



Requirements for Tow Trucks in WA

A guide for Western Australian tow truck drivers and operators

This is a guide to the technical vehicle standards and requirements of tow trucks and the obligations of tow truck drivers and operators when towing vehicles in Western Australia (WA).

On 7 November 2022, new consumer protection measures were introduced requiring the driver of a tow truck to declare the maximum tow/salvage and storage fees payable on the Tow Truck Driver Statement.

From 7 November 2023, tow trucks in WA will be required to meet updated technical standards, before a WA vehicle licence can be granted or renewed and be subject to an annual inspection, to improve the safety and roadworthiness of vehicles.

Please note: The new technical standards outlined in this guide have not yet commenced, however tow truck vehicle owners should familiarise themselves with these coming changes to understand how it impacts the licensing of their vehicle.

The information contained in this guide is an interpretation of specified laws. It is NOT the law, but a simplified version of the requirements as prescribed in the:

- *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*;
- *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*;
- *Road Traffic (Towing of Vehicles) Regulations 2020*; and
- *Road Traffic Code 2000*.

The safety of all road users is of paramount importance. In order to improve road safety, the Department of Transport (DoT) is working with other state government agencies, local government authorities and industry organisations to improve the safety and roadworthiness of tow trucks and ensure compliance with industry standards.

Available online

This guide is correct at the time of printing. The most current version of this guide can be downloaded in PDF format online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs.

Contacting us

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Definitions

Articulated vehicle

A motor vehicle having at its rear, a portion on wheels that is pivoted to, and part of which is superimposed on and supported by the front portion of the vehicle.

Combination

A group of vehicles consisting of a motor vehicle connected to one or more vehicles.

Escort vehicle

A vehicle that is being used to warn other road users of the presence of an oversize vehicle.

Gross combination mass (GCM)

The greatest possible sum of the maximum loaded masses of the vehicle and of any vehicles that may be towed by it at the one time, as specified by the vehicle's manufacturer or by the relevant authority if the vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer's specification is no longer appropriate.

Gross vehicle mass (GVM)

The maximum loaded mass of the vehicle as specified by the manufacturer; or as specified by the relevant authority if the vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer's specification is no longer appropriate.

Lifting apparatus

A crane, winch, ramp or other lifting or loading device that is capable of elevating a motor vehicle to a higher position or level.

Load capacity

The difference between a vehicles GVM and its unloaded mass.

Loaded mass

The total mass of the vehicle and its load.

Over-mass

In relation to a vehicle, having a mass that exceeds an applicable mass requirement (whether or not the vehicle also has a dimension that exceeds an applicable dimension requirement).

Oversize

In relation to a vehicle, having a dimension that exceeds an applicable dimension requirement (whether or not the vehicle also has a mass that exceeds an applicable mass requirement).

Pilot vehicle

A vehicle, other than an escort vehicle, being used to warn other road users of the presence of an oversize or over-mass vehicle.

Rear overhang

The distance between the rear overhang line and the rear of the vehicle.

Tilt-tray tow truck

Tilt-tray tow truck is a tow truck —

- that is equipped with:
 - a fixed or tilting platform or tray for the carriage of a vehicle; and
 - a winch for loading a vehicle onto the platform or tray; or
- to which is attached, temporarily or otherwise, a trailer or device that is equipped with:
 - a fixed or tilting platform or tray for the carriage of a vehicle; and
 - a winch for loading a vehicle onto the platform or tray.
- Tow includes the following:
 - to carry
 - to lift and tow
 - to lift and carry
 - to lift for the purpose of towing.

Tow truck

A tow truck is a 'motor vehicle'

- that is:
 - equipped with a crane, winch, ramp or other lifting or loading device; and
 - used or intended to be used for the towing or salvaging a 'vehicle'; or
- a combination consisting of a prime mover towing a semi-trailer that is:
 - equipped with a crane, winch, ramp or other lifting or loading device; and
 - used or intended to be used for the towing or salvaging a 'vehicle'.

