



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 GENERAL PERMIT FOR ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL MASS LIMITS (42.5 TONNES)

Regulation 724 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 authorises the Roads Corporation, by notice in the Victoria Government Gazette, to allow vehicles which exceed mass or dimension limits prescribed in the Regulations to be used on roads.

Under Regulation 724, I, Tony Fry, delegate of the Roads Corporation, allow vehicles and combinations consisting of a vehicle connected to a trailer which, together with any load, exceed a mass limit prescribed in Division 2, Part 7 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 to travel on roads as described in Part 2 of this notice if they comply with all the mass limits in Part 1.

This notice is effective from 1 January 1996 until 31 December 1999.

Any trip permitted under this notice is made at the vehicle owner's and driver's risk absolutely. No representation is made by the Roads Corporation that any road, bridge, culvert, causeway or grid is capable of withstanding the vehicle or combination.

TONY FRY  
General Manager  
Traffic and Road Use Management  
Roads Corporation

Dated 19 December 1995.

### INDEX

- Part 1—Roads
- Part 2—Mass Limits for Vehicles and Combinations Consisting of a Vehicle Connected to a Trailer
- Part 3—Definitions

### PART 1 Roads

1.1 (1) Travel is permitted on any roads that have been declared under Schedule 5 of the **Transport Act 1983**.

1.1 (2) Travel is allowed on a road that has not been declared under Schedule 5 of the **Transport Act 1983** if the road is along the most direct and practical route between the point of pick-up or delivery, and a road that has been declared under Schedule 5 of the **Transport Act 1983**.

1.1 (3) In spite of subclauses (1) and (2), a vehicle or combination must not travel on a road, bridge or structure where any posted mass limit would be exceeded.

### PART 2

Mass Limits for Vehicles and Combinations Consisting of a Vehicle Connected to a Trailer

#### Mass limit for a single vehicle

2.1 (1) The total mass of a vehicle and any load must not exceed the vehicle's GVM.

#### Mass limits for tyres, wheels and axles

2.2 (1) The mass on a wheel or axle must not exceed the limit set by its manufacturer.

2.2 (2) The mass on a tyre must not exceed the greatest load capacity determined for the tyre by the manufacturer at a cold inflation pressure that does not exceed:

- (a) 825 kilopascals for a radial ply tyre; or
- (b) 700 kilopascals for any other tyre.

2.2 (3) The mass on an axle group or single axle must not exceed the limit provided for it in Table 1.

2.2 (4) The mass limit in Table 1 that applies to an axle group that includes a retractable axle must be determined as if the axle did not exist, unless subclause (5) applies.

2.2 (5) A retractable axle is part of an axle group for the purposes of Table 1 if, when the mass on the group exceeds:

- (a) 6 tonnes, in the case of a tandem axle group or
- (b) 11 tonnes, in the case of a tri-axle group;

the tyres on the axle are in contact with the ground and the load-sharing suspension system is operating on each axle (including the retractable axle) and tyre in the group.

2.2 (6) The sum of the mass on the axle groups and single axles on a vehicle or combination must not exceed the sum of the mass limits of the axle groups and axles, as provided in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Mass Limits for Single Axles and Axle Groups**

<i>Description of single axle or axle group</i>	<i>Mass limits (tonnes)</i>
<b>Single axles and single axle groups</b>	
<b>Steer axle on a motor vehicle</b>	
Single steer axle on a motor vehicle	6.0
<b>Single axle other than a steer axle on a motor vehicle</b>	
Single axle or single axle group fitted with single tyres with section width of:	
(a) less than 375 mm	6.0
(b) at least 375 mm but less than 450 mm	6.7
(c) at least 450 mm	7.0
Single axle or single axle group fitted with dual tyres on:	
(a) a pig trailer	8.5
(b) a bus licensed to carry standing passengers	10.0
(c) any other vehicle	9.0
<b>Twinsteer axle groups</b>	
Twinsteer axle group without a load-sharing suspension system	10.0
Twinsteer axle group with a load-sharing suspension system	11.0
<b>Tandem axle groups</b>	
Tandem axle group fitted with single tyres with a section width of:	
(a) less than 375 mm	11.0
(b) at least 375 mm but less than 450 mm	13.3
(c) at least 450 mm	14.0
Tandem axle group fitted with single tyres on one axle and dual tyres on the other axle	13.00
Tandem axle group fitted with dual tyres on:	
(a) a pig trailer	15.0
(b) any other vehicle	16.5
<b>Tri-axle groups</b>	
Tri-axle group on a vehicle fitted with single tyres with section width of less than 375 mm on all axles, or single tyres on 1 or 2 axles and dual tyres on the other axle or axles	15.0
Tri-axle group on a pig trailer with either single tyres with section width of at least 375 mm, dual tyres on all axles, or a combination of those tyres	18.0
Tri-axle group, on a vehicle other than a pig trailer, with either single tyres with section width of at least 375 mm, dual tyres, or a combination of those tyres	20.0
<b>Quad-axle groups</b>	
Quad-axle group fitted with single tyres with a section width of less than 375 mm	15.0
Quad-axle group fitted with single tyres with a section width of at least 375 mm or dual tyres	20.0

**Mass limits relating to axle spacings**

2.3 (1) If the total mass of a vehicle or a combination, and any load, cannot lawfully exceed 42.5 tonnes, the mass limits in Table 2 must not be exceeded in relation to the distances set out in the Table that apply to the vehicle or combination.

