

New Livestock Loading Scheme for NSW



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

FACT SHEET - UPDATED 28 FEBRUARY 2013

The NSW Government has approved a new NSW Livestock Loading Scheme, to enhance productivity and protect jobs in the NSW meat and livestock industry. The Scheme includes measures to minimise road pavement wear, protect vulnerable bridges and reduce the incidence of livestock vehicle rollovers.

The Scheme commenced on approved Higher Mass Limits routes on 1 December 2012. From 1 March 2013, the Scheme is extended to all State Roads.

The Scheme will be extended to Regional and Local during 2013 subject to local council approval and the completion of load limit sign-posting to protect vulnerable bridges.

Key elements of the new Scheme

- Livestock vehicles that comply with specified standards are eligible to participate in the Scheme.
- Scheme vehicles fitted with certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS) may operate at Higher Mass Limits (HML) axle mass limits when carrying live cattle, sheep, pigs or goats.
- The Intelligent Access Program (IAP) and National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) membership is required for B-triples and AB-triples, but not other combinations.
- Scheme vehicles must comply with applicable Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) routes including approved B-double, road train and 4.6m high vehicle routes.
- The Scheme will initially commence on approved HML routes, and will be extended to other NSW roads once new load limit signs are installed on bridges not capable of safely bearing HML livestock loads.
- From 1 May 2013 drivers will be required to have undergone approved training to minimise the risk and incidence of rollovers of 4.6m high livestock vehicles.

Scheme vehicle standards

The following types of combinations are eligible to participate in the Scheme:

- **Single articulated combinations** with deck length for carrying livestock up to 12.5m.
- **19m B-doubles** with a combined total deck length up to 15m.
- **25/26m B-doubles** with a combined total deck length up to 18.8m.
- **Road trains** with a combined total deck length up to 25m.
- **B-triples** with a combined total deck length up to 28.2m.
- **AB-triples** with a combined total deck length up to 28.2m.

Certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS)

To minimise road pavement wear, all combinations must have tandem or tri-axle group trailers fitted with certified RFS, and either dual or super single tyres on all non-steering axles.

Certified RFS is optional for prime movers and for converter dollies on road trains, but GML axle mass limits apply to units which are not fitted with certified RFS.

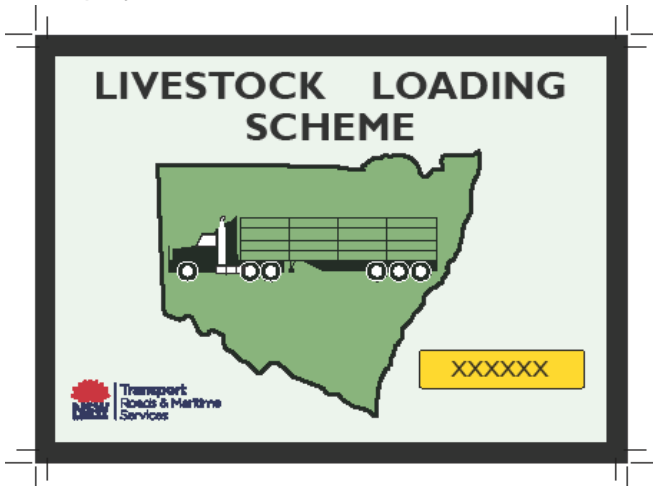
Enrolment requirements

Operators may enrol vehicles in the Scheme by lodging an application form with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). Interstate registered vehicles are eligible to enrol in the NSW Scheme.

[Application forms](#) are available from the RMS website. Application fees are \$90 per operator plus an additional \$30 per vehicle. (Note: Application fees are reviewed annually).

Scheme enrolment is not subject to periodic renewal, but operators must advise RMS of changes to vehicle ownership or registration.

All enrolled vehicles, including prime movers, trailers and converter dollies, will be issued with a NSW Livestock Loading Scheme label which must be displayed on the vehicle.



The labels include a unique identification number which is linked to the vehicle on the RMS registration database to enable enforcement officers to verify Scheme enrolment.

Interstate livestock loading schemes

Vehicles registered in another State or Territory, and enrolled in the livestock loading scheme of that State or Territory, are not required to enrol in the NSW Scheme.

However, they must comply with NSW Scheme vehicle standards, mass limits and operating conditions when operating in NSW.

B-triples and AB triples

B-triples and AB-triples must also enrol in the Intelligent Access Program (IAP), and must comply with [operating conditions](#) similar to those applicable to B-triples and AB-triples carrying other commodities.