Unloaded mass

The mass of the vehicle in running order, equipped with all standard equipment and with all fuel and other fluid reservoirs filled to nominal capacity, but unoccupied and without any other load.

Vehicle

A motor vehicle, trailer or combination, including the equipment fitted to, or forming part of the vehicle.

Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 (VSB6)

National Code of Practice Heavy Vehicle Modifications is the national standard for the most common modifications made to heavy vehicles.

Vehicle Standards Bulletin 12 (VSB12)

National Code of Practice Rear Marking Plates for all motor vehicles over 12 t GVM and for all trailers over 10 t GVM, is the national standard for rear marking plates that identifies the types of plates that can be used, where they are placed on the vehicle and the methods for installing them.

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PART 1

Tow Truck Standards

1.1 Standards and requirements

A person must not use or drive a tow truck or operate a vehicle as a tow truck unless the vehicle licence or vehicle allows it to be used as a tow truck.

The tow truck and the vehicle being towed must comply with each regulation that applies.

1.2 General equipment for tow trucks

Dual wheels

A tow truck must be fitted with dual wheels on the rear axle or axles on both the left and right sides of the vehicle.

Steering wheel

A tow truck must be right hand drive.

Driver's seat

The driver's seat on a tow truck must be constructed so that no person can occupy any portion of the seat on the right hand side of the driver.

Spacer bars and chains

A tow truck must be equipped with suitable spacer bars and safety chains, where applicable, to enable the driver of the tow truck to exercise efficient control over the towed vehicle while it is being towed. The spacer bars must be so designed as to minimise any damage to the towed vehicle caused by the towing vehicle or its equipment.

Fire extinguisher

A tow truck must be equipped with a fire extinguisher (minimum 4.5 kg capacity, compliant with AS 2444) that has current certification and is securely installed in a position where it is readily available for use.

The fire extinguisher must be suitable for Class A (wood, paper, plastic etc), Class B (flammable liquids) and Class E (energized electrical equipment) fires.

Broom and other cleaning equipment

A tow truck must be equipped with a broom and other equipment necessary for the removal of any broken glass, debris, oil or other matter deposited on the roadway as a result of an accident or breakdown.

Clean up kit to include as a minimum:

- Broom
- Shovel
- 20 litre spill kit
- Debris bin/receptacle

Tow truck signage

A tow truck must have clearly marked on a conspicuous part of the right side of the vehicle (letters at least 50 mm high and 25 mm wide):

- the name and address of the owner of the vehicle;
- the vehicle's unloaded mass and GVM; and
- the vehicle's classification under regulation 414.

Rear underrun protection

Due to the potential danger presented by the 'chisel point' at the rear of the vehicle, tilt tray tow trucks must be fitted with a suitable system to reduce the risk of serious injury in the event of a rear end collision.

Underrun protector bar

A steel section, usually a RHS at least 75 mm x 50 mm x 3 mm, appropriately secured to the truck chassis.

The section should not exceed 100 mm and must be flush with the rear of the tray.



Underrun protector light bar and wheel lift

This incorporates an appropriate underrun protector light bar positioned just above the wheel lift.



Underrun protector light bar and wheel lift

An underrun protector light bar that pivots as the tilt tray is lowered to the ground. It has a wheel lift attachment must also be fitted.



Rear marker plates/conspicuity strip

For all heavy vehicles with a GVM of 12 tonnes or over, rear marker plates complying with the requirements of VSB12 must be fitted.

For tilt tray tow trucks under 12 tonnes GVM, rear marker plates complying with the requirements of VSB12 may be fitted. Alternatively, conspicuity strips, at least 100 mm high, made from Class 1A material that complies with AS/NZS1906.2 must be fitted where practicable.

