

## Performance Based Standards

### Notification of extension to the Pre-Advised Design Approval process

This information sheet provides guidance about the recent extension of the PBS Pre-Advised (PA) design approval process to:

- Remove the X-Y Rule constraint for B-doubles and 6-axle dog combinations.
- Remove the length constraint for all levels and all combinations.
- Increase the maximum steer axle mass for a-double combinations to 7.1t in line with the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation (MDL)*.

The updated specifications take effect from **Monday 21 June 2020**.

The following conditions and exclusions have been removed from the PA process.

#### X-Y Rule requirement

For the following combinations, the requirement to comply with the X-Y Rule as defined in Schedule 6, Section 10 of the MDL has been removed:

- 6-axle dog trailer
- B-double (3-3)
- B-double (4-3)
- B-double (4-4)

This means that the above combination types are now eligible for an approval under the PA process regardless of X-Y Rule compliance.

**Note:** Design applications for B-Double (3-3) combinations are required to record evidence of X-Y Rule compliance. Refer to [IPAC-5 X-Y Rule check on PBS Design Approvals](#).

#### OAL length bracket

The overall combination length requirement has been removed for all levels and all combination types.

Previously, to be eligible for an approval under the PA process, a combination's overall length was limited to the maximum length prescribed by the PBS Network Classification Guidelines for the specified PBS level. This constraint has now been removed from the PA process.

Applications for combinations exceeding the maximum combination length, as prescribed by the Network Classification Guidelines, will include the following operating condition as per the PBS Assessment Rules

requirement. The condition will be adjusted to the specific level requested.

*Due to the vehicle's length (32.495m) exceeding the maximum permitted length for Level 2 access as prescribed by the Network Classification Guidelines, the access of this vehicle will be limited, and an individual route assessment will be required. The operation of the vehicle on the road network will require a permit subject to Road Manager Consent, unless otherwise specified by the Road Manager.*

**Note:** Access to a specific PBS network or route will continue to be subject to Road Manager consent.

#### A-double maximum steer axle mass

Qualifying A-double combinations are now eligible for 7.1t on the steer axle.

**Note:** In accordance with MDL, to qualify for 7.1t on the steer axle, the section width of the steer tyres must be at least 375mm.

#### Qualifying Combinations

The following types of PBS combinations, including combinations carrying dangerous goods, are currently eligible to access the PA approval process:

- Level 1, 3- or 4-axle truck and 3- or 4-axle dog combinations up to 50.5t GCM
- Level 2, 3- or 4-axle truck and 3- or 4-axle dog combinations up to 67.5t GCM
- Level 2, 3- or 4-axle truck and 5- or 6-axle dog combinations up to 78.5t GCM
- Level 1, prime mover and single, tandem, tri or quad-axle semitrailer combinations up to 50.5t GCM
- Level 2, prime mover and single, tandem, tri or quad-axle semitrailer combinations up to 60.5t GCM
- Level 1, B-doubles fitted with single, tandem, tri or quad-axle groups up to 50.5t GCM
- Level 2, B-doubles fitted with single, tandem, tri or quad-axle groups up to 85.0t GCM
- Level 3, B-doubles fitted with single, tandem, tri or quad-axle groups up to 87.5t GCM
- Level 1, A-doubles with single, tandem or tri-axle semitrailers and tandem or tri-axle dollies up to 50.5t GCM
- Level 2, A-doubles with single, tandem or tri-axle semitrailers and tandem or tri-axle dollies up to 85t GCM
- Level 3, A-doubles up to 101.0t GCM

## Non-qualifying Combinations

The following combinations are excluded from PA process:

- Truck and dog combinations fitted with single-axle drive axle group
- combinations requiring exemption under section 8 (noncompliance with infrastructure standards) and/or section 9 (noncompliance that poses no additional risk) of the *Heavy Vehicle (General) National Regulation*
- road train combinations such as a-triple, b-triple, ab-triple, ba-triple, a-quad and b-quad
- combinations with non-compliant axle groups.

Combination types that fall under one of the above exclusions will be processed via the ordinary PBS design approval process, requiring submission to the PBS Review Panel (the Panel).

## Background

The *Heavy Vehicle National Law* requires any application for a PBS Design Approval to be submitted to the Panel for review and advice. To simplify this approval process, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and the Panel have approved some common PBS designs to be 'pre-advised'. This allows the NHVR to assess and issue a PBS Design Approval without submitting the application to the Panel.

Since the commencement of the PA design approval process in March 2017, application processing times for applicable vehicle types have reduced on average from four weeks to three business days.

To date, most major combination designs have been PA; it is estimated that over 90% of all PBS design applications will qualify for approval under the simplified PA design approval process.

## Panel Objections

The Panel may object or advise against an application that was approved under the PA design approval process, even though a Design Approval has been issued. In this case, the NHVR may be required to revoke the approval and re-direct the application through the ordinary process.

Modifications to PA Design Approvals outside of the PA specifications will be processed in accordance with the ordinary design approval process.

## Changes to the PBS Design Approval Application Form – Part A

PBS Design Approval Application Form – Part A has been updated to accommodate for the recent changes to the PA process.

Design Approval application forms can be found on the NHVR's website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/performance-based-standards/application-process-and-forms>.

## Lodging a PA Design Application with the NHVR

When lodging a PA design approval application, the assessor is to indicate that an application qualifies for the PA design approval process by:

- including '(PA)' for pre-advised in the subject line and the body of the email; and
- selecting 'Yes' in the appropriate pre-advised specifications table in the PBS Design Approval Application Form – Part A.

### For more information:

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

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