



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988

### GENERAL PERMIT FOR A 3 OR 4 AXLE TRUCK AND 3 AXLE DOG TRAILER COMBINATION GROSSING UP TO 45 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.

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 vehicle.

Under the above two regulations, I, Geoff Kloot, delegate of the Roads Corporation, allow a 3 or 4 axle truck connected to a 3 axle dog trailer, together with any load, to exceed mass and dimension limits prescribed in Part 7, Division 2 and 3, of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 to travel on roads as described in Part 1 of the Schedule to this notice if they comply with all the mass and dimension limits in Part 2 and the vehicle requirements in Part 3 of the Schedule.

This notice expires on 31 December 1999.

It is a condition of this General Permit that any trip permitted under it 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.

It is a condition of this General Permit that the owner of a vehicle operating under the Permit:

- a) releases the Roads Corporation, its successors and assigns from all actions, proceedings, claims and demands, costs and expenses which may otherwise be brought, made or claimed by the owner or the owner's successors or assigns as a result of anything done by or on behalf of the owner under the General Permit; and
- b) the owner indemnifies the Roads Corporation, its successors and assigns, and agrees at all times hereafter to keep them indemnified against all actions, proceedings, claims and demands, costs and expenses which may be brought, made or claimed against them by any other person as a result of anything done by or on behalf of the owner under the General Permit.

**GEOFF KLOOT**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
**TRAFFIC AND ROAD USE MANAGEMENT**  
**ROADS CORPORATION**

Dated 31 October 1997.

**Note:** If any requirement of the Schedule is breached, the General Permit ceases to apply and the owner and the driver of the truck towing the 3 axle dog trailer, and any person who caused or permitted it to be used on a highway, may be prosecuted for exceeding normal mass or dimension limits.

## THE SCHEDULE

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- Part 1 - Roads
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- Part 4 - 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 AND DIMENSION LIMITS FOR A 3 OR 4 AXLE TRUCK CONNECTED TO A 3 AXLE DOG TRAILER

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

- 2.1 (1) The mass on a wheel or axle must not exceed the limit set by its manufacturer.
- 2.1 (2) The size and capacity of a tyre to be fitted to a vehicle must be determined using a cold inflation pressure that does not exceed the lesser of:
  - (a) the pressure recommended by the manufacturer of the tyre; and
  - (b) in the case of:
    - (i) a radial ply tyre - 825 kilopascals; or
    - (ii) another tyre - 700 kilopascals.
- 2.1 (3) The mass on an axle group or single axle must not exceed the limit provided for it in Table 1.

- 2.1 (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.
- 2.1 (5) A retractable axle is part of an axle group for the purposes of Table 1 if, when the mass on the group exceeds 6 tonnes, 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.
- 2.1(6) The mass on an axle group and single axle must not exceed the mass limits as provided in Table 1.
- 2.1 (7) The sum of the mass on the axle groups and single axle 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 & Axle Groups**

Description of single axle or axle group	Mass limits (tonnes)
Single steer axle on a motor vehicle	6.00
Twin steer axle group (non-load sharing)	10.00
Twin steer axle group (load sharing)	11.00
Single axle with four tyres	9.00
Tandem axle group with eight tyres	16.50

**Mass limits relating to axle spacings**

- 2.2 (1) 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.
- 2.2 (2) Each distance in the Table refers to:
- the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of the furthest axle in any axle group; or
  - the greatest distance between the centres of axles in any 2 axle groups.
- 2.2 (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.