Acceptable alternative devices

Other forms of either conspicuity strips or underrun protection devices that are deemed equally effective may also be acceptable to DoT. To have these devices assessed contact the Vehicle Safety & Standards section of DoT via email: vsp@transport.wa.gov.au

1.3 Lights and warning devices

Flashing amber light and white light

A tow truck must be equipped with:

- A flashing amber light for use when occupying a hazardous position on a road, while stationary or manoeuvring at a speed not exceeding 20 km/h and not otherwise; and
- A suitable adjustable white light mounted so that at night it is capable of effectively illuminating the area in which the coupling of the tow truck to any vehicle to be lifted or towed is to be affected.

The flashing light equipment must have an audible or visible indicator mounted within the vehicle, to warn the driver that the lamp is operating.

Light board

A tow truck must have equipment which can be placed on the towed vehicle, connected electrically to the towing vehicle that enables the lights to be seen while a vehicle is being towed.

Portable warning devices

A tow truck must be equipped with at least three of the portable warning devices listed below:

- Portable warning triangles compliant with AS 3790 Portable Warning Triangles for Motor Vehicles; or
- Reflective cones compliant with AS 1742.3 Traffic control for works on roads.

Warning sign

The driver of a tow truck that is towing a heavy vehicle must ensure that the rear of the heavy vehicle displays a warning sign.

- For all heavy tows – 'Under Tow'.

When displayed, this sign overrides all existing signage requirements. The warning sign may be rigid or flexible.

The 'Under Tow' sign must be made to the same size and specification as either:

- a 'Long Vehicle' or 'Road Train' sign (as per Regulation 277 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*); or
- an 'Oversize' sign (as per MRWA Oversize Vehicle & Pilot Vehicle General Requirements D15#453366).



1.4 Classification and limitation

Load capacity is the difference between its GVM and its unloaded mass.

Tow trucks other than tilt tray tow trucks

Tow trucks other than tilt tray tow trucks must be classified in accordance with these specifications.

Class of tow truck	Minimum load capacity	Minimum crane SWL	Minimum GCM
1	1,270 kg	1,045 kg	
2	3,040 kg	2,540 kg	
3	6,125 kg	5,080 kg	18 t
4	7,000 kg	7,000 kg	60 t

Tilt tray tow trucks

Tilt tray tow trucks must be classified in accordance with these specifications.

Class of tow truck	Minimum load capacity	Minimum crane SWL
1T	1,270 kg	1,045 kg
2T	3,040 kg	2,540 kg
3T	6,125 kg	5,080 kg
4T	12,000 kg	7,000 kg

Gross mass of towed vehicle

A tow truck is limited to the lifting, carrying, towing or salvaging of vehicles having a gross mass appropriate to the load capacity of the tow truck, and must not be operated so as to exceed these limits.

Class of tow truck	Gross mass of towed vehicle
1,1T	2,030 kg (maximum)
2,2T	5,080 kg (maximum)

1.5 Lifting requirements

Lifting a vehicle

The GVM of any vehicle being lifted must not be more than the GVM of the tow truck.

The lifting apparatus must not be used to lift a mass that exceeds the safe working load of that lifting apparatus.

When a vehicle has been partially but not fully lifted for towing by a tow truck, it must be supported by means other than the hoist rope or chain of the crane. Some of the mass must be taken on at least two wheels or a single axle of the towed vehicle before the tow truck is put in motion.

When a vehicle has been fully lifted for towing by a tow truck, it must be fully supported on the carrying area of the tow truck, and adequately secured before the tow truck is put in motion.

A towed vehicle must not be supported by the hoist rope or chain of a crane whilst the tow truck is in motion.

A tow truck must not be used to lift and carry a vehicle which is so damaged that it cannot be safely towed on any two wheels of a single axle unless that tow truck has been approved by the CEO of DoT for the purpose.

1.6 Towed vehicle brakes

The driver of a Class 3 or Class 4 tow truck towing a vehicle, must have control of the braking system of the towed vehicle.

