardless of the passenger carrying capacity of the bus, the prescribed mass limits in the MDL must not be exceeded.

How to apply for a permit

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 'Bus'.
5. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete application payment.

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

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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.