Scheme mass limits

Axle mass limits

The following axle mass limits apply:

Single steer axle	6.0 tonnes ⁽¹⁾
Tandem axle group - no RFS	16.5 tonnes
Tandem axle group - with RFS	17.0 tonnes
Tri-axle group – no RFS (for road train converter dolly only)	16.5 tonnes
Tri-axle group - with RFS	22.5 tonnes

⁽¹⁾ For combinations complying with the Single Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice a mass limit of 6.5 tonnes applies.

Total combination mass limit

The total combination mass must not exceed the lowest of the following:

- The sum of the axle mass limits, or
- The GCM for the prime mover, or
- The sum of GVMs of the prime mover and all trailers and dollies.

For combinations with certified RFS fitted to all non-steering axle groups, the maximum total combination mass limits are:

- Single combination 45.5 tonnes
- B-doubles up to 19m 57.0 tonnes
- B-doubles up to 26m 68.0 tonnes
- Type 1 road trains,
 - with tandem axle dollies 85.0 tonnes
 - with tri-axle dollies 90.5 tonnes
- B-triples 90.5 tonnes
- AB-triples 113.0 tonnes

Mass limits related to axle spacing

Vehicles operating under the Scheme may exceed the mass limits related to axle spacings set out in Table 2 of Schedule 1 of the *NSW Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005* by:

- 0.5 tonnes for each tandem axle group fitted with certified RFS
- 2.5 tonnes for each tri-axle group fitted with certified RFS.

Road train axle spacing limits

Road trains operating under the Scheme must have a minimum distance of 26.5 metres between the outermost axles.

Floating tri-axle mass concession

To take account of the movement of animals within pens during transport, the mass limit for a tri-axle group may be exceeded by 0.5 tonnes as long as the total combination mass limit is not exceeded.

Approved routes

Access arrangements for the Scheme have taken into account the unique nature of livestock loads including:

- Loads are subject to maximum loading densities specified in animal welfare standards.
- Physical restrictions of livestock crates mean they cannot be excessively over-loaded.

Staged commencement timetable

From 1 December 2012 - Scheme vehicles may operate on the following routes.

- Single trailer combinations, B-doubles and road trains may operate on the HML routes approved for those types of combinations. Maps indicating approved HML routes are available on the [HML maps](#) on the RMS website.
- B-doubles not exceeding 19.0 metres may operate on routes approved for 19m B-doubles with a total combination mass exceeding 50 tonnes. These routes are shown on the [Restricted Access Vehicle \(RAV\) maps](#) on the RMS website.
- B-triples and AB-triples that have enrolled in the Intelligent Access Program (IAP) may operate on the approved GML networks for B-triples and AB-triples. Maps indicating these routes are available on the [B-triple and AB-triple maps](#) page on the RMS website.

From 1 March 2013 – Single trailer combinations, 25/26m B-doubles and road trains may also use other State Roads (major roads managed by RMS).

These additional State Roads routes and an updated list of restricted bridges are set out in the [NSWLLS Scheme Route Reference List](#) on the RMS website.

Local and regional roads – During 2013, the Scheme will be extended to other NSW regional and local roads, subject to local council approval and the completion of load limit sign-posting to protect vulnerable bridges.

Driver training requirements

Vehicle rollover crashes are more prevalent in livestock vehicles compared to other vehicles.

The Scheme includes driver training requirements to ensure drivers understand and can apply techniques to minimise the risk of rollover.

The objectives of the training course are to ensure that drivers participating in the Scheme:

- Understand and comply with Scheme vehicle standards, mass limits and route restrictions.
- Can safely operate 4.6m high livestock vehicles at increased mass limits, and apply techniques to minimise the risk of rollover.

From 1 May 2013 drivers will be required to have either completed the;

- NSW driver training course or
- Victorian Livestock Loading Scheme driver training course.

The NSW driver training course will be delivered by 14 trainers approved by RMS. Further information, including the list of approved trainers and application forms are available on the RMS website.

Documents to be carried in vehicles

For vehicles enrolled in the Scheme, the only document required to be carried in the vehicle is the driver's training certificate.

Vehicles enrolled in the livestock loading scheme of another State or Territory, must also carry evidence of the vehicle's enrolment in that scheme.

Compliance and enforcement

Participating combinations must comply with all Scheme requirements as set out above in order to operate at Scheme mass limits.

Scheme vehicles will be subject to usual on-road inspections by RMS and council inspectors, and police officers.

Penalties may be imposed for:

- Breaches of Scheme vehicle standards and operating conditions as set out above.
- Breaches of axle and total combination mass limits.
- Non-compliance with route restrictions and bridge load limit signs.

More information

For more information about the NSW Livestock Loading Scheme please call 13 22 13 or go to www.rms.nsw.gov.au.