Where a Class 3 or Class 4 tow truck is towing a vehicle and the driver of the tow truck has control of the towed vehicle's braking system, and the brakes can be used, there is no limitation on the mass of the towed vehicle. However, none of the tow truck's ratings can be exceeded.

If a Class 3 or Class 4 tow truck is required to tow a vehicle which is damaged in such a way that the braking system cannot be coupled to the tow truck, the brakes may be operated from the driving position of the towed vehicle.

A police officer may authorise a vehicle, which is so damaged that the brakes no longer function, to be towed to the nearest place of safety by a tow truck of the appropriate class.

Where a tilt tray tow truck is towing a vehicle by means of an underlift system and the driver of the tow truck does not have control of the braking system of the towed vehicle, the maximum combined mass of the tilt tray tow truck and the towed vehicle must not exceed the lesser of:

- the tilt tray tow truck GVM plus its specified unbraked towing capacity;
- the tilt tray tow truck GVM plus 750 kg (where the tilt tray tow truck towing capacity is not specified by the manufacturer); or
- the tilt tray tow truck GCM.

The setting of the brake (slack) adjusters of a vehicle fitted with maxi-spring emergency/parking brakes must not be altered for the purpose of towing the vehicle.

1.7 Construction of tow trucks

A tow truck built after 7 November 2022 (the commencement date of the updated regulations) must comply with the requirements of AS 5400. Australian Standard AS 5400:2015 Tow Trucks – Tilt, Slide and Underlift Vehicles.

Heavy Vehicle Modifications - National Code of Practice (VSB6).

A tow truck built or modified after the introduction of VSB6 must comply with the requirements of the version of VSB6 that was current in WA at the time of the vehicle's manufacture.

- March 1995 – Version 1
- February 2015 – Version 2
- September 2017 – Version 3

All tow trucks built according to VSB6 must comply with Section T – Tow trucks.

Any tow truck built or modified before the date of introduction of VSB6 in WA must be fit for purpose and able to be operated safely. The CEO of DoT must be satisfied in each case.

A tow truck that has previously been licensed, but the licence has lapsed for more than 90 days, must meet the latest version of VSB6 before it can be re-licensed.



PART 2

Authority to Tow

2.1 Towing articulated vehicles

A disabled articulated vehicle may be towed with the permission of a police officer or the Commissioner of Main Roads by a Class 3 or Class 4 tow truck to a place where it will not constitute a hazard (if it would not be safe to uncouple the vehicle to tow part of the vehicle only).

A police officer who authorises the towing of an articulated vehicle:

- may impose conditions about the towing including conditions relating to the route to be taken or the speed at which the vehicle is to be towed; and
- must give the driver of the tow truck written authorisation containing these particulars:
 - the tow truck's number plate details;
 - the identifying particulars of the articulated vehicle to be towed;
 - the place from where the articulated vehicle is to be moved;
 - the place to where the articulated vehicle is to be moved;
 - the date, time, and period during which, towing is authorised; and
 - the conditions to be observed whilst towing.
- Each driver of a tow truck that is the subject of a written authorisation must comply with each condition set out in the authorisation.
- Ensure that the authorisation is kept in the tow truck.
- Produce the authorisation to a police officer if required by that officer to do so.

2.2 Tow truck driver's statement

The driver of a tow truck must not tow or salvage any vehicle from the scene of an accident until the driver has completed in duplicate a statement containing these particulars:

- Tow truck driver/vehicle details
 - name and address of the person licensed to operate the tow truck.
 - name and address of the tow truck's driver.
 - tow truck's number plate details.
- Vehicle owner details
 - name and address of the owner of the vehicle to be towed or salvaged, if that is known.
- Authorisation to tow
 - police officer's name and number assigned for official purposes, if the removal of the vehicle to be towed or salvaged is authorised by a police officer.
 - name and address of the person (other than a police officer) authorising the vehicle to be towed or salvaged.
- Towed vehicle details
 - make and number plate details of the vehicle to be towed or salvaged.
- Towing details
 - place from where the vehicle is to be moved.
 - place to where the vehicle is to be moved.
 - maximum fee that will be charged for the tow or salvage of the vehicle.
 - maximum fee that will be charged for the storage of the vehicle.
 - date and time at which the authority to tow or salvage is signed.
- Signatures
 - signature of the tow truck driver.
 - signature of the person authorising the tow or salvage to both copies of that statement when completed.
- Fees
 - declared all fees for the tow, salvage and storage of a vehicle.

