



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988

### GAZETTE NOTICE FOR VEHICLES AND COMBINATIONS TRANSPORTING LIVESTOCK

Regulation 724 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 authorises the Roads Corporation, by notice in the Government Gazette, to allow vehicles with a dimension which exceeds a dimension limit prescribed in the Regulations to be used on roads.

Under that Regulation, I, Tony Fry, delegate of the Roads Corporation, allow vehicles and combinations (but not B-doubles or road trains) which exceed 4.3 metres in height and are built to carry cattle, sheep, pigs or horses to be used on roads set out in Part 3 provided they:

- (a) comply with the dimension limits in Part 1;
- (b) comply with the operating conditions in Part 2.

This Notice is effective from 1 September 1996 until 31 December 1999.

If any of the conditions in this Notice are breached, the Notice is invalid in relation to the vehicle or combination which is the subject of the breach, and the owner and the driver of the vehicle or combination and any person who caused or permitted it to be used on a road may be prosecuted for exceeding the dimension limits in Division 3, Part 7 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988.

Dated 14 August 1996

TONY FRY  
General Manager, Traffic and Road Use Management  
Roads Corporation

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PART 1  
Dimension Limits

Height

- 1.1(1) The vehicle or combination must not be more than 4.6 metres high.

Length of motor vehicles

- 1.2(1) The length of a motor vehicle must not exceed 12.5 metres.

Length of trailers

- 1.3(1) On a semi-trailer or a dog trailer:
- (a) the distance between the point of articulation at the front and the rear overhang line must not be more than 9.5 metres; and
  - (b) the distance between the point of articulation at the front and the rear of the trailer must not be more than 12.3 metres.
- 1.3(2) Any projection forward of the point of articulation at the front of a semi-trailer must be contained within a radius of 1.9 metres from the point of articulation.
- 1.3(3) If a semi-trailer has more than one point of articulation at the front, it must meet the requirements of subclauses (1) and (2) when measured at one of the points.
- 1.3(4) A trailer built to carry cattle, sheep, pigs or horses must not have more than 12.5 metres of its length available for the carriage of those animals.
- 1.3(5) The length of a pig trailer, measured from the centre-line of the coupling pivot point on the drawbar, must not exceed 12.2 metres.

Length of combinations

- 1.4(1) The length of a combination must not exceed 19.0 metres.

Rear overhang

- 1.5(1) On a semi-trailer or a dog trailer consisting of a semi-trailer and converter dolly, the distance between the rear overhang line and the rear of the semi-trailer must not exceed:
- (a) 60% of the distance between the point of articulation at the front and the rear overhang line; and
  - (b) 3.7 metres.
- 1.5(2) If a semi-trailer has more than one point of articulation at the front, the articulation point used to comply with subclauses 1.3(1) and 1.3(2) must be the same articulation point used in 1.5(1).

1.5(3) On a pig trailer, the distance between the rear overhang line and the rear of the trailer must not exceed:

- (a) the length of the load carrying area, or body, ahead of the rear overhang line; and
- (b) 3.7 metres.

1.5(4) On a vehicle not described in subclause (1) or (3), the distance between the rear overhang line and the rear of the vehicle must not exceed:

- (a) 60% of the distance between the centre of the front axle and the rear overhang line; and
- (b) 3.7 metres.

#### Trailer drawbar length

- 1.6(1) On a dog trailer, the distance between the centre-line of the coupling pivot point on the drawbar and the centre of the trailer's front axle group or single axle must not exceed 5.0 metres.
- 1.6(2) On a pig trailer, the distance between the centre-line of the coupling pivot point on the drawbar and the centre of the trailer's axle group or single axle must not exceed 8.5 metres.

#### Width

- 1.7(1) The vehicle or combination must not be more than 2.5 metres wide.
- 1.7(2) For the purposes of subclause (1), the width of the vehicle or combination is measured without taking into account any rear-vision mirrors, lights or reflectors mounted on either side of the vehicle, provided they comply with the standards for registration.

### PART 2 Operating Conditions

- 2.1(1) Any journey is made at the absolute risk of the owner, operator and driver of the vehicle or combination. 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 or trees, or that there is suitable ground clearance at railway level crossings.
- 2.1(2) The owner, operator of the vehicle or combination and the driver's employer are responsible for ensuring that the driver has been provided with adequate information, training and instruction about potential hazards and the use of a vehicle or combination exceeding 4.3 metres in height.
- 2.1(3) The owner, operator and driver of the vehicle or combination are responsible for planning each journey to ensure that:
- (a) there is at least 200 millimetres clearance between the highest point of the vehicle or combination and any overhead structures, cables, wires or trees; and

- (b) the vehicle or combination crosses bridges and negotiates curves and intersections in a safe manner, bearing in mind that some roads and intersections may not be capable of accommodating vehicles and combinations at the dimensions allowed by this Notice.

2.1(4) The driver of a vehicle or combination operating under this Notice:

- (a) must carry in the driving compartment:
  - (i) a copy of this Notice or a VicRoads information bulletin which sets out the obligations imposed under this Notice; and
  - (ii) a VicRoads' Height Clearance Map; and
- (b) must produce those documents when requested by a Roads Corporation Officer or a Police Officer.

2.1(5) Except where explicitly varied by this or any other Gazette Notice or any permit, the provisions of the Road Safety Act 1986 and its Regulations and any other Act, Regulation or By-Law are applicable.

#### PART 3 Roads

3.1(1) Travel is allowed on:

- (a) any road that has been declared under Schedule 5 of the Transport Act 1983; and
- (b) 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 and delivery, and a road that has been declared under Schedule 5 of the Transport Act 1983.

3.1(2) In spite of subclause (1), a vehicle or combination must not travel on a road, bridge or structure where any posted mass or dimension limit would be exceeded.

#### PART 4 Definitions

4.1(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, twin steer axle group, tri-axle group or quad-axle group.

"B-double" means a combination consisting of a prime mover towing two 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 two 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 most tyres towards the centre-line of the axle with fewest tyres.

"combination" means a motor vehicle connected to one or more vehicles.

"converter dolly" means a trailer with one axle group or a 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 a converter dolly) with:

- (a) an axle group or single axle at the front that is steered by a drawbar connecting it to the towing vehicle; and
- (b) an axle group or single axle at the rear.

"drawbar" means a part of a trailer (other than a semi-trailer) that connects the trailer 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.

"motor vehicle" means a vehicle which is used or intended to be used on a highway or in a public place and which has its own motive power (other than human or animal power), but does not include:

- (a) a vehicle intended to be used on a railway or tramway; or
- (b) a motorised wheel-chair capable of a speed of not more than 7 kilometres per hour which is used solely for the conveyance of an injured or disabled person.

"operator" means a person who is responsible for or controls or directs the operations of a motor vehicle not forming part of a combination, or a combination.

"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) if the vehicle 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.

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

"quad axle group" means a group of four 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 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 train" means a combination, other than a B-double, consisting of a prime mover towing at least two 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 two or more axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is less than 1.0 metre.

"tandem axle group" means a group of at least two axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is at least 1.0 metre but not more than 2.0 metres.

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

"tri-axle group" means a group of three axles in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is more than 2.0 metres but not more than 3.2 metres.

"twin steer axle group" means a group of two axles:

- (a) with single tyres; and
- (b) fitted to a motor vehicle; and
- (c) connected to the same steering mechanism; and
- (d) in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the axles is more than 1.0 metres but not more than 2.0 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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