

Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988

GENERAL PERMIT FOR THE OPERATION OF B-DOUBLES

Regulation 724 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988 authorises the Roads Corporation, by notice in the Victoria Government Gazette, to allow vehicles and loads 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.

If any of the conditions in this Notice are breached, the Notice is invalid in relation to the vehicle which is the subject of the breach, and 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 the dimension limits in Part 7 of the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988.

Under the above two Regulations, I, Geoff Kloot, delegate of the Roads Corporation, hereby amend the General Permit For The Operation Of B-doubles in the Victoria Government Gazette No S59 on 26 June 1995, which allows B-doubles to be used on approved roads, as follows:

PART 2 - MASS AND DIMENSIONS LIMITS

Clause 2.2 (5) is amended by the addition of the following subclause:

(c) a B-double that is carrying one or more containers that are 2.9 metres high by construction may be loaded to a maximum height of 4.6 metres.

PART 3 - OPERATIVE CONDITIONS

Part 3 is amended by the addition of the following clause:

- 3.2 (1) When a B-double is carrying one or more containers that are 2.9 metres high by construction and is loaded to a height of more than 4.3 metres and not more than 4.6 metres, the following operating conditions apply:
 - (a) At the beginning of each trip, the driver must:
 - measure the height of the highest point, on each semi-trailer, of the loaded vehicle; and

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- (ii) record the measured height and the container serial number(s).
- (b) The driver must have undertaken training which ensures he/she is able to:
 - use the VicRoads' publication entitled "Height Clearance on Roads" to plan a route which avoids low bridges, tram wires and other overhead structures; and
 - (ii) secure the load and drive an overheight vehicle in accordance with the requirements of Sections A, B3, C9(1)-(4) and D(1) of the "Load Restraint Guide" published by the Australian Government Publishing Service; and
 - (iii) measure and record the height of a loaded vehicle.
- (c) The vehicle's owner and operator are responsible for ensuring that the driver has successfully completed the training referred to in subclause (b), and must verify that the training has been completed by providing the driver with a certificate or letter which:
 - (i) carries the name of the vehicle's owner or operator; and
 - is signed by an authorised representative of the vehicle's owner or operator; and
 - (iii) contains the following statement-
 - "I, [name of the authorised representative] certify that on [date on which training was completed], [name of driver], the holder of Driver Licence No [number] successfully completed the training requirements specified in the Victoria Government Gazette No S60 of 4 June 1997."
- (d) The driver must carry the following documents in the driving compartment and must produce them when requested by a Roads Corporation Officer or a Police Officer:
 - (i) a copy of this Notice or the VicRoads information bulletin entitled "B-doubles Carrying 2.9 m (9'6") High Containers" which sets out the obligations imposed under this notice; and
 - (ii) a copy of the VicRoads' booklet entitled "Height Clearance on Roads"; and
 - (iii) a copy of the letter or certificate mentioned in subclause (c); and
 - (iv) a record of the measured height of the loaded vehicle and the container serial number(s).

- (e) The vehicle may carry other freight in addition to a 2.9 metre high container provided the loaded height of the other freight does not exceed 4.3 metres.
- (f) The operator and driver of the vehicle are responsible for planning each journey to ensure that:
 - (i) the vehicle crosses bridges and negotiates curves in a safe manner, bearing in mind that some roads and intersections may not be capable of accommodating vehicles at the dimensions allowed by this Notice; and
 - (ii) the vehicle does not travel-
 - (a) on a road, bridge or structure where any posted mass or dimension limit would be exceeded; or
 - (b) beneath a bridge or overhead structure which carries a sign with the words "LOW CLEARANCE" or "CLEARANCE" if the height of the loaded vehicle is equal to or greater than the height shown on the sign; or
 - (c) beneath any other overhead structures, cables, wires or trees unless there is at least 200 mm clearance to the highest point of the vehicle.

PART 5- DEFINITIONS

Clause 5.1 is amended to include the following definitions:

"container" means a box-shaped intermodal unit which is designed to hold freight and:

- (a) is 6.1 metres, 12.2 metres or 14.6 metres long; and
- (b) has twist lock fittings in its base.

"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 combination or a motor vehicle not forming part of a combination, or who is otherwise responsible for it.

This notice is effective from 4 June 1997 until 31 December 1999.

Dated 4 June 1997

GEOFF KLOOT General Manager Traffic and Road Use Management Roads Corporation 4

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