If the removal of the vehicle to be towed or salvaged is authorised by a police officer, the police officer must sign the statement.

The driver of a tow truck must not tow or salvage a vehicle unless the original of the signed completed statement has been given to the person authorising the tow or salvage.

The driver of a tow truck must give a copy of a signed completed statement to a responsible person for the vehicle.

A responsible person for a tow truck must ensure that each copy of a signed completed statement is kept for a period of 12 months.

Each driver of a tow truck that is the subject of a statement must produce a copy of the statement to a police officer if required by that officer to do so.

2.3 A tow authorised by the Commissioner of Main Roads

The driver of a tow truck may tow or attempt to tow a vehicle from the scene of an accident or breakdown, or from the place of the vehicle's abandonment, if that particular tow has been authorised verbally by the Commissioner of Main Roads.

The Commissioner of Main Roads may only give oral authorisation to tow a vehicle if the tow will prevent or reduce an obstruction or a danger to the safety of persons or property.

If the driver of the tow truck has oral authorisation to tow a vehicle, the tow truck driver's statement must be completed in duplicate (with the appropriate modifications) within 24 hours of the completing of the towing job. The original of the tow truck driver's statement must be given to the person authorising the tow, or that person's representative.

The duplicate of the tow truck driver's statement must be given to a responsible person for the vehicle who must retain the statement for a period of 12 months.

For further information regarding the permits that are appropriate for tow trucks under different scenarios and the types of authorisations that can be issued, contact the Heavy Vehicles section of Main Roads WA.

Phone: 138 HVO (138 486)

Website: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

2.4 Authority to tow or salvage

An authority to tow or salvage a vehicle does not commit a police officer, or the Commissioner, to any personal liability, cost or charge.

An authority is evidence of the giving of an authority for the removal of the vehicle and in respect of salvage and storage connected only, but not for the carrying out of any repair or for any other purpose.

2.5 Offences

A person must not cause or induce by any trick, pretence, force, threat or persistent soliciting, or unfair means, another person to sign an authority to lift, salvage, carry or tow any vehicle involved in an accident.

A person must not intimidate by threat or force the driver of a tow truck from lifting, salvaging, carrying or towing a vehicle, if that driver is acting in accordance with the legislation.

If the charges in respect of the carrying, salvaging, towing or storage of a vehicle have been paid by the owner, a person must not, without reasonable excuse, refuse or neglect to deliver up a vehicle or any article of value in a vehicle when requested by the owner.



PART 3

Heavy Vehicle Standards

3.1 Heavy vehicle mass requirements

Mass limit for all single vehicles

The total mass of a vehicle and any load must not exceed the vehicle's GVM.

Mass limits for heavy vehicle tyres

The mass on a tyre of a heavy vehicle must not exceed the greatest load capacity determined for the tyre by the manufacturer at a maximum cold inflation pressure:

- 825 kPa for a radial ply tyre; or
- 700 kPa for any other tyre.

Mass limits for heavy vehicle wheels and axles

Retractable axle means an axle with a means of adjustment enabling it to be raised or lowered relative to the other axles in the axle group so that the tyres on the axle do not touch the ground.

A retractable axle:

- is an axle when it is in the lowered position; and
- is not an axle when it is in the raised position.

The mass on a wheel or axle of a heavy vehicle must not exceed the limit set by its manufacturer or the limit provided for it in the table below.

The mass limit in the table that applies to a heavy vehicle's axle group that includes a retractable axle must be determined as if the axle did not exist.