2.3 (2) Each distance in the Table refers to

- (a) the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of any other single axle; or
- (b) the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of the furthest axle in any axle group; or
- (c) the greatest distance between the centres of axles in any 2 axle groups.

2.3 (3) The mass limits in Table 2 apply to the sum of the mass on each axle group or single axle in the distance referred to in the Table, including the axles between which the distance is measured.

2.3 (4) The total mass of a vehicle or a combination, and any load, must not exceed 15 tonnes if the distance between any 2 axles that are not part of the same axle group is less than 2.5 metres.

**Table 2**  
**Mass Limits Relating to Axle Spacing**

Distance (metres)		Mass limit (tonnes)
exceeding	not exceeding	
0	3.7	23.0
3.7	3.8	23.5
3.8	4.0	24.0
4.0	4.2	24.5
4.2	4.3	25.0
4.3	4.5	25.5
4.5	4.7	26.0
4.7	4.8	26.5
4.8	5.0	27.0
5.0	5.2	27.5
5.2	5.3	28.0
5.3	5.5	28.5
5.5	5.7	29.0
5.7	5.8	29.5
5.8	6.0	30.0
6.0	6.2	30.5
6.2	6.3	31.0
6.3	6.5	31.5
6.5	6.7	32.0
6.7	6.8	32.5
6.8	7.0	33.0
7.0	7.2	33.5
7.2	7.3	34.0
7.3	7.5	34.5
7.5	7.7	35.0
7.7	7.8	35.5
7.8	8.0	36.0
8.0	8.2	36.5
8.2	8.3	37.0
8.3	8.5	37.5
8.5	8.7	38.0
8.7	8.8	38.5
8.8	9.0	39.0
9.0	9.2	39.5
9.2	9.3	40.0
9.3	9.5	40.5
9.5	9.7	41.0
9.7	9.8	41.5
9.8	10.0	42.0
10.0	-	42.5

**Mass limits for combinations**

2.4 (1) The total mass of a combination other than a road train or B-double, and any load, must not exceed 42.5 tonnes.

2.4 (2) The loaded mass of a dog trailer or pig trailer must not exceed the loaded mass of the towing vehicle.

2.4 (3) The total mass of a combination, and any load, must not exceed the towing vehicle's GCM.

**38 tonne Federally registered vehicles**

2.5 (1) This permit does not apply to vehicles registered at 38 tonnes under the **Interstate Road Transport Act 1985**.

**PART 3  
Definitions**

3.1(1) In this notice:

**"axle"** means one or more shafts positioned in a line across a vehicle, on which one or more wheels intended to support the vehicle turn;

**"axle group"** means a single axle group, tandem axle group, twinsteer axle group, tri-axle group or quad-axle group;

**"B-double"** means a combination consisting of a prime mover towing 2 semi-trailers;

**"centre of an axle group"** means:

- (a) a line located midway between the centre-lines of the outermost axles of the group; or
- (b) if the group consists of 2 axles, one of which is fitted with twice the number of tyres as the other axle - a line located one third of the way from the centre-line of the axle with more tyres towards the centre-line of the axle with fewer tyres;

**"combination"** means a motor vehicle connected to one or more trailers;

**"converter dolly"** means a trailer with one axle group or single axle and a fifth wheel coupling designed to convert a semi-trailer into a dog trailer;

**"dog trailer"** means a trailer (including a trailer consisting of a semi-trailer and converter dolly) with;

- (a) one axle group or single axle at the front that is steered by connection to the towing vehicle by a drawbar; and
- (b) one axle group or single axle at the rear;

**"drawbar"** means a part of a trailer (other than a semi-trailer) that connects the trailer body to a coupling for towing purposes;

**"driver"** means the person driving or in control of a motor vehicle;

**"fifth wheel coupling"** means a device, other than the upper rotating element and the kingpin (which are parts of a semi-trailer), used with a prime mover, semi-trailer or a converter dolly to permit quick coupling and uncoupling and to provide for articulation;

**"GCM"** (gross combination mass), in relation to a motor vehicle, means the greatest possible sum of the maximum loaded mass of the motor vehicle and of any vehicles that may lawfully be towed by it at one time:

- (a) as specified by the motor vehicle's manufacturer:
  - (i) on a plate fixed to the vehicle by the manufacturer; or
  - (ii) if the manufacturer has not specified the sum of the maximum loaded mass on a plate fixed to the vehicle—in another place; or
- (b) as specified by the vehicle registration authority if:
  - (i) the manufacturer has not specified the sum of the maximum loaded mass; or
  - (ii) the manufacturer cannot be identified; or
  - (iii) the vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer's specification is no longer appropriate;

