



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988

GAZETTE NOTICE TO TOW A CONVERTER DOLLY

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.

Regulation 819 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 authorises the Roads Corporation to approve a person to use, or cause or permit to be used, on a road a motor vehicle which is towing more than one other vehicle.

Under the above two Regulations, I, Tony Fry, delegate of the Roads Corporation, approve and allow a prime mover and semi-trailer combination to tow a converter dolly on roads as set out in Part 1 if they comply with:-

- (a) the mass and dimension limits in Part 2; and
- (b) the operating conditions in Part 3.

This notice is effective from 15 July 1996 until 31 December 1999. However, if any of the conditions in this notice are breached, the notice is invalid in relation to the vehicle the subject of the breach, and (depending on what the breach is):-

- (a) the owner and the driver of the vehicle, and any person who caused or permitted it to be used on a road, may be prosecuted for exceeding normal mass or dimension limits; and
- (b) any person who used the vehicle on a road, or caused or permitted it to be used on a road, may be prosecuted for towing more than one trailer.

TONY FRY
GENERAL MANAGER
- TRAFFIC & ROAD USE MANAGEMENT
ROADS CORPORATION

Dated 15 July 1996.

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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 any 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 and 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 or dimension limit would be exceeded.

Part 2

Vehicle Mass and Dimensions

Length

- 2.1(1) The prime mover and semi-trailer portion of the vehicle combination must not be more than 19 metres long.
- 2.1(2) The prime mover, semi-trailer and converter dolly combination must not be more than 25 metres long.

Mass

- 2.2(1) The gross mass of the converter dolly must not be more than 3 tonnes.
- 2.2(2) The total mass of the prime mover, semi-trailer and converter dolly combination, including any load carried, must not be more than 45.5 tonnes.
- 2.2(3) The manufacturer's gross combination mass ratings for the prime mover must be at least 45.5 tonnes.
- 2.2(4) The vehicle manufacturer's ratings must not be exceeded.

PART 3

OPERATING CONDITIONS

Construction standards

- 3.1(1) The trailer brake control lines on the converter dolly need not be connected provided the air supply is maintained in the converter dolly braking system to ensure that, in the event that the converter dolly becomes disconnected from the semi-trailer, the breakaway brakes on the converter dolly can be fully applied for a period of not less than fifteen minutes.

3.1(2) The converter dolly must have lights and reflectors as specified in the Road Transport Reform (Heavy Vehicle Standards) Regulations (Statutory Rules 1995 No. 55).

3.1(3) The converter dolly must have mudguards as specified in the Road Transport Reform (Heavy Vehicle Standards) Regulations (Statutory Rules 1995 No. 55).

Warning sign

3.2(1) Where the vehicle combination is more than 22 metres long, the converter dolly must have a warning sign fitted horizontally to the rearmost part of it. The warning sign must:

- (a) show the words "LONG VEHICLE" in black, upper case letters at least 180 millimetres high in typeface Series B (N), complying with Australian Standard AS 1744 "Forms of Letters and Numerals for Road Signs";
- (b) be durable and manufactured in one or 2 pieces from sheet steel 0.8 millimetres thick or an alternative material of at least equivalent stiffness;
- (c) be at least 1.02 metres long by 250 millimetres high;
- (d) be coated with yellow retro-reflective material (Class 1 or Class 2) which meets Australian Standard AS 1906 "Retro-reflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes";
- (e) have a black border;
- (f) show the sign manufacturer's name or logo, and the brand and class of retro-reflective material used, in block letters not more than 10 millimetres high;
- (g) be mounted so that no part of it is:-
 - (i) more than 1.8 metres above the ground; or
 - (ii) less than 500 millimetres above the ground.

3.2(2) If the warning sign described in subclause (1) is in two pieces, the word "LONG" must appear on one piece and the word "VEHICLE" on the other.

Unladen converter dolly

3.3(1) The converter dolly must not carry any load.

Assessing routes

3.4(1) The owner and driver and operator of the vehicle must make sure that the clearance between its highest point, and any overhead structures, cables, wires and trees, is at least 200 mm.

- 3.4(2) It is the responsibility of the owner and driver and operator of the vehicle to cross bridges and negotiate curves and intersections in a safe manner bearing in mind that not all roads and intersections are capable of accommodating vehicles at the mass and dimensions allowed in this notice.
- 3.4(3) Any trip hereby permitted 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, that there is sufficient clearance under wires, structures, trees and suitable ground clearance at rail level crossings.

PART 4

DEFINITIONS

4.1(1) In this notice:

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

"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.

"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.

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

"operator" means a person who controls or directs the operations of a vehicle or who is otherwise responsible for it.

"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.

"prime mover" means a motor vehicle built to tow a semi-trailer.

"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;

"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.

"trailer" means a vehicle without its own motive power which is capable of being drawn by a motor vehicle;

"vehicle" includes the vehicle's equipment and any substances that the vehicle is carrying that are essential for its operation.

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