

The NSW Government has approved the trial of a new Grain Harvest Management Scheme for the 2013/14 harvest to improve productivity and efficiency in the grain transport task.

The Scheme was developed by Transport for NSW in consultation with NSW grain industry stakeholders.

Under the Scheme, eligible vehicles and combinations may exceed regulated total mass limits by up to 5% when delivering wheat, barley, rice, oats, canola and legumes to participating grain receivers.

The Scheme will operate during summer harvest season from 15 October 2013 to 31 May 2014 and following a review, may be extended from 1 October to 31 May in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Eligible vehicles and combinations

The following types of vehicles and combinations are eligible to operate under the Scheme:

- rigid trucks.
- prime mover and semi-trailer combinations.
- truck and dog trailer combinations.
- B-doubles.
- road trains up to 36.5m long including A-doubles, B-triples and AB-triples.

All eligible vehicles must have dual tyres on all non-steer axles. The Scheme is not available to Performance Based Standards (PBS) vehicles.

There is no enrolment process or administration fee for vehicles and combinations to operate under the Scheme.

However, B-triples (except for modular B-triples) and AB-triples must comply with NSW B-triple and AB-triple operating conditions, including enrolment in the Intelligent Access Program.

All vehicles and combinations operating under the Scheme must carry a copy of the Scheme Order, and comply with the Scheme's mass limits and operating conditions.

To promote improved compliance with Scheme mass limits, from 2014/15 all eligible vehicles must be either:

- enrolled in the NHVAS mass management module; or
- fitted with approved on board mass units.

Participating grain receivers

The Scheme applies to grain deliveries from the farm to the nearest operating participating grain receiver for the type of grain being carried.

Grain receivers may participate in the Scheme by agreeing to record and report data on grain deliveries

The data reported by participating grain receivers will be used to:

- monitor compliance with the Scheme's mass limits.
- assist in planning future improvements to the Scheme.

A list of Participating Grain Receivers is available in the [Grain Transport](#) section of the RMS website.



Scheme mass limits

Axle mass limits

The axle mass limits for the Scheme have been designed to provide a 5% increase to the GML total mass limit for all eligible vehicles and combinations.

As a result, the tri-axle group mass limits vary according to the type of combination.

Axle or axle group	Mass limit
Single steer axle (1)	6 tonnes
Twin steer axle (non-load sharing)	10 tonnes
Twin steer axle (load sharing)	11 tonnes
Single axle	9 tonnes
Tandem axle group	17 tonnes
Tri-axle group	
- prime mover/semi trailer combination	21.63 tonnes
- 25/26 metre B-double with 9 axles	21.32 tonnes
- A-double road train with 11 axles	21.50 tonnes
- A-double road train with 12 axles	21.21 tonnes
- B-triple	21.21 tonnes
- AB-triple with 14 axles	21.33 tonnes
- AB-triple with 15 axles	21.16 tonnes

(1) For prime movers that qualify for the Class 3 Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice 2010, a mass limit of 6.5 tonnes applies.

Floating tri-axle group mass allowance

The mass limit for a tri-axle group may be exceeded by 0.5 tonnes as long as the total combination mass limit under the Scheme is not exceeded.

Total vehicle/combination mass limits

The total mass limits under the Scheme are 5% above the General Mass Limits total mass limit for the vehicle or combination.

However, under no circumstances may;

- the total mass for a vehicle exceed the GVM for the vehicle, or
- the total mass of a combination exceed the hauling unit's GCM or the sum of the GVMs of the hauling unit and trailers.

