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Classes of Heavy Vehicles
in the Heavy Vehicle National Law

Disclaimer: The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) provides for three classes of heavy vehicle as a means of managing access for different types of heavy vehicles. This chart shows some of the most common heavy vehicle combinations that are part of each vehicle class as defined in the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL). It is not a comprehensive representation of the entire Australian heavy vehicle fleet. Other heavy vehicle configurations are used which are not represented. This fact sheet illustrates some common examples from the three different classes of heavy vehicles and is provided for guidance only. Definitions listed within the chart can be found under relevant sections in the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL). For further information, contact the NHVR at 1300 MYNHVR (1300 696 487) or info@nhvr.gov.au or www.nhvr.gov.au/contact-us

Class 1 Heavy Vehicles (examples for illustration purposes)						August 2017
Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)			Oversize Overmass Vehicles (OSOM)			
1		All Terrain Crane	15		Prime Mover and Low Loader (Gooseneck)	
2		All Terrain Crane with Dolly	16		Prime Mover and Low Loader with Dolly (Gooseneck)	
3		Pick and Carry Crane	17		Prime Mover and Platform Trailer (Gooseneck)	
4		Truck Mounted Crane	18		Prime Mover and Extendable Trailer	
5		Truck Mounted Drill Rig	19		Block Truck towing Drawn Platform	
6		Truck Mounted Concrete Pump	20		Two Block Trucks towing Drawn Platform with Push Block Truck	
7		Prime Mover Towing Drill Rig Trailer	<div>HVNL Definitions</div> <div><div><div>HVNL s116 (1)</div><div>(1) A heavy vehicle is a class 1 heavy vehicle if it, together with its load, does not comply with a prescribed mass requirement or prescribed dimension requirement applying to it, and— (a) it is a special purpose vehicle; or (b) it is an agricultural vehicle other than an agricultural trailer; or</div><div>Note— See subsection (2) for agricultural trailers. (c) it— (i) is a heavy vehicle carrying, or designed for the purpose of carrying, a large indivisible item, including, for example, a combination including a low loader; but (ii) is not a road train or B-double, or carrying a freight container designed for multi-modal transport.</div></div><div><div>NHVR Notes:</div><div>Not all SPV's and agricultural vehicles are Class 1 heavy vehicles. SPV's and agricultural vehicles which comply with prescribed mass and dimension requirements are general access vehicles.</div></div></div> <div><div>HVNL s116 (4)</div><div>Special purpose vehicle means— (a) A motor vehicle or trailer, other than an agricultural vehicle or a tow truck, built for a purpose other than carrying goods; or (b) a concrete pump or fire truck.</div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>Agricultural vehicle means an agricultural implement or agricultural machine.</div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>Agricultural trailer means a trailer that is designed to carry a load and used exclusively to perform agricultural tasks, but does not include a semitrailer.</div></div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>Oversize vehicle means a heavy vehicle that does not comply with a dimension requirement applying to it.</div></div></div></div>			
8		Grader				
9		Firetruck				
Agricultural Vehicles (including implements and trailers)						
10		Combine Harvester				
11		Tractor				
12		Grain Auger				
13		Comb Trailer				
14		Cane Haul Out Truck				

Class 2 Heavy Vehicles (examples for illustration purposes)			
Freight Carrying Vehicles		Vehicles Exceeding 4.3m in Height (up to 4.6m high as per Schedule 6 of Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation) (MDL)	
21	 B-double	37	 Vehicle Carrier
22	 A-double	38	 A-double (Livestock)
23	 B-triple	39	 B-triple (Livestock)
24	 AB-triple	<div>HVNL Definitions</div> <div><div><div>HVNL s136</div><div>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— (A) a B-double; or (B) a road train; or (C) a bus, other than an articulated bus, that is longer than 12.5m; or (D) a combination designed and built to carry vehicles on more than 1 deck that, together with its load is longer than 19m or higher than 4.3m; or (E) a motor vehicle, or a combination, that is higher than 4.3m and is built to carry cattle, sheep, pigs or horses; or (b) it is a PBS vehicle.</div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>B-double means a combination consisting of a prime mover towing 2 semitrailers, with the first semitrailer being attached directly to the prime mover by a fifth wheel coupling and the second semitrailer being mounted on the rear of the first semitrailer by a fifth wheel coupling on the first semitrailer.</div></div></div><div><div>NHVR Notes:</div><div>B-doubles: Despite the shorter length, 19m B-doubles are classified as Class 2 Vehicles. General freight carrying vehicles that are longer than 19m require specific networks that are capable of handling these larger vehicles. This is usually managed by declaring route networks in gazette notices, but where a network does not exist, an operator may apply for a permit. Buses: A bus, other than an articulated bus, that is longer than 12.5m but less than 14.5m, that complies with prescribed mass and dimension requirements is a class 2 heavy vehicle. These vehicles are also known as a ‘Controlled Access Bus’</div></div></div> <div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>B-triple means a combination consisting of a prime mover towing 3 semitrailers, with— (a) The first semitrailer being attached directly to the prime mover by a fifth wheel coupling; and (b) The second semitrailer being mounted on the rear of the first semitrailer by a fifth wheel coupling on the first semitrailer; and (c) The third semitrailer being mounted on the rear of the second semitrailer by a fifth wheel coupling on the second semitrailer.</div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>road train means— (a) A B-triple; or (b) A combination, other than a B-double, consisting of a motor vehicle towing at least 2 trailers, excluding any converter dolly supporting a semitrailer.</div></div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>PBS vehicle means a heavy vehicle that is the subject of a current PBS vehicle approval under Part 1.4.</div><div><div>HVNL s5</div><div>PBS vehicle approval means a current approval issued for a heavy vehicle by the Regulator under section 23.</div></div></div></div>	
25	 A-triple		
26	 BAB-Quad		
27	 ABB-Quad		
28	 Rigid Truck and 2 Dog Trailers		
Performance Based Standards (PBS)			
32	 Prime Mover and Quad Axle Semitrailer		
33	 Rigid Truck and 5 Axle Dog Trailer		
34	 B-double with Quad Axle Groups (up to 30m)		
35	 A-double (up to 30m)		
Buses			
36	 Controlled Access Bus		

Class 3 Heavy Vehicles (examples for illustration purposes)			
40		Rigid Truck and Dog (over 42.5 tonnes GCM)	<div>HVNL Definitions</div> <div><div>HVNL s116 (3)</div><div>(3) A heavy vehicle is a class 3 heavy vehicle if— (a) it, together with its load, does not comply with a prescribed mass requirement or prescribed dimension requirement applying to it; and (b) it is not a class 1 heavy vehicle.</div></div> <div><div>NHVR Notes:</div><div>A truck and dog trailer combination whose dimensions and mass do not exceed prescribed mass and dimension requirements is a general access vehicle. If its mass or dimension limits exceed prescribed requirements, this combination is classified as a Class 3 vehicle.</div><div><div>Examples of Class 3 vehicles include:</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">A truck and dog trailer combination consisting of a rigid truck with 3 or 4 axles towing a dog trailer with 3 or 4 axles weighing more than 42.5t is an example of a class 3 heavy vehicle.Other examples might include a B-double or road train transporting a load wider than 2.5m.</div></div></div>
41		Prime Mover and Semitrailer towing Converter Dolly	
42		B-double towing Converter Dolly	
43		Underhook/Underlift Tow Truck	