A retractable axle is part of an axle group when the mass on the group exceeds;

- 6 t in the case of a tandem axle group; or
- 11 t in the case of a tri-axle group.

The tyres on the axle are in contact with the ground and the load-sharing suspension system is operating on each axle (including the retractable axle) and tyre in the group.

The sum of the mass on the axle groups and single axles on a heavy vehicle must not exceed the sum of the mass limits of the axle groups and single axles as provided in the table.

Mass limits for single axles and axle groups

Description	Mass limit (t)
Single steer axle	6.0 ¹
Twin steer axle group without LSSS ²	10.0
Twin steer axle group with LSSS ²	11.0
Single axle fitted with dual tyres	9.0
Tandem axle group fitted with dual tyres	16.5
Tri axle group fitted with dual tyres	20.0

¹ Exemptions may be available for vehicles fitted with Front Underrun Protection Systems (FUPS) or certain steer tyre sizes.

² Load Sharing Suspension System.

Over-mass vehicles

Vehicles and combinations that exceed these statutory mass limits will require permission from Main Roads WA to operate legally on-road.

This permission may be in the form of a permit or an order.

Refer to section 4.1 - Heavy lift tow trucks for further details.

Two axle legal mass limit—15000 kg



Three axle legal mass limit—22500 kg



Four axle legal mass limit—26000 kg



Four axle legal mass limit with LSS*—27500 kg



3.2 Heavy vehicle dimensions and loading requirements

Dimensions of certain vehicles

A vehicle and its load must not exceed a size limit set for the vehicle.

Width of certain vehicles

A motor vehicle, trailer or any vehicle in a combination must not be over 2.5 m wide.

Length of motor vehicles

A motor vehicle, except an articulated or controlled access bus, must not be over 12.5 m long.

