

information
BULLETIN

4.6 m High Vans & Curtain-sided Trailers

July 1997



A notice was published in the Victoria Government Gazette No S61 of 4 June 1997 to allow semi-trailers and B-doubles to be built to a maximum height of 4.6 m for carrying cubic freight.

Which Vehicles can be built to 4.6 m high?

A semi-trailer or a B-double may be built to 4.6 metres high provided that:

- ❑ *Each semi-trailer has at least 50% of its deck length no more than 1.2 metres above the ground.* This ensures a relatively low centre of gravity to improve vehicle stability.



1.2 m maximum deck height for at least 50% of the deck length

- ❑ *Each semi-trailer has an air suspension system.* This takes advantage of the air suspension system's roll resistance characteristics.
- ❑ *The gross mass of a prime mover and semi-trailer combination or B-double must be at least 10% less than the gross mass it would be entitled to operate at, if it was 4.3 metres high.* This limits 4.6 metres high vehicles, when fully loaded, to carrying cubic freight. Once again the centre of gravity is kept low and vehicle stability improved.
- ❑ *The vehicle's operator and driver must participate in a vehicle mass management system.* This ensures the driver knows the weight of the vehicle and that only cubic freight is carried. Demonstration of being in a mass management system may include providing a weighbridge docket or alternatively a manifest, showing the tare mass of the vehicle and mass of the freight being carried.

Semi-trailers and B-doubles may be constructed with aluminium sides or curtain sides.



Other vehicle types including rigid vans, laden flat top semi-trailers, pig trailers and dog trailers must not exceed 4.3 metres high.

Roads

Prime mover and semi-trailer combinations may travel throughout Victoria. However, B-doubles may only travel on approved B-double routes that are specified in either:

- a VicRoads' B-double permit; or
- a general B-double permit published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

Safe Travel

The operator and driver are responsible for planning any journey to ensure that 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 the Gazette Notice.

The driver must not drive or attempt to drive:

- on a road, bridge or structure where a posted mass or dimension limit would be exceeded; or
- 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
- beneath any other overhead structures, cables, wires or trees unless there is at least 200 mm clearance to the highest point of the vehicle.

Driver Training

The owner and operator are responsible for ensuring that the driver has undertaken training which ensures that the driver is able to:

- use the VicRoads publication "Height Clearance on Roads" to plan a route which avoids low bridges, tram wires and other overhead structures; and
- secure the load and drive an over height vehicle in accordance with Sections A, B3, C9(1)-(4) and D(1) of the "Load Restraint Guide".



Carrying Documents

The driver must carry the following documents in the driving compartment and must produce them when requested by a VicRoads' Officer or a Police Officer (in addition to the documents mentioned in the original B-double gazette notice):

- a copy of this Information Bulletin or the Gazette Notice; and
- a copy of the current edition of the VicRoads' booklet entitled "Height Clearance on Roads"; and
- paperwork to show the gross weight of the vehicle.



Detailed Information

For detailed information, refer to the Victoria Government Gazette No S61 of 4 June 1997.

Copies of the gazette are available from Information Victoria Bookshop, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne (phone 1300 366 356).

Copies of "Height Clearance on Roads" and the "Load Restraint Guide" (\$5.00) are available at VicRoads offices.

Further Enquiries

For further enquiries, contact VicRoads' Permit Officers on (03) 9345 4209 or (03) 9881 8852.