



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988

GENERAL PERMIT FOR A LIVESTOCK LOADING SCHEME

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 the prescribed livestock vehicles that exceed the mass limits prescribed in Division 2 of 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 and dimension limits in Part 1 and the vehicle requirements in Part 3.

This notice is effective from 30 September 1997 until 31 December 1999. However, if any requirement or condition in this notice is breached, the notice is invalidated in relation to the vehicle the subject of the breach, and depending on the nature of the breach, the owner and the driver of the livestock 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.

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

The permit holder hereby 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 permit holder or the permit holder's successors or assigns as a result of anything done by or on behalf of the permit holder under the permit and the permit holder hereby 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 permit holder under the permit.

GEOFF KLOOT
GENERAL MANAGER
TRAFFIC AND ROAD USE MANAGEMENT
ROADS CORPORATION
Dated 24 September 1997.

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PART 1

MASS AND DIMENSION LIMITS

Mass Controls

- 1.1(1) The livestock loading scheme controls the mass of livestock carrying vehicles through the following limiting factors:
 - (a) maximum trailer length and height;
 - (b) the number of animals which can be loaded under animal welfare codes and regulations; and
 - (c) maximum vehicle tare mass.
- 1.1(2) Vehicle owners, drivers or permittees who comply in all respects with this livestock loading scheme are exempted from vehicle mass limits, except for the manufacturer's ratings specified in clause 3.1.

Unladen Mass of Prime Movers

- 1.2 The unladen mass of a prime mover must not exceed 11 tonnes.

Unladen mass of Semi-trailers

- 1.3(1) The unladen mass of a semi-trailer must not exceed 12 tonnes.
- 1.3(2) The total unladen mass of the prime mover and semi-trailer must not exceed 22 tonnes (note that this is less than sum of the unladen weights of the prime mover and the semi-trailer).
- 1.3(3) Fuel tanks must not be fitted to semi-trailers, and any water carried on the semi-trailer must be in quantities for personal use only. The unladen mass is the mass of the empty vehicle with water in any tanks.

Unladen mass of B-doubles

- 1.4(1) The unladen mass of the two semi-trailers in a B-double combination must not exceed 21 tonnes.
- 1.4(2) The total unladen mass of the prime mover and two semi-trailers must not exceed 32 tonnes.

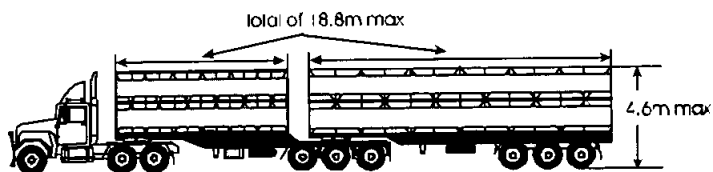
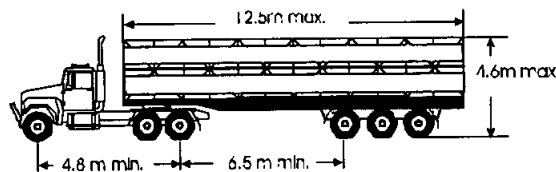
Dimension Limits

1.5(1) The maximum loading space for livestock vehicles is:

- (a) 12.5 metres for semi-trailers; and
- (b) a total of 18.8 metres for B-double trailers.

1.5(2) The loading space is the length available for the loading of livestock measured from the inside of the front wall or door to the inside of the rear wall or door of the semi-trailer, with intervening partitions being disregarded.

1.5(3) Livestock semi-trailers may be constructed to a maximum width of 2.5 metres and a maximum height of 4.6 metres.



Complying with B-double axle spacings as published in the Victoria Government Gazette

Axle Spacings

1.6 To ensure that the mass of the livestock vehicles is appropriately distributed on bridges, livestock vehicles must have the following minimum axle spacings:

- (a) for prime mover and semi-trailer combinations:
 - (i) 4.8 metres between the centre of the steering axle to the centre of the rear axle of the prime mover; and
 - (ii) 6.5 metres from the centre of the rear axle of the prime mover to the centre of the first axle of the semi-trailer;
- (b) for B-doubles:

- (i) the axle and axle group spacings as specified in any Roads Corporation permit for a B-double operation or a general permit for B-double operations published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

Loading And Operating

1.7(1) The number of decks used to transport livestock shall not exceed:

- (a) 2 for cattle;
- (b) 3 for pigs; and
- (c) 4 for sheep.

1.7(2) No freight apart from livestock may be carried when operating under this scheme.

1.7(3) Owners, operators and drivers must ensure that the provisions of Victorian law and codes of practice for animal welfare during road transport, including the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986, the Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Farm Animals During Transportation November 1985 Order No. 3436-85, are complied with, particularly in relation to use of pens to separate livestock.