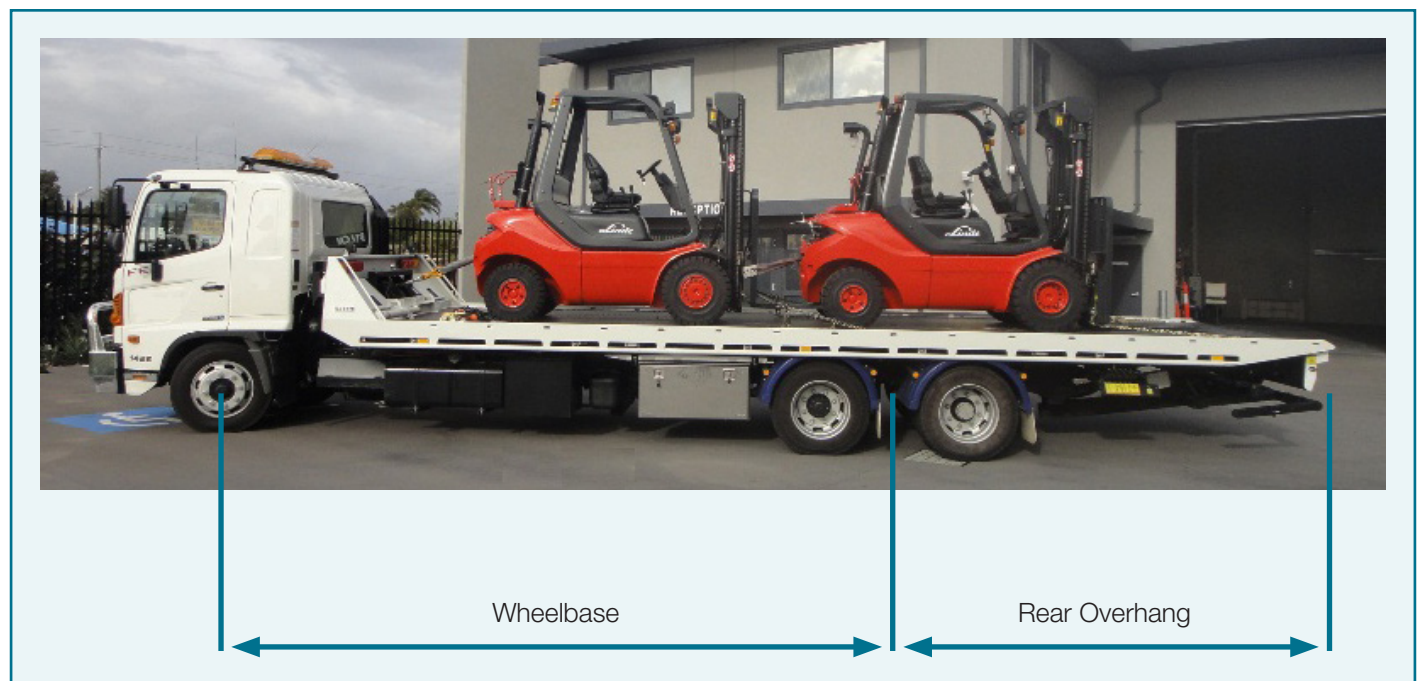
Length of combinations

A combination (except B-double, road train and vehicle carrier with two or more decks) must not be over 19 m long.

Rear overhang

The rear overhang of a vehicle must not exceed the lesser of:

- 60% of the distance between the centre of the front axle and the rear overhang line; and
- 3.7 m.



Height of certain vehicles

A motor vehicle, trailer or any vehicle in a combination must not be over 4.3 m high (except a stock trailer or double decker bus).

Heavy vehicle size limits

The distance measured at right angles between the rear overhang line of a vehicle and the rear of its load must not exceed the rear overhang that the vehicle is allowed under regulation 175.

Front and side projections of heavy vehicles

A load on a vehicle must not project more than 1.2 m in front of the vehicle, or more than 150 mm from the outermost part of either side of it.