Vehicle/combination	Mass limit (2)
Rigid truck	
- 3 axle	23 tonnes
- 4 axle, twin steer (non-load sharing)	27 tonnes
- 4 axle, twin steer (load sharing)	28 tonnes
Single trailer combination	
- 4 axles	32 tonnes
- 5 axles	40 tonnes
- 6 axles	44.63 tonnes
Truck and dog trailer (3)	
- 5 axles	41 tonnes
- 6 axles	44.63 tonnes
- 7 axles	44.63 tonnes
B-double	
- 7 axles, up to 19m long (General Access Vehicle)	52.5 tonnes
- 7 axles, up to 19m long (Restricted Access Vehicle)	57 tonnes
- 9 axle, up to 26m long	65.63 tonnes
Road trains	
- A-double – 11 axles	83.00 tonnes
- A-double – 12 axles	86.63 tonnes
- B-triple – 12 axles	86.63 tonnes
- AB-triple (tandem dolly) – 14 axles	104 tonnes
- AB-triple (tri-axle dolly) – 15 axles	107.63 tonnes

(2) If the prime mover complies with the Class 3 Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice 2010, the combination may exceed the total mass limit by 0.5 tonne.

(3) Truck and dog trailer combinations that comply with the requirements of the Class 3 Truck and Dog Trailer Combination Notice 2010, may operate at up to 48 tonnes (6 axles) or 50 tonnes (7 axles).

Additional mass allowance for NHVAS accredited operators – 2013/14

For the 2013/14 harvest season, an additional mass allowance is provided for tri-axle groups in combinations operating under NHVAS mass management accreditation.

Combination	Tri-axle mass limit	Total mass limit (4)
Single trailer combination – 6 axles	21.83 tonnes	44.83 tonnes
B-double (up to 26m long) - 9 axles	21.72 tonnes	66.43 tonnes

(4) If the prime mover complies with the Class 3 Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice 2010, the combination may exceed the total mass limit by 0.5 tonne.



Approved routes

General access vehicles operating under the Scheme may operate on all state roads (highways managed by RMS) and local and regional roads in participating council areas.

This includes rigid trucks, truck and dog combinations and single trailer combinations not exceeding 19 metres long, and 19 metre B-doubles not exceeding 52.5 tonnes.

Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) operating under the Scheme may only operate on state roads (highways managed by RMS) and local and regional roads in participating council areas that are approved for that type of RAV.

Approved RAV routes are shown on the [interactive RAV map](#) on the RMS website.

A [list of councils](#) that have agreed to participate in the Scheme is available on the [Grain Transport](#) section of the RMS website.

The list of participating councils will be updated regularly as additional councils join the Scheme.

Vehicles and combinations operating under the Scheme must not operate where prohibited by a load limit specified for a road, bridge or causeway by a sign or notice.

Transporting grain across borders

The NSW Scheme's mass limits only apply within NSW borders. Different mass limits apply for grain transport in Victoria and Queensland.

In Victoria, there is no mass exemption scheme for grain transport, and the General Mass Limits apply unless the vehicle or combination is eligible for CML or HML.

For more information on Victorian mass limits, please contact Vicroads www.roads.vic.gov.au

In Queensland, mass limits up to 7.5% above General Mass Limits apply to vehicles registered in the Queensland Grain Harvest Management Scheme, subject to compliance with Scheme requirements.

For more information on the Queensland Scheme, please contact AgForce Queensland www.agforce.qld.org.au.

Compliance and Enforcement

Exceeding Scheme mass limits at participating grain receivers

Participating grain receivers will assess the total mass of every vehicle or combination operating under the Scheme upon arrival at the site.

Vehicles or combinations will be excluded from the Scheme for the remainder of a harvest period if they exceed Scheme mass limits by:

- less than 5 percent on three occasions; or
- more than 5 percent on a single occasion.

Vehicles that are excluded from the Scheme may still operate at General Mass Limits, or if eligible at the Concessional Mass Limits.

On-road enforcement

Vehicles and combinations participating in the Scheme will be subject to the usual on-road inspections by RMS and local council inspectors and police officers.

Depending on the circumstances, penalties may be imposed on one or more of the parties in the “chain of responsibility” for the load in the following circumstances:

- breaches of Scheme operating conditions.
- breaches of Scheme axle mass limits and total mass limits.
- non-compliance with approved routes.

Vehicles or combinations found to be breaching Scheme operating conditions will be assessed against the regulated mass limits and penalties will be applied accordingly.

More information

For more information about the Scheme please call the Scheme Hotline on (02) 8202 2502 or email:

grain@transport.nsw.gov.au.