**"GVM"** (gross vehicle mass) means the maximum loaded mass of a vehicle:

- (a) as specified by the manufacturer; or
- (b) as specified by the vehicle registration authority if:
  - (i) the manufacturer has not specified a maximum loaded mass; or
  - (ii) the manufacturer cannot be identified; or
  - (iii) the vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer's specification is no longer appropriate;

**"load"** in relation to a vehicle, includes anything that is normally removed from the vehicle when the vehicle is not in use;

**“load-sharing suspension system”** means an axle group suspension system that:

- (a) is built to divide the load between the tyres on the group so that no tyre carries a mass more than 10% greater than the mass it would carry if the load were divided equally; and
- (b) has effective damping characteristics on all axles of the group;

**“motor vehicle”** means a vehicle that is built to be propelled by a motor that forms part of the vehicle;

**“night time”** means the time beginning at sunset and ending at sunrise;

**“owner”**, in relation to a vehicle, means:

- (a) if the vehicle:
  - (i) is registered—a person in whose name the vehicle is registered under a Commonwealth, State or Territory Act; or
  - (ii) is not registered—a person to whom a mark, plate, or permit has been issued to allow the vehicle to be used; and
- (b) a person who, according to the vehicle registration authority's records, has acquired the vehicle from the person in whose name the vehicle is registered under the relevant law; and
- (c) a person who is entitled to the possession of the vehicle:

**“pig trailer”** means a trailer with one axle group or single axle near the middle of its load-carrying surface, and connected to the towing vehicle by a drawbar;

**“pole-type trailer”** means a trailer that:

- (a) is attached to a towing vehicle by means of a pole or an attachment fitted to a pole; and
- (b) is ordinarily used for transporting loads, such as logs, pipes, structural members or other long objects, that are generally capable of supporting themselves like beams between supports;

**“prime mover”** means a motor vehicle built to tow a semi-trailer;

**“quad axle group”** means a group of 4 axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is more than 3.2 metres but not more than 4.9 metres;

**“rear overhang line”** means:

- (a) if there is a single axle at the rear of the vehicle—the centre-line of the axle; or
- (b) if there is an axle group at the rear of the vehicle—the centre of the axle group, determined without regard to the presence of any steerable axle or retractable axle in the group unless all axles in the group are steerable or retractable;

**“retractable axle”** means an axle that can be raised so that the tyres on the axle do not touch the ground;

**“road”** means:

- (a) an area that is open to or used by the public and is developed for, or has as one of its uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles; and
- (b) includes “highway” as defined in the **Road Safety Act 1986**;

**“road train”** means a combination, other than a B-double, consisting of a motor vehicle towing at least 2 trailers (counting as one trailer a converter dolly supporting a semi-trailer);

**“semi-trailer”** means a trailer that has:

- (a) one axle group or single axle towards the rear; and
- (b) a means of attachment to a prime mover that would result in some of the load being imposed on the prime mover;

**“single axle”** means an axle not forming part of an axle group;

**“single axle group”** means a group of 2 or more axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is less than 1 metre;

**“tandem axle group”** means a group of at least 2 axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is at least 1 metre, but not more than 2 metres;

**“trailer”** means a vehicle that is built to be towed, or is towed, by a motor vehicle, but does not include a motor vehicle being towed;

**“tri-axle group”** means a group of at least 3 axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is more than 2 metres, but not more than 3.2 metres;

**“twinsteer axle group”** means a group of 2 axles:

- (a) with single tyres; and
- (b) fitted to a motor vehicle; and

- (c) connected to the same steering mechanism; and
- (d) the horizontal distance between whose centre-lines is at least 1 metre, but not more than 2 metres;

“vehicle” includes the vehicle's equipment and any substances that the vehicle is carrying that are essential for its operation;

“vehicle registration authority”, in relation to a vehicle, means:

- (a) the authority that last registered the vehicle; or
- (b) if the vehicle has never been registered—the authority responsible for registering vehicles in the State or Territory in which the vehicle is used or is intended to be used.

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#### MELBOURNE PARKS AND WATERWAYS

##### Notice of Making of By-Law No. 2: Waterways

In accordance with the provisions of sections 160 and 219 of the **Water Act 1989**, Melbourne Parks and Waterways has made By-law No. 2: Waterways.

The objectives of this By-law are—

- \* to provide for the preservation, protection, management and use of, and the preservation of good order on, waterways under the management and control of Melbourne Parks and Waterways;
- \* to provide for the general management and control of certain land or works managed or controlled by Melbourne Parks and Waterways;
- \* to regulate activities on land forming part of those waterways, land and works;
- \* to provide for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels from those waterways.

This By-law replaces Melbourne Water's By-law No. 294: Waterways.

A copy of the By-law may be inspected free of charge at Melbourne Parks and Waterways Head Office at 378 Cotham Road Kew, and at the Customer Service Centre, Banana Alley Vaults 11 and 12a Flinders Street, Melbourne during business hours.

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