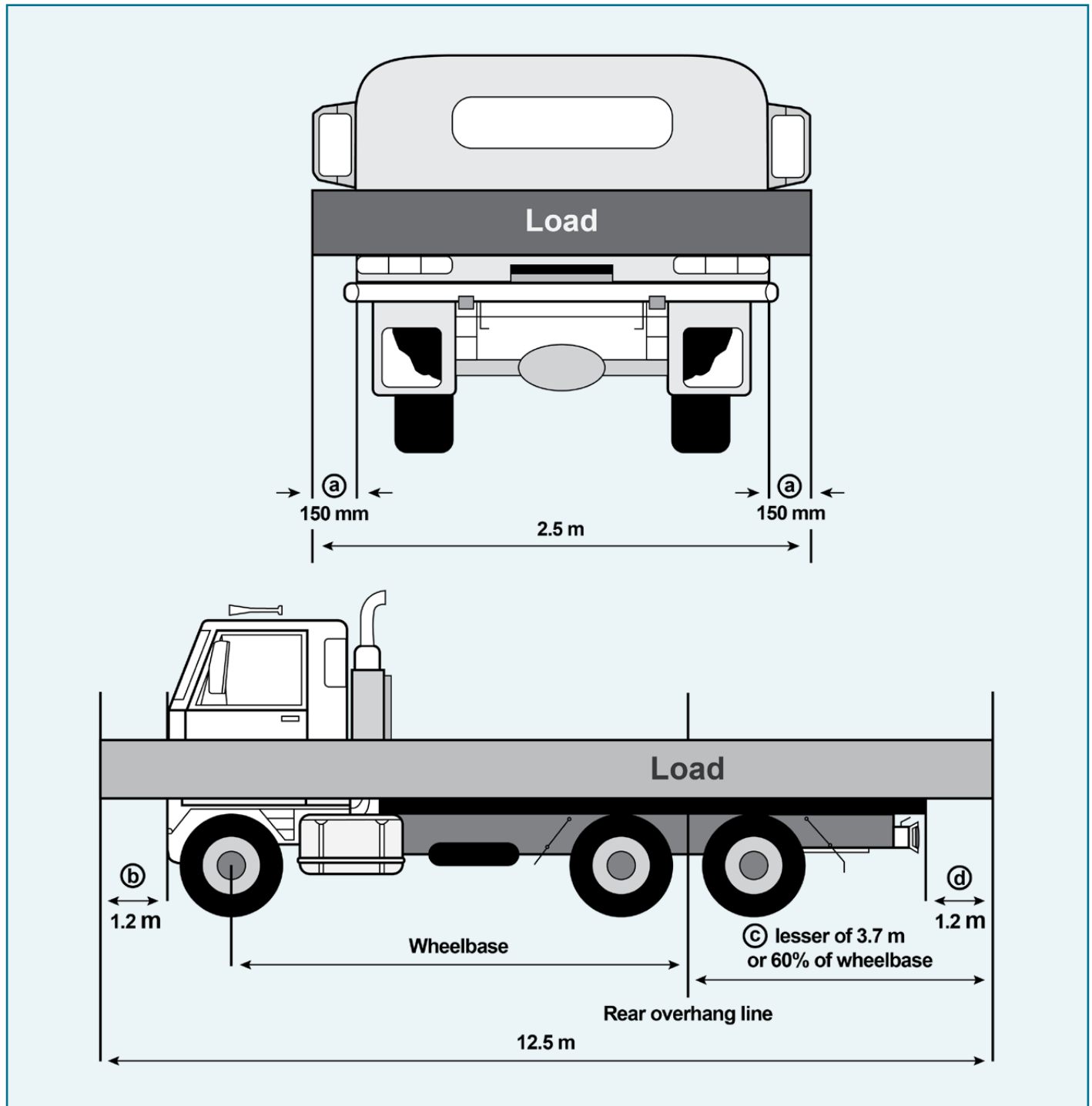


Illustration of — a) side projection limit b) front projection limit; c) rear overhang limit from the Vehicle Standards; d) and maximum rear projection of [load allowed].

Warning signals for loads projecting to rear of heavy vehicles

The rear of a load on a vehicle must carry a warning signal if the load

- projects more than 1.2 m behind the vehicle; or
- projects to the rear of the vehicle so that the end of the load cannot be seen easily from behind.

In daytime, the warning signal must be a brightly coloured flag or piece of material, with each side at least 300 mm long.

At night-time, the warning signal must be a light showing a clear red light visible at a distance of 200 m.



Dangerous projections

A load on a vehicle must not project in a way that is dangerous to a person or to property, even if all dimension and warning requirements are complied with at the relevant time.



Placement and securing of loads

A load on a vehicle must not be placed in a way that makes the vehicle unstable or unsafe and must be secured in accordance with the guidelines and performance standards for the safe carriage of loads on road vehicles set out in the Load Restraint Guide.

Load Restraint Guide means the document entitled Load Restraint Guide Second Edition 2004 and published by the National Transport Commission established by the *National Transport Commission Act 2003* (Commonwealth) section 5.

Oversize vehicles

Vehicles and combinations that exceed these statutory dimension limits will require permission from Main Roads WA to operate legally on-road. This permission may be in the form of a permit or an order.

Refer to Section 4.1 - Heavy lift tow trucks for further details.

3.3 Heavy vehicle lights and reflectors

Tail lights

A motor vehicle, trailer or any vehicle in a combination must have at least one tail light fitted on or towards the rear of the vehicle. The centre of a tail light must not be over 1.5 m above ground level; or 2.1 m above ground level (if it is not practicable to fit the light lower).

Number plate lights

A number plate light must illuminate the rear number plate with a white light, so that the characters can be read 20 m from the rear of the vehicle at night. A number plate light must not project white light to the rear of the vehicle except by reflection.

Clearance lights

Rear clearance lights may be fitted only to a motor vehicle, trailer or any vehicle in a combination that is at least 1.8 m wide.

A pair of rear clearance lights must be fitted to