PART 2

ROADS

2.1(1) For prime mover and semi-trailer combinations, travel is allowed on:

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

2.1(2) For B-doubles, travel is allowed on approved B-double routes as specified in any Roads Corporation permit for a B-double operation or a general permit for B-double operations published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

2.1 (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.

Safe Travel

2.2(1) The livestock vehicle's operator and driver are responsible for planning any journey to ensure that 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 gazette notice.

2.2(2) The driver must not drive or attempt to drive:

- (a) on a road, bridge or structure where a 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 truck (including its load) 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 3

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum ratings

3.1(1) The prime mover must have manufacturer's ratings of at least:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------------|
| (a) | steer axle | 6.0 tonnes; |
| (b) | drive axle group | 17.3tonnes; |
| (c) | GVM | 23.3tonnes; |
| (d) | GCM (single articulated) | 46.3tonnes; and |
| (e) | GCM (B-double) | 68.0tonnes. |

3.1(2) Semi-trailers must have a manufacturer's tri-axle rating of at least 25 tonnes.

3.1(3) The manufacturer's ratings for the vehicle and components must not be exceeded including vehicle GVM, GCM, GTM, axles, wheels and tyres.

3.1(4) Vehicles must be equipped with dual tyres on all non-steering axles to minimise road wear.

Vehicle Stability

3.2 To maintain vehicle stability, the following criteria apply:

- (a) the scheme covers only 6 axle articulated vehicles and 9 axle B-doubles; and
- (b) air suspensions will be required on new prime movers and semi-trailers that are registered for the first time after 1 January 1998.

Driver Training

3.3(1) Driver training specific to high livestock vehicles must be obtained from a VicRoads' Accredited Provider.

3.3(2) The driver will have to satisfy the trainer that the he or she:

- (a) has a good understanding of animal welfare codes and regulations;
- (b) understands the appropriate techniques for loading and unloading livestock vehicles;

- (c) understands the legal requirements for operating in the livestock loading scheme in Victoria;
- (d) understands the techniques of driving high vehicles and negotiating adverse road conditions;
- (e) can use the VicRoads' publication "Height Clearance on Roads" to plan a route to avoid low bridges; and
- (f) can drive a high livestock vehicle in a safe manner.

Carrying Documents

- 3.4 The driver must carry the following documents in the driving compartment and must produce them when requested by a VicRoads Officer or a Police Officer:
- (a) a copy of the gazetted General Permit or the VicRoads' Information Bulletin or;
 - (b) a copy of the Livestock Loading Scheme certificate approved by VicRoads showing vehicle ratings, unladen vehicle mass and semi-trailer loading space
 - (c) a copy of the current edition of the VicRoads' booklet entitled "Height Clearance on Roads";
 - (d) a copy of the certificate from the driver training provider; and
 - (e) if driving a B-double, then a copy of the B-double general permit information booklet or a VicRoads' B-double permit.

Evidence of Compliance

- 3.5 All prime movers and semi-trailers are required to display a VicRoads' approved plate (VLLS) signifying participation in the livestock loading scheme. The plate is to be affixed in the vicinity of the registration plates on the front of the prime movers and at the rear of the semi-trailers.



Interstate Registered Vehicles

- 3.6(1) Vehicles registered in another State or Territory are eligible to apply for participation in the Victoria livestock loading scheme.
- 3.6(2) Interstate registered livestock vehicles participating in livestock loading schemes in other States or Territories are eligible to operate in the Victorian livestock loading scheme provided:
- (a) the vehicles meet the required vehicle manufacturer's ratings;
 - (b) the unladen mass of the vehicles are within the Victorian limits; and
 - (c) copies of relevant documents are carried including individual weighbridge docketts showing the unladen mass of the prime mover and semi-trailers(s).

- 3.7 Where it is not possible to readily obtain a letter from the vehicle manufacturer, the vehicle may be rated by a VicRoads' recognised Engineering Signatory (an approved vehicle engineer competent in heavy vehicles) or a VicRoads' approved B-double inspector).

PART 4

DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 In this notice:

"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;

"B-double" means a combination of vehicles consisting of a prime mover towing two semi-trailers;

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

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

"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;

"livestock" means cattle, sheep or pigs;

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

"loading space" means the length available for the loading of livestock measured from the inside of the front wall or door to the inside of the rear wall or door of the semi-trailer, with intervening partitions being disregarded;

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

"operator" means a person who controls or directs the operation of a combination, or a motor vehicle not forming part of a combination, 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:

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

"prime mover" means a motor vehicle which is constructed, designed or adapted for connecting to 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 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;

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





Gazette Services

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