

information
BULLETIN

45 Tonne Truck & 3 Axle Dog Trailer

November 1997



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A General Permit has been published in the Victoria Government Gazette No S137 of 31 October 1997, allowing a 3 axle or 4 axle truck, and 3 axle dog trailer combination to gross up to 45 tonne.

Research into truck/trailers has concluded that truck and 3 axle dog trailers, that have air suspensions, can safely operate at 45 tonne gross mass.

These vehicles with road friendly air suspensions and an increased carrying capacity of 2.5 tonne will provide significant productivity improvements.

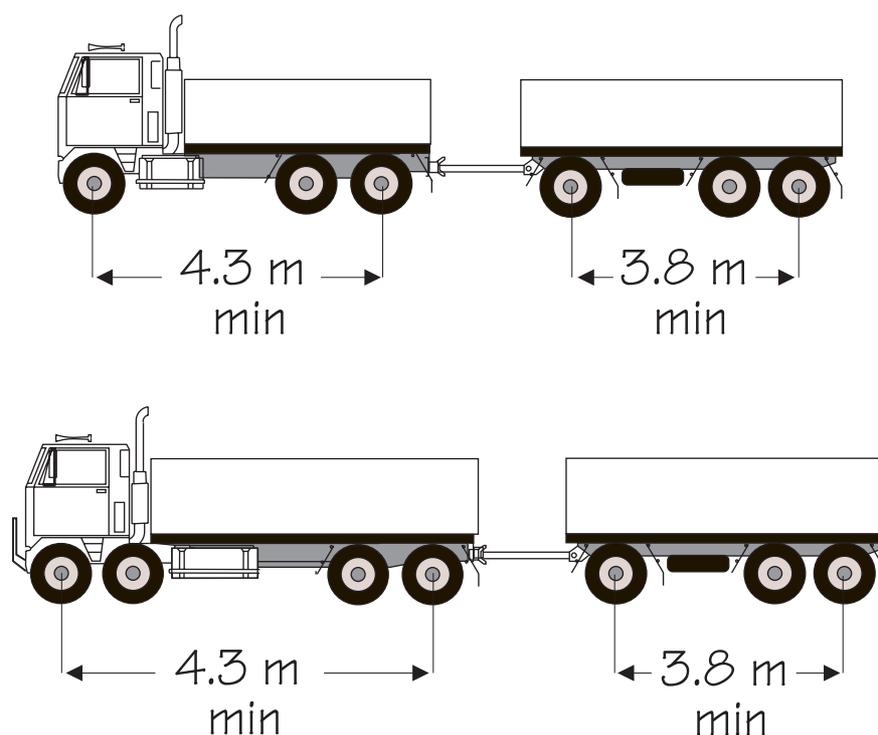
Single Steer and Twin Steer Trucks

A single steer truck or a twin steer truck towing a 3 axle dog trailer may gross a maximum of 45 tonne, provided that they comply with the requirements in the general permit outlined in this information bulletin.

Maximising Vehicle Stability

To maximise the stability of the truck/trailer combination:

- ❑ the drive axle group and the trailer axles must have air suspensions; and
- ❑ the truck and dog trailer must have the following minimum axle spacings shown below.



Maximum Axle Weights

The axle weights must not exceed:

- ❑ Single steer axle on the truck = 6.0 tonnes
- ❑ Twin steer axle group (non-load sharing) = 10.0 tonnes
- ❑ Twin steer axle group (load sharing) = 11.0 tonnes
- ❑ Single axle with four tyres on the trailer = 9.0 tonnes
- ❑ Tandem axle group with eight tyres = 16.5 tonnes

Vehicles must be equipped with dual tyres on all axles except the steer axle/s on the truck.

Gross Mass

The maximum gross mass limits are:

- ❑ 3 axle truck = 22.5 tonnes;
- ❑ 4 axle truck (non load sharing twin steer axle group) = 26.5 tonnes
- ❑ 4 axle truck (load sharing twin steer axle group) = 27.5 tonnes
- ❑ 3 axle dog trailer = 22.5 tonnes

The overriding maximum gross mass limit for a 3 or 4 axle truck connected to a 3 axle dog trailer is 45.0 tonnes.

Table 1 - Mass Limits Relating to Axle Spacing

Distance (metres)		Mass Limit (tonnes)	Distance (metres)		Mass Limit (tonnes)
exceeding	not exceeding		exceeding	not exceeding	
3.5	3.7	23.0	7.3	7.5	34.5
3.7	3.8	23.5	7.5	7.7	35.0
3.8	4.0	24.0	7.7	7.8	35.5
4.0	4.2	24.5	7.8	8.0	36.0
4.2	4.3	25.0	8.0	8.2	36.5
4.3	4.5	25.5	8.2	8.3	37.0
4.5	4.7	26.0	8.3	8.5	37.5
4.7	4.8	26.5	8.5	8.7	38.0
4.8	5.0	27.0	8.7	8.8	38.5
5.0	5.2	27.5	8.8	9.0	39.0
5.2	5.3	28.0	9.0	9.2	39.5
5.3	5.5	28.5	9.2	9.3	40.0
5.5	5.7	29.0	9.3	9.5	40.5
5.7	5.8	29.5	9.5	9.7	41.0
5.8	6.0	30.0	9.7	9.8	41.5
6.0	6.2	30.5	9.8	10.0	42.0
6.2	6.3	31.0	10.0	10.5	42.5
6.3	6.5	31.5	10.5	11.0	43.0
6.5	6.7	32.0	11.0	11.5	43.5
6.7	6.8	32.5	11.5	12.0	44.0
6.8	7.0	33.0	12.0	12.5	44.5
7.0	7.2	33.5	12.5	13.0	45.0
7.2	7.3	34.0			

Truck/Trailer Mass Ratio

The gross mass of a dog trailer must not exceed the gross mass of the truck towing it.

Mass Limits Based on Axle Spacings

The mass limits in Table 1 must not be exceeded in relation to the distances set out in the table that apply to the vehicle or combination.

Each distance in the Table refers to:

- (a) the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of the furthest axle in any axle group; or
- (b) the greatest distance between the centres of axles in any 2 axle groups.

The mass limits in Table 1 apply to the sum of the mass on each axle group or single axle in the distance referred to in the table, including the axles between which the distance is measured.

Safety Ratings

For safety reasons, the total mass of the vehicle and any load that is being carried must not exceed the vehicle manufacturer's ratings. This includes GVM, GCM and the manufacturers' mass ratings on axles, wheels and tyres.

Dimension Limits

A truck and 3 axle dog trailer combination must not be more than 19 metres long and not more than 4.3 metres high.

Safe Travel

The vehicle's 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.

You may drive throughout Victoria, but you 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 truck (including its load) 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.

Compliance

The vehicle's operator and driver are responsible for complying with all of the requirements for operating under the General Permit. If any requirement is not adhered to, then the General Permit is void and the operator and driver may be liable to prosecution for exceeding regulation mass limits.

Detailed Information

For detailed information, refer to the Victoria Government Gazette No S137 of 31 October 1997. Copies of the Gazette are available from Information Victoria Bookshop, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne (telephone 1300 366 356).

Further Enquiries

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

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