NHVR
National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

July | 2016

National heavy vehicle mass and dimension limits

Heavy Vehicle National Law

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) provides General Mass Limits (GML), Concessional Mass Limits (CML) and Higher Mass Limits (HML) for heavy vehicles operating on the national road network. This fact sheet summarises the conditions for operating general access and restricted access vehicles, relating to axle mass and configurations.

High productivity vehicles, such as B-doubles and HML vehicles are important to the efficiency of the freight task in Australia. The larger capacity of these vehicles also reduces the number of vehicles required to transport a given amount of freight.

National heavy vehicle dimension requirements

The prescribed dimension requirements for heavy vehicles are set out under the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation 2013 (the Regulation)*.

The information contained within this fact sheet has been extracted from the regulation.

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GML	General Mass Limits
CML	Concessional Mass Limits
HML	Higher Mass Limits
HVNL	Heavy Vehicle National Law
GVM/GCM	Gross Vehicle Mass/Gross Combination Mass
NHVAS	National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme
NLS	Non Load Sharing
LS	Load Sharing
PBS	Performance Based Standard
'S' dimension	Measurement from the front articulation point to the rear overhang line

The information contained in this fact sheet is accurate at the time of publication and in the unlikely event of any conflict the HVNL prevails.

This document does not cover the authorised access. Some vehicles are not permitted to operate in some states.

This document does not cover PBS Vehicles, if you require this information about PBS vehicles, please refer to the PBS Fact Sheet.

Prescribed dimensions

Width

The width limit for heavy vehicles is 2.5 metres, excluding:

- rear vision mirrors, signalling devices and side-mounted lamps and reflectors
- anti-skid devices mounted on wheels, central tyre inflation systems, tyre pressure gauges
- permanently fixed webbing-assembly-type devices, such as curtain-side devices, provided that the maximum distance measured across the body including any part of the devices does not exceed 2.55 metres.
- removable load restraint equipment, if the maximum distance across the body of the heavy vehicle, including any part of the equipment, is not more than 2.55m.

Height

The height limit for heavy vehicles is 4.3 metres unless it is a:

- vehicle built to carry cattle, horses, pigs or sheep - 4.6 metres
- vehicle built with at least 2 decks for carrying vehicles - 4.6 metres
- double-decker bus - 4.4 metres

Length

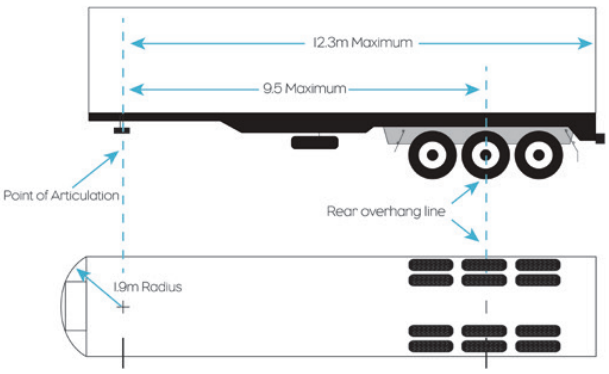
For overall vehicle lengths, refer to the axle mass tables on pages 5-10.

Length for trailers

On a semitrailer or dog trailer the distance from the front articulatic point to the rear over hang line must not be more than 9.5 metres a the distance from the front articulation point to the rear of the trail must not be more than 12.3 metres.

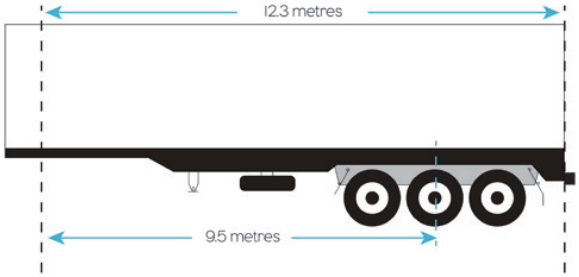
The maximum forward projection of a semi-trailer, or anything attached to a semi-trailer must not protude beyond a 1.9 metre arc from the towing pivot pin (King pin).

The articulation point to the rear of a semitrailer may be up to 13.2 metres if the trailer has a distance of not more than 9.5 metres fron the front articulation point to the rear overhang line, does not operate in a B-double or road train combination and otherwise complies dimensionally.

