Operation of Class 2 B-Double and Road Train Combinations in South Australia

Background

South Australian heavy vehicle notices that transitioned on the commencement of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) in South Australia expired on 9 February 2019.

These notices have been redrafted to ensure that access to the South Australia road network is maintained and the conditions that apply to the operation of vehicles operating under the notice are consistent with the HVNL.

This information sheet outlines the remaking of notices related to the operation of B-doubles and road trains (including B-triple combinations) in South Australia.

Affected notices

Class 2 B-doubles

The National Class 2 B-double Authorisation Notice 2019 has been developed to replace the existing national notice published at the commencement of the HVNL in 2014.

The following notices expired on 9 February 2019 and have been retired, with conditions incorporated into the new National B-double Notice and Schedule where appropriate:

Original B-double notices

1. Notice of approval and exemption – Operation of B-double vehicles up to 25m in length (plus Code of Practice and Information Guide)
2. Supplementary notice of approval – Operation of 26m B-double vehicles

The National Class 2 B-double Authorisation Notice 2019 and its Operator’s Guide can be downloaded on the NHVR website here.

Class 2 road trains

The South Australian Schedule to the National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle Road Train Authorisation (Notice) 2015 (National Road Train Notice) has been updated to include the operation of B-triple combinations and update conditions of operation. Note: Access for AB-triples is currently provided only by permit.

A new notice titled South Australia Class 3 Road Train (North of Port Augusta) Dimension Exemption Notice 2019 has been developed to provide for over-width road trains operating on specified networks and routes in the north of the state.

The following South Australian transitioned road train notices and associated Codes of Practice have been retired, with conditions incorporated into the National Road Train Notice and Schedule where appropriate:

Original road train notices

1. Notice of approval and exemption – Operation of road train vehicles in South Australia (and Code of Practice)
2. Notice of approval and exemption – Operation of B-triple vehicles up to 35.0m in length (and Code of Practice)
3. South Australia Class 2 Heavy Vehicle 25m to 30m Road Train Authorisation Notice 2017 (No. 1)

The new South Australian schedule to the National Road Train Notice can be downloaded here.

What’s changed?

A number of amendments have been made to the South Australia schedules to the national Road Train and B-double notices to align with the HVNL and remove requirements covered by other notices or legislation. While these conditions no longer appear in the notices, they remain in effect for the overall safety of all road users:
• Higher Mass Limits (HML) operation will now be covered by a combined South Australia Class 3 (Application of Higher Mass Limits) Mass Exemption Notice 2019 (refer to the NHVR website for the notice and Information Sheet).
• Operators must obey signed requirements for truck parking.
• Reversing manoeuvres must be undertaken in compliance with (Australian Road Rule) ARR296.
• Route and structure restrictions have been removed from the notice and are published in the Information Bulletin – Consolidated Table of Limited Access Locations in South Australia published in the Approved Areas or Routes section at www.sa.gov.au/heavyvehicles.

Road trains only
• Road train definitions have been updated to align with the HVNL.
• Descriptions previously used in South Australia, such as ‘short double road train’ and ‘triple road train’, have been replaced by Type 1 or Type 2 road train.
• National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) Maintenance Management requirements have been reviewed and amended for road trains operating south of Port Augusta into Northern Adelaide. For more information see https://www.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/501527/Information-Bulletin-NHVAS-Maintenance.pdf.
• Speed limits for road trains are:
  o published on the road train networks on SA’s online mapping system – RAVnet.
• Right turn restrictions across National Highway 1 (Augusta Highway/Port Wakefield Road) south of Port Augusta are no longer prohibited, as turn movements to and from roads are assessed when access is provided.
• Requirement for headlights and daytime running lights has been removed to harmonise with other states and territories.
• Rear coupling height specifications for drop-deck semi-trailers have been removed.

Medical Certificate Requirements
• There is no longer a requirement for a driver of a B-double or road train operating between Port Augusta and Adelaide to have or carry a current medical certificate.

Note: While drivers of heavy vehicles in South Australia are not required to carry a current medical certificate they may need to have a current medical certificate under the following circumstances:
  o to meet the requirements of NHVAS Fatigue Management module, or
  o to meet the requirements of their driver’s licence as administered under the Motor Vehicles Act 1959.

What hasn’t changed?
General operating requirements and conditions for use of B-doubles and road trains in South Australia are unchanged, including route networks, allowable dimensions, warning lights and signs etc.

Operator compliance responsibility
While the new notices and schedules are not required to be carried under the HVNL, operators are encouraged to read and become familiar with these documents, as it is a legal requirement to comply with the conditions when operating under the notice.

Contact the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI)
For clarification on any of the information outlined above, the DPTI Heavy Vehicle Access Policy and Reform team can be contacted by:
Email: DPTI.RoadAuthority@sa.gov.au
Phone: 1300 334 640

For more information:
Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au
Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe
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Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

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