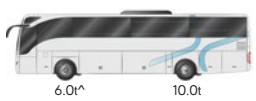
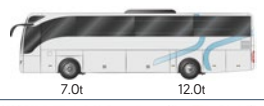
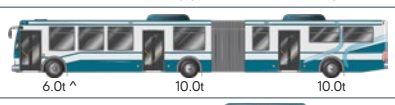
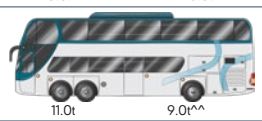
Variations of Buses under the Heavy Vehicle National Law & Gazette Notices

Disclaimer: This chart shows variations of buses that are approved to operate under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) and Gazette Notices. It is not a comprehensive representation of the entire Australian heavy vehicle fleet. Other bus configurations may be achievable which are not represented. This chart illustrates some common buses from Gazette notices and is provided for guidance only and it does not supersede either the HVNL or the respective gazette notices. Height and width have not been represented in this chart as they are prescribed in the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation (MDL). Please ensure you comply with the relevant sections of the HVNL and the appropriate gazette notice you are operating under by referencing either the HVNL and/or the appropriate gazettal. For further information, contact the NHVR at 13 NHVR (13 64 87) or info@nhvr.gov.au or www.nhvr.gov.au/contact-us

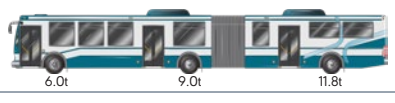
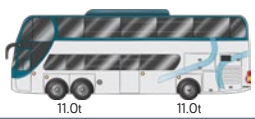
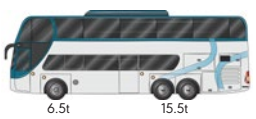
February 2024

General Access (under the HVNL)

	Description	Maximum length (metres)	Total vehicle mass limit (tonnes)*	Applicable State/Territory	Other
1	 6.0t^ 10.0t **2 Axle Bus**	≤ 12.5	16.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Must be a 'complying bus' or a bus authorised to carry standing passengers that is not an eligible 2-axle bus.
2	 7.0t 12.0t **Eligible 2 Axle Bus**	≤ 12.5	18.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 2-axle bus' in the MDL.
3	 6.0t^ 13.0t^^ **3 Axle Bus**	≤ 12.5	20.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • 6 tyred tandem axle
4	 6.0t^ 16.5t **3 Axle Bus**	≤ 12.5	22.5	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • 8 tyred tandem axle
5	 6.5t 15.5t **Eligible 3 Axle Bus**	≤ 12.5	22.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • 6 tyred tandem axle • Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 3-axle bus' in the MDL.
6	 6.0t^ 11.0t **2 Axle Rigid Ultra-Low Floor Bus**	≤ 12.5	16.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Rear single axle group fitted with dual tyres
7	 6.0t ^ 10.0t 10.0t **3 Axle Ultra-Low Floor Articulated Bus**	≤ 18.0	26.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Rear single axle group fitted with dual tyres
8	 11.0t 9.0t^^ **3 Axle Double Decker Bus**	≤ 12.5	20.0	All	• Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Rear single axle group fitted with dual tyres • Twinsteer with load sharing suspension

New South Wales Class 3 Bus Mass Exemption Notice 2024

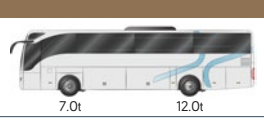
Class 3

9	 6.5t 16.5t **3 Axle Bus**	L ≤ 12.5m	20.5	NSW	• Must be a 'complying bus' • 6 tyred tandem axle • Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice. • **Access to all roads in NSW**
10	 6.5t 16.5t **3 Axle Bus**	L ≤ 12.5m	23.0	NSW	• Must be a 'complying bus' • 8 tyred tandem axle • Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice. • **Access to all roads in NSW**
11	 6.5t 14.5t **3 Axle Rigid Ultra Low Floor Bus**	12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m	20.8	NSW	• 6 tyred tandem axle • **Access to all roads in NSW**
12	 6.0t 9.0t 11.8t **3 Axle Articulated Ultra Low Floor Bus**	L ≤ 18.0m	26.8	NSW	• Dual tyres on centre and rear axles • **Access to all roads in NSW**
13	 11.0t 11.0t **3 Axle Double Decker Bus**	L ≤ 12.5m	22.0	NSW	• Must be a regular bus service • Twinsteer axle • Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice. • Allowed to operate on **Double Decker Bus Routes** in NSW
14	 6.5t 15.5t **3 Axle Double Decker Bus**	L ≤ 12.5m	22.0	NSW	• Must be a regular bus service • 6 tyred tandem axle • Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice. • Allowed to operate on **Double Decker Bus Routes** in NSW

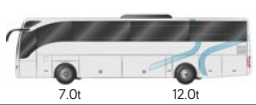
National Gazette Notices

These notices include the Class 2 component, the examples in this section reflect buses that comply with the 'eligible 2 or 3-axle bus' definition in the MDL. Other bus variants may be possible.

National Class 2 Bus Authorisation Notice 2024

15	 7.0t 12.0t **2 Axle Controlled Access Bus**	12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m	18.0	All	• Rear overhang is as per MDL • Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 2-axle bus' in the MDL.
16	 6.5t 15.5t **3 Axle Controlled Access Bus**	12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m	22.0	All	• Rear overhang is as per MDL • 6 tyred tandem axle • Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 3-axle bus' in the MDL.

