



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988

GENERAL PERMIT FOR ARTICULATED VEHICLES CONSTRUCTED TO 4.6 METRES HIGH

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, Geoff Kloot, delegate of the Roads Corporation, allow prime mover and semi-trailer combinations and B-doubles constructed to a maximum height of 4.6 metres to be used on the roads set out in Part 1 provided each vehicle complies with the operating conditions in Part 2.

This Notice is effective from 4 June 1997 until 31 December 2001.

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.

Dated 4 June 1997

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

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PART 1
Roads

- 1.1 For prime mover and semi-trailer combinations, 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 or delivery, and a road that has been declared under Schedule 5 of the Transport Act 1983.
- 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.
- 1.3 In spite of subclauses 1.1 and 1.2 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

Operating Conditions

- 2.1 Each semi-trailer must have at least 50% of its deck length at no more than 1.2 metres above the ground.
- 2.2 Each semi-trailer must have an air suspension.
- 2.3 The gross mass of the prime mover and semi-trailer combination or the B-double must not exceed 90% of the mass it would normally be entitled to operate at if it was 4.3 metres high.
- 2.4 The vehicle's operator and driver must have in place a vehicle mass management process or system that ensures the driver is aware of the vehicle's gross mass and can provide evidence of this. Demonstration of compliance may include providing a weighbridge docket or alternatively a manifest showing the tare mass of the vehicle and mass of the freight being carried.
- 2.5 The vehicle's owner and operator are responsible for ensuring that the driver of the vehicle has undertaken training which ensures he/she is able to:
- (a) use the VicRoads' publication entitled "Height Clearance on Roads" to plan a route which avoids low bridges, tram wires and other overhead structures; and
 - (b) 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.

2.6 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:

- (a) a copy of this Notice or the VicRoads' information bulletin entitled "4.6 m High Vans & Curtain-sided Trailers", which sets out the obligations imposed under this notice; and
- (b) a copy of the VicRoads' booklet entitled "Height Clearance on Roads"; and
- (c) documentation showing the gross mass of the vehicle.

2.7 The operator and driver of the vehicle are responsible for planning each journey to ensure that:

- (a) 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
- (b) the vehicle does not travel-
 - (i) on a road, bridge or structure where any posted mass or dimension limit would be exceeded; or
 - (ii) beneath a bridge or overhead structure which carries a sign with the words "LOW CLEARANCE" or "CLEARANCE" if the height of the vehicle is equal to or greater than the height shown on the sign; or
 - (iii) beneath any other overhead structures, cables, wires or trees unless there is at least 200 mm clearance to the highest point of the vehicle.

2.8 Any journey is made at the absolute risk of the vehicle's owner, operator and driver. No representation is made by the Roads Corporation that any road, bridge, culvert, causeway or grid is capable of withstanding the vehicle, that there is sufficient clearance under structures, wires or trees, or that there is sufficient ground clearance at railway level crossings.

2.9 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

Definitions

3.1 In this notice:

"air suspension" means a 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 dampers are incorporated on each axle; and
- (d) the load of each axle of a multi-axle group remains within 5 percent of its nominal share of the total load on the group.

"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 or tri-axle group.

"B-double" means a prime mover towing two semi-trailers.

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

"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.

"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 possession of the vehicle.

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

“semi-trailer” means a trailer that has:

- (a) one axle group or a 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.

“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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