

Information Sheet

Steer Axle Mass Limits for Road Trains (this amendment will commence 10 December 2019)

Purpose

The purpose of this information sheet is to explain the amendment to the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation* (the MDL Regulation), that increases mass on steer axles for road train prime movers to 7.1t.

Prior to the amendment, the mass limit in the MDL Regulation for a steer axle on a prime mover forming part of a road train was 6.7t (with tyres with section width of at least 375mm).

The mass limit is applicable to steer axles on a hauling unit or prime mover forming part of a road train, fitted with tyres with sections widths of at least 375mm.

The increased mass limit reflects modern road train prime movers that have increased tare weight. Currently, some jurisdictions allow road trains to achieve this mass limit under permit. This permitted mass limit has been transferred to the MDL Regulation.

What is a road train?

A road train means -

- A B-triple; or
- A combination, other than a B-double, consisting of a motor vehicle towing at least 2 trailers, excluding any converter dolly supporting a semitrailer.

This definition is drawn from the *Heavy Vehicle National Law* (HVNL).

Examples of road trains include A-doubles, B-triples, AB-triples and BAB-Quad that commonly operated under Notice or permit.



Figure 1 Road train example (A-double)

The NHVR has published a chart illustrating Common Heavy Freight Vehicle Configurations which is available on the [NHVR website](http://www.nhvr.gov.au).

Mass Limits

Table 1 below outlines the new mass limit that has been amended in the MDL Regulation.

Table 1 Mass limits

Description of single axle or axle group	Mass Limit (t)
Single axles and single axle groups	
Steer axles on—	
(b) a hauling unit or prime mover forming part of a road train fitted with tyres with section widths of—	
(i) at least 295mm	6.5
(ii) at least 375mm	7.1

Note:

- The table above only represents the steer axle mass limits for road trains in Table 1 of Schedule 1 Part 2 of the MDL Regulation. For a complete view of Table 1, please refer to the MDL Regulation.
- Mass and axle spacing mass limits for road trains from the MDL Regulation still apply.

Additional Information

Information on mass limits can be found in existing NHVR publications such as:

General mass and dimension limits

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/mass-dimension-and-loading/general-mass-and-dimension-limits>

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