National Class 3 Bus Rear Overhang Dimension Exemption Notice 2024

17	 7.0t 12.0t **2 Axle Controlled Access Bus**	12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m	18.0	All	• Rear overhang exceeds MDL, refer to **Network Access and Conditions** table below. • Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 2-axle bus' in the MDL.
18	 6.5t 15.5t **3 Axle Controlled Access Bus**	12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m	22.0	All	• Rear overhang exceeds MDL, refer to **Network Access and Conditions** table below. • 6 tyred tandem axle • Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 3-axle bus' in the MDL.

List of common terms and HVNL definitions

HVNL

Articulated bus means a bus with 2 or more rigid sections connected to one another in a way that allows–
(a) passenger access between the sections; and
(b) rotary movement between the sections.

Bus means a heavy motor vehicle built or fitted to carry more than 9 adults (including the driver).

Complying bus means a bus with 2 or 3 axles, 1 of which is a steer axle, that is fitted with an approved air suspension system and meets–
- (a) the emergency exit specifications in ADR 44; and
- (b) the rollover strength specifications in ADR 59; and
- (c) the occupant protection specifications in ADR 68.

Class 2 heavy vehicles
A heavy vehicle is a class 2 heavy vehicle if–
- (a) it–
  - (i) complies with the prescribed mass requirements and prescribed dimension requirements applying to it; and
  - (ii) is–
- (c) a **bus,** other than an articulated bus, that is longer than 12.5m; or...

Heavy Vehicle (Mass Dimension and Loading) National Regulation (MDL)
Length–general
(1) A heavy vehicle must not be longer than–
- (e) for an articulated bus–18m; or
- (f) for a bus other than an articulated bus–14.5m;

eligible 3-axle bus–
A bus is an eligible 3-axle bus if the bus–
- (a) was manufactured before 1 January 2015; and
- (b) has 3 axles, including a rear tandem axle group fitted with single tyres on 1 axle and dual tyres on the other axle; and
- (c) is 1 of the following–
  - (i) a complying bus;
  - (ii) a bus, other than an articulated bus, whose length is more than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m;
  - (iii) an ultra-low floor bus;
  - (iv) a bus, other than an ultra-low floor bus, that is authorised to carry standing passengers under an Australian road law; and
- (d) is fitted with–
  - (i) a complying anti-lock braking system; or
  - (ii) a vehicle stability function that complies with the version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13 that applied to the bus at the bus's date of manufacture or a later version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13.

Note–
A vehicle stability function is also known as electronic stability control or ESC.

eligible 2-axle bus–
A bus is an eligible 2-axle bus if the bus–
- (a) was manufactured before 1 January 2016; and
- (b) has 2 axles, 1 of which is a single-drive axle fitted with dual tyres; and
- (c) is 1 of the following–
  - (i) a complying bus;
  - (ii) an ultra-low floor bus;
  - (iii) a bus, other than an ultra-low floor bus, that is authorised to carry standing passengers;
  - (iv) a bus, other than an articulated bus, whose length is more than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m; and
- (d) is fitted with–
  - (i) a complying anti-lock braking system; or
  - (ii) a vehicle stability function that complies with the version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13 that applied to the bus at the bus's date of manufacture or a later version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13.

Note–
A vehicle stability function is also known as electronic stability control or ESC.

COMMON TERMS
'Controlled access bus' means a bus, other than an articulated bus,
longer than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m long.
'Rear overhang dimension limit' means the requirement in section 5(1) of Schedule 6 of the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation.
'Ultra-low floor bus' means a bus that–
- (a) has stairless entry; and
- (b) is accessible to wheelchairs; and
- (c) is authorised to carry standing passengers

NETWORK ACCESS AND CONDITIONS	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	ACT
Network (Applicable to both Class 2 and 3 buses)	• State Road Network of Queensland Map • Schedule A, Part 1 – Local government routes other than Brisbane City Council • Schedule A, Part 2 - Brisbane City Council routes	• NSW Controlled Access Bus (CAB) Network • Controlled Access Bus Approved Routes (PDF)	Controlled Access Buses Network	14.5m long Controlled Access Buses Network	• 14.5m Long Bus Route Network (General Mass Limits) • Up to 13.7m may use all roads subject to notice conditions	Approved routes for 14.5m Controlled Access Bus
Rear overhang (Applicable to Class 3 buses)	Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of **4.7m or 70%** of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line.	Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of **4.9m or 70%** of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line.	Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of **4.3m or 60%** of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line.	Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of **4.3m or 60%** of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line.	Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of **4.3m or 60%** of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line.	Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of **4.9m or 70%** of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line.

Additional limits on all axle groups may be achievable under Schedule 1 of the MDL.
Note: From 20 December 2023, certain authorised heavy vehicle road network maps for ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC are published through the NHVR National Network Map.

Note for Total Vehicle Mass Limit:
*Maximum regulation GML mass, as prescribed in the MDL for buses.

Notes for Axle Mass Limits
^Add 0.5 tonnes if the bus fits the requirements of a 'complying bus' which is defined in the MDL.
^^Add 1.0 tonnes if the vehicle is a complying bus.