

4.6m High Specified Semitrailer Information Sheet

Purpose

This information sheet outlines the definition and access requirements for a specified semitrailer.

What is changing?

The *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation (MDL Regulation)* has been amended to:

- Include a definition of a specified semitrailer;
- Allow a maximum height of 4.6 metres for a specified semitrailer; and
- Provide road access to a combination that includes a specified semitrailer.

What is a specified semitrailer?

A specified semitrailer means a semitrailer that:

- Is not a PBS vehicle; and
- Has an air suspension system with effective dampers fitted; and
- Has a deck height not higher than 1.2m for at least 50% of its deck length; and
- If in combination, the combination:
 - Consists only of;
 - A prime mover towing a single semitrailer attached

to the prime mover by a fifth wheel coupling; or

- A B-double; or
- A B-triple; and
- Has a mass not more than 90% of the prescribed mass requirements for the combination.

A semitrailer which meets these criteria is able to operate at 4.6 metres high.

Road access from 2020

Road access for specified semitrailers will commence in 2020 (date to be confirmed).

Prescribed Mass Requirements (PMR)

Prescribed mass requirements are mass limits set out in the MDL Regulations. Prescribed mass requirements are enforceable and breaching them carries penalties under Chapter 4 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

PMRs for a heavy vehicle are determined by the vehicle's configuration at the time.

The MDL Regulation outlines the PMR that for heavy vehicle combinations, which include (but not limited to) the mass limits found in Schedule 1 to 5A.

Mass exceptions

Applicable mass exception limits include:

- Concessional Mass Limits (CML); and

- Higher Mass Limits (HML).

These exceptions are subject to a number of conditions, and are not applicable if the vehicle is limited to General Mass Limits.

Mass condition calculation

Determine the applicable prescribed gross mass limit for a combination and calculate 90% of the determined limit.

The calculated result will be the applicable mass condition.

For example: A specified semitrailer combination is operating under CML with a determined combination mass limit of 44 tonne. Therefore, the mass condition calculation would be:

90% of 44 tonne, being 39.6 tonne.

A specified trailer combination that does not meet the mass condition contained in the specified semitrailer definition is restricted to whichever height limit otherwise applies – for most heavy vehicles this is 4.3 metres.

Operating under a Permit or Notice

A specified semitrailer may form part of a combination operating under a notice or permit. That combination must comply with both the specified semitrailer requirements and all conditions of an applicable notice or permit.

Contact the NHVR

If operators have any further queries regarding the operation of this policy, the NHVR may be contacted using the details below.

For more information:

Website: www.nhvr.gov.au

Call Centre: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

Hypercare: support@nhvr.gov.au

General Enquiries: Accessenquiries@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.