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

Distance (metres)		Mass Limit (tonnes)	Distance (metres)		Mass Limit (tonnes)
exceeding	not exceeding		exceeding	not exceeding	
3.5	3.7	23.0	7.3	7.5	34.5
3.7	3.8	23.5	7.5	7.7	35.0
3.8	4.0	24.0	7.7	7.8	35.5
4.0	4.2	24.5	7.8	8.0	36.0
4.2	4.3	25.0	8.0	8.2	36.5
4.3	4.5	25.5	8.2	8.3	37.0
4.5	4.7	26.0	8.3	8.5	37.5
4.7	4.8	26.5	8.5	8.7	38.0
4.8	5.0	27.0	8.7	8.8	38.5
5.0	5.2	27.5	8.8	9.0	39.0
5.2	5.3	28.0	9.0	9.2	39.5
5.3	5.5	28.5	9.2	9.3	40.0
5.5	5.7	29.0	9.3	9.5	40.5
5.7	5.8	29.5	9.5	9.7	41.0
5.8	6.0	30.0	9.7	9.8	41.5
6.0	6.2	30.5	9.8	10.0	42.0
6.2	6.3	31.0	10.0	10.5	42.5
6.3	6.5	31.5	10.5	11.0	43.0
6.5	6.7	32.0	11.0	11.5	43.5
6.7	6.8	32.5	11.5	12.0	44.0
6.8	7.0	33.0	12.0	12.5	44.5
7.0	7.2	33.5	12.5	13.0	45.0
7.2	7.3	34.0			

**Gross mass limits for vehicles**

2.3 (1) The maximum gross mass limits are:

- |     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| (a) | 3 axle truck  | = 22.5 tonnes; |
| (b) | 4 axle truck (non load sharing twin steer axle group) | = 26.5 tonnes  |
| (c) | 4 axle truck (load sharing twin steer axle group)     | = 27.5 tonnes  |
| (d) | 3 axle dog trailer                                    | = 22.5 tonnes  |
| (e) | 3 or 4 axle truck connected to a 3 axle dog trailer   | = 45.0 tonnes. |

2.3 (2) In spite of subclause (1), the gross mass of a dog trailer must not exceed the gross mass of the truck.

2.3 (3) The total mass of a vehicle and any load must not exceed the vehicle's GVM/GTM.

2.3 (4) The total mass of a truck connected to a dog trailer, and any load, must not exceed the towing vehicle's GCM.

2.3 (5) The manufacturer's ratings for the vehicle and components must not be exceeded.

2.3 (6) The vehicle and combination mass limits are the lesser of the limits in clauses 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

**Dimension Limits**

2.4 (1) A 3 or 4 axle truck connected to a 3 axle dog trailer, together with any load, must not be more than:

- (a) 19 metres long;
- (b) 4.3 metres high.

2.4 (2) To maximise the stability of a 3 or 4 axle truck connected to a 3 axle dog trailer:

- (a) the distance from the centre of the steering axle of the truck, or foremost steering axle of a twin steer truck, to the centre of the rear tandem axle group on the truck, must be a minimum of 4.3 metres; and
- (b) the distance from the centre of the front axle of the dog trailer to the centre of the rear tandem axle group on the dog trailer must be a minimum of 3.8 metres.

**PART 3**

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS FOR A 3 OR 4 AXLE TRUCK CONNECTED TO A 3 AXLE DOG TRAILER**

**Vehicle Suspensions**

- 3.1 (1) A 3 or 4 axle truck connected to a 3 axle dog trailer must have air suspensions on all axles, except for the steer axle or twin steer axle group of the truck which can be either an air or mechanical suspension.

**PART 4**

**DEFINITIONS**

- 4.1(1) In this notice:

**"3 axle truck"** means a truck with one steering axle and a rear tandem axle group with the tandem axle group having 8 tyres;

**"4 axle truck"** means a truck with a twin steer axle group and a rear tandem axle group with the tandem axle group having 8 tyres;

**"Air suspension"** means a vehicle suspension system in which:

- (a) the vertical movement between each axle and the body of the vehicle is controlled by variations in the pressure of air in an air spring; and
- (b) the proportion of the vehicle's mass that is borne by the air spring does not vary substantially despite variations in the pressure of the air spring; and
- (c) functioning dampeners are incorporated on each axle.

**"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;

**"converter dolly"** means a trailer with one axle group 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 at the front that is steered by connection to the towing vehicle by a drawbar; and
- (b) one axle group 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;

**"GTM"** (gross trailer mass) means the mass transmitted to the ground by the axles of a trailer when the trailer is loaded to its GVM and connected to a towing vehicle;

**"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;

**"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:

**"permit holder"** means the vehicle owner, driver or permittee that is operating under this General Permit;

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

**"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 main 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 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;

**"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;

**"truck"** means a rigid motor vehicle that is principally constructed as a load carrying vehicle and has a GVM of at least 4.5 tonnes;

**"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;

**"twin steer 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 centrelines 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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