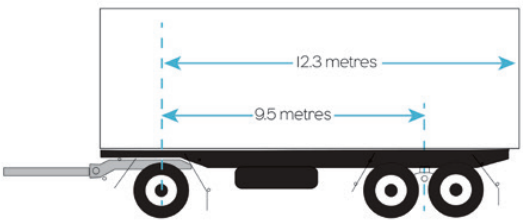


Examples

Semi trailer

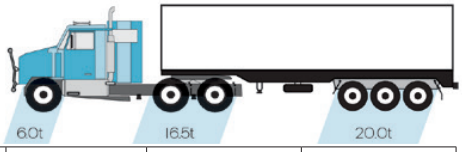


Dog trailer



*, #, a For disclaimer clarification please refer to page 4

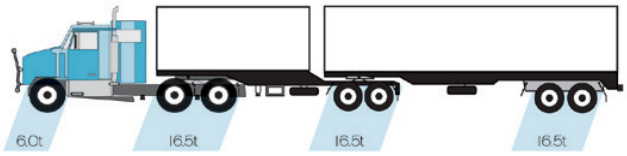
Common 6 Axle Semitrailer



Type of Mass Limits	Maximum Length (metres)	Allowable GVM/GCM (tonnes)	Single Steer Axle (tonnes)	Twin Steer Axle Group (tonnes)	Single Axle (tonnes)	Tandem Axle Group (tonnes)	Triaxle Group (tonnes)
GML	19.0m	42.5t	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	16.5t	20.0t
CML	19.0m	43.5t	6.0t*, a	N/A	N/A	17.0t	21.0t
HML	19.0m	45.5t	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	17.0t	22.5t

Common 7 Axle B-double

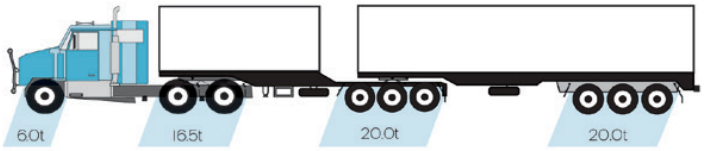
#Combination must meet mass limits relating to axle spacing's for the full mass entitlement.



Type of Mass Limits	Maximum Length (metres)	Allowable GVM/GCM (tonnes)	Single Steer Axle (tonnes)	Twin Steer Axle Group (tonnes)	Single Axle (tonnes)	Tandem Axle Group (tonnes)	Triaxle Group (tonnes)
GML	19.0m	50.0t General access 55.5t Restricted access	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	16.5t per tandem axle group	N/A
CML	19.0m	57.0t Restricted access	6.0t*, a	N/A	N/A	17.0t per tandem axle group	N/A
HML	19.0m	57.0t Restricted access	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	17.0t per tandem axle group	N/A

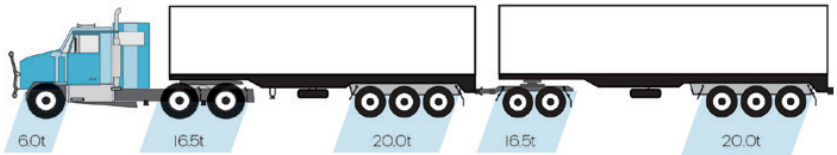
Common 9 Axle B-double

#26m is available for eligible vehicles.
#Combination must meet mass limits relating to axle spacing's for the full mass entitlement.



Type of Mass Limits	Maximum Length (metres)	Allowable GVM/GCM (tonnes)	Single Steer Axle (tonnes)	Twin Steer Axle Group (tonnes)	Single Axle (tonnes)	Tandem Axle Group (tonnes)	Triaxle Group (tonnes)
GML	25.0m#	62.5t	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	16.5t	20.0t per tri axle group
CML	25.0m#	64.5t	6.0t*, a	N/A	N/A	17.0t	21.0t per tri axle group
HML	25.0m#	68.0t	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	17.0t	22.5t per tri axle group

Common Road train (Type I)



Type of Mass Limits	Maximum Length (metres)	Allowable GVM/GCM (tonnes)	Single Steer Axle (tonnes)	Twin Steer Axle Group (tonnes)	Single Axle (tonnes)	Tandem Axle Group (tonnes)	Triaxle Group (tonnes)
GML	36.5m	79.0t	6.0t*, b	N/A	N/A	16.5t per tandem axle group	20.0t per tri axle group
CML	36.5m	81.0t	6.0t*, a	N/A	N/A	17.0t per tandem axle group	21.0t per tri axle group
HML	36.5m	85.0t	6.0t*	N/A	N/A	17.0t per tandem axle group	22.5t per tri axle group