

IPAC-17 | VA applications for vehicles over 2.5m in width

Audience: PBS Certifiers

Effective Date: 13 February 2024

This IPAC sets out the requirements for PBS certifications for vehicles over 2.5m in width.

This IPAC introduces practical guidelines for recording of width on PBS certifications and does not address the recent introduction of Safer Freight Vehicles (SFV).

Background

Adhering to these guidelines is crucial to avoid confusion, Vehicle Approval (VA) issuing delays, and the risk of access permit rejection, as well as guarantee the timely granting of appropriate exemptions during the VA stage, eliminating the need for subsequent corrections and re-issuance of the VA.

PBS VA

To enhance clarity regarding the over-width dimension, the following information will now be included on the front page of the PBS VA under the overall height figure:

Height (m)	≤ 4.30
Width (m)	≤ 2.55

Note that the width will only be recorded where the width exceeds 2.5m.

Including these specifications directly on the front page ensures visibility and avoids potential oversight by any party involved in the PBS process.

Width exemptions on the VA

If you are certifying vehicles exceeding 2.5m in width (that are not SFV), note that the PBS VA must contain the following exemptions, otherwise the vehicle is not authorised to operate at a width exceeding 2.5m.

Rule 43, Clause 6.1.5 (Width – Motor vehicles); OR

Rule 43, Clause 6.2.6 (Width – Trailers); AND

Schedule 6, Section 7 (Width)

Upon receiving a VA, please check the exemptions section and let us know if these have been missed from the VA.

Note that ADR exemptions are not required for SFVs.

Certification Documents

Part B

If a vehicle exceeds 2.5m in width, Certifiers are required to insert a note in the 'Additional or Special Requirements' section of Part B, even if Part B doesn't explicitly state that a vehicle can be over 2.5m in width, i.e., 'Truck width is 2.55m'.

As-Built Drawing

To further emphasize the over-width dimension, a conspicuous note must be added to the As-Built Drawing. For example, 'Prime Mover width 2.55m' should be clearly stated on the drawing to ensure immediate visibility and understanding.

Safer Freight Vehicles

In October 2023, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) released the 'Safer Freight Vehicles' package. This initiative permits new trucks to have an overall width of up to 2.55 metres, provided they are equipped with a suite of advanced safety features, which include devices for indirect vision, conspicuity markings, advanced emergency braking, and lane departure warning systems. ADR 43 has been updated to accommodate the SFVs increase in width.

For more information, see the [Guide to Safer Freight Vehicles](#).

This IPAC does not address the introduction of SFVs and its impact on PBS vehicles. This will be addressed in a future NHVR publication.

IPAC-17: Revision history

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