



Construction Requirements for Low Loader Floats

Background

A low loader trailer is the semi-trailer portion of a vehicle combination which has its load space close to the ground and which is specially designed to carry indivisible loads (such as bulldozers). This information sheet sets out requirements which are specific to low loader trailers. In all other respects low loaders must meet the normal requirements for semi-trailers. Vehicle Standards Information sheet No. 5, "*Vehicle Dimension Limits*", should be read in conjunction with this publication.

Classification

For a semi-trailer to be classified as a low loader trailer, it must be of a gooseneck type which is specially designed for the carriage of indivisible loads. The semi-trailer's main loading space (between the gooseneck and trailer axle group) must not be higher than 1 metre from the ground, and the area above the fifth wheel and gooseneck must not be constructed with a permanently fixed deck for the purpose of carrying goods. This space may, however, be used for equipment storage (eg spare wheels, tools, etc).

Axle Groups

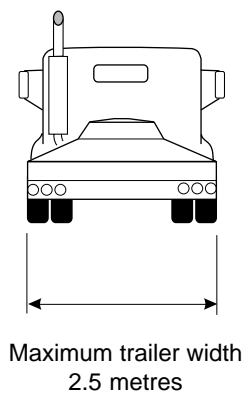
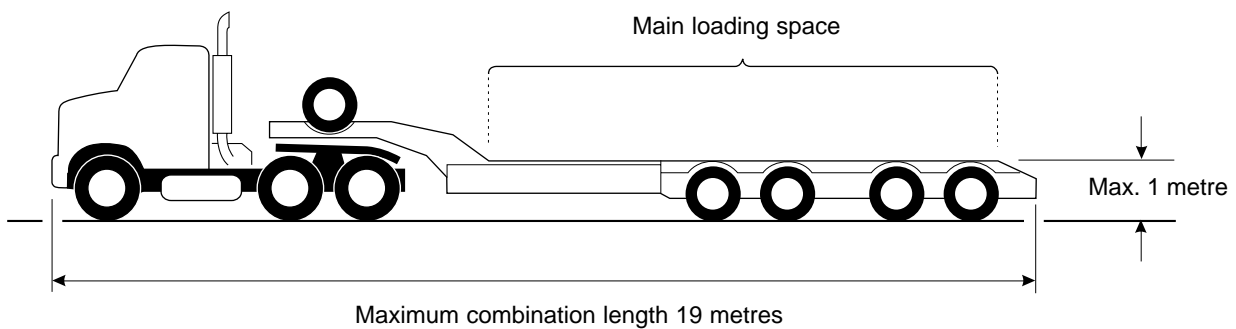
Low loader trailers are not subject to the requirement that no more than four axles be fitted to any axle group. However, axle groups must be fitted with a loadsharing system that causes the load to be shared equally between all axles in that group.

Dimensions

Low loader trailers are not subject to certain internal dimension limits applicable to other types of semi-trailers. The dimensions concerned are:

1. the distance from the king-pin to the foremost extremity of rear overhang and
2. the distance between the point of articulation to the rearmost extremity of the rear overhang

However, the following dimension limits must be observed unless operating under a permit:



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