New South Wales Class 3 Platform Container Exemption Notice
2018 - Operators Guide

13 March 2019
Purpose
To inform heavy vehicle operators of the requirements outlined in the ‘NSW Class 3 Platform Container Exemption Notice’.

This notice only applies to movement of import and export freight only.

Background
The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator alongside Roads and Maritime Services and industry, have identified that a notice allowing an exemption to carry platform containers such as flat racks and open top containers will increase efficiency within the heavy vehicle industry through flexibility of fleet management, increased competition opportunities and to reduce the need for applicants to apply for permits. On and off road safety of platform container movements will also improve through reduced loading and unloading of indivisible loads and utilising optimum load securing techniques.

Definitions
In this Notice, platform container has the same meaning as set out in Part 8: Platform containers, of the Australian Standard 3711.8, and includes:

a) Platform containers; and
b) Platform-based containers with either complete or incomplete superstructures.

Note: This definition contains platform container types commonly known as:

- Flat rack containers
- Open top Containers
- Bolsters

Flat Rack Container
Flat rack container means a freight container without side walls or a roof. Refer to figure 1.

Figure 1 Example of a Flat Rack Container.

Open Top Container
Open top container means a freight container without a roof. Refer to figure 2.

Figure 2 Example of an Open Top Container.

Mass Exemptions
This notice allows access to eligible combinations carrying platform containers (flat racks and open top containers) at the masses listed below:

The mass of a low loader eligible combination must not be more than—

(a) 77.5t, if the vehicle is fitted with any axle group with 4 tyres on each axle;

(b) 100.0t if the vehicle is fitted with any axle group with 8 tyres on each axle.

Note that skel and semi-trailer combinations are specifically excluded from the mass exemption component of this Notice. Skel or semi-trailer combinations operating under this Notice must not exceed general mass limits.

For additional information on the axle group masses and spacing’s allowed under this notice, please refer to the NSW Class 3 Platform Container Exemption Notice 2018: https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/notices-and-permit-based-schemes/state-hvnl-notices

Mass Conditions
While the masses approved under this Notice may allow up to 100t for a suitable combination, it is an offence under Sect 193 of the HVNL (Mass Dimension and Loading Regulation) and Marine Order 42 and Marine Order 44 to exceed the approved gross mass of the platform container as shown on the container safety approval plate.
### Dimension Exemptions

This notice allows access to vehicles carrying platform containers at the dimensions listed in table 1 below:

**Table 1 Dimension Exemptions.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Height (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prime mover &amp; low loader combinations</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Mover and Skels or Flat Tops</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2 Examples of Multiple Indivisible Loading.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple Indivisible Items</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Eligible?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Item</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Item</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dimension Conditions

- The combination may exceed 19.0m in length, and be up to 30m in length.
- A platform container may be loaded with more than one large indivisible item provided the additional large indivisible items do not exceed height or width dimensions that would not be exceeded if the platform container carried only one large indivisible item; and
- A platform container loaded with one or more large indivisible items in conjunction with other goods must not allow the goods not considered indivisible to exceed the regulatory height and width dimensions when loaded on the platform container.
- For goods being carried on a platform container that don’t trigger a dimension exemption they must be contained within the platform container at regulatory height and width dimensions.

### General Conditions

- All general conditions contained within NSW Schedule of the *National Multi-State Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Dimension Exemption Notice* and the *National Multi-State Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Mass Exemption Notice* must be complied with.
- All containers must be restrained with the use of effective container pins.

### Import/Export Documentation

The following documentation must be carried, in either electronic or paper form by the driver for the following movements:

**Import:** Shipping Line Delivery Order – including the container number, tare mass, gross container mass, and destination.

**Export:** Pre Receivable Advice (PRA) - including the container number, tare mass, gross container mass, delivery destination (Port).

The documentation must be current and relative to the load being carried on the platform container.
Networks

This notice only applies on roads that are:

- State controlled roads on the *NSW Oversize Overmass Load Carrying Vehicles Network*; or

- Roads managed by Participating Road Managers that are on the *NSW Oversize Overmass Load Carrying Vehicles Network*.

The *NSW Oversize Overmass Load Carrying Vehicles Network* may be found at this link:


Note that access to these roads may be conditioned, as per the Multi-State Load Carrying Vehicle Mass and Dimension Notices.

4.6m High Network

An eligible vehicle operating under this Notice that is more than 4.3m high may only operate on a route that is also approved for 4.6m high vehicles as displayed on the ‘NSW Oversize Overmass Load Carrying Vehicles Network’ map.

Participating Road Managers

This Notice only applies in certain Road Manager areas.

Participating Road Managers as described in section 15 of the Notice are listed in Appendix 1 of this Guide.

Only roads that are in Participating Road Manager areas AND are on the *NSW Oversize Overmass Load Carrying Vehicles Network* are accessible under this notice.

Complying with the HVNL

The operator of a heavy vehicle must ensure their vehicle complies with the ADRs and the HVNL. Using or permitting another person to use a defective heavy vehicle, or a heavy vehicle with unapproved modifications on a road is an offence.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the Notice may result in the driver and/or operator being liable for an offence.

Penalties can include infringement notices or prosecution. For more information, see the Compliance and Enforcement Bulletins at [www.nhvr.gov.au/ce-bulletins](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/ce-bulletins).

Chain of responsibility

Under the HVNL Chain of Responsibility (CoR) laws, everyone in the transport supply chain must take positive steps to prevent any breach of the mass, dimension and loading provisions.

*For more information, on your CoR obligations see [www.nhvr.gov.au/cor](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/cor)*

Appendix 1 - Participating Road Managers

The following Road Managers that have approved specific roads gazetted as part of the NSW OSOM Network and NSW Ports have included their roads for operations under this Notice include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Managers</th>
<th>Approved Roads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)</td>
<td>All state controlled roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Botany</td>
<td>All roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Kembla</td>
<td>All roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Newcastle</td>
<td>All roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albury City Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singleton Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nambucca Shire Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Hume Shire Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkes Shire Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey Shire Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacktown City Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Valley Council</td>
<td>Council roads that form part of the NSW OSOM Network</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do I need to carry this Notice?**
No. It is not a legal requirement to carry this Notice.

**I have a current class 1 permit for an oversize overmass vehicle for indivisible loading Can I use it?**
No, if you have a class 1 oversize overmass exemption, the Heavy Vehicle National Law does not allow the carriage of multi-modal freight containers.

**My permit covers additional routes and networks to those covered in the Notice. What should I do?**
Provided your permit is a relative class 3 platform container permit you may still run under your permit whilst it is current and valid to retain the access to the additional routes.

We are constantly working with road managers to ensure the best network coverage, and encourage you to also contact relevant road managers to discuss the specific access you need for your combination.

**What happens when my permit expires?**
You may request a renewal of your permit by submitting an application to the road state authority or the NHVR


You should only need to do this if you have routes on your permit that are not on the approved network or the additional roads as per the Operators Guide.

Alternatively, if all of your desired routes are gazetted, you may choose to operate under the Notice on the approved network.

**I would like to operate on routes not included in networks under this Notice. What do I need to do?**
You will need to submit a class 3 permit application to the NHVR for any access off the approved network utilising the load type as a platform container.

https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/applications/class-3-miscellaneous-permit

**How do I travel unladen after a job?**
Unladen travel is covered under this Notice. If the combination loaded with an empty platform container exceeds a regulation dimension, it must only operate on the approved network.

**I have an overmass load; do I still need a permit?**
This Notice allows the same masses and dimensions as the Multi-State Load Carrying Vehicle Mass & Dimension Notices for operations on the approved network. Any access off the approved network will require a class 3 permit.

Note that while the masses approved under the notice may allow up to 100t for a suitable combination, it is an offence under Sect 193 of the HVNL (Mass Dimension and Loading) and Marine Order 42 and Marine Order 44 to exceed the approved gross mass of the platform container safety approval plate.

**Can I carry more than one large indivisible item?**
Yes. This notice allows multiple indivisible items to be carried on an approved platform container under the following conditions:

1. No additional dimensions are triggered by any additional items that exceed the first item. The Notice does allow for a length exemption for combinations up to 30m.
2. The masses approved on the container safety plate are not exceeded.

**Can I carry divisible goods with indivisible items?**
Yes, provided the divisible goods being carried on the platform container are within standard width (2.5m) and standard height (4.3m) dimensions and are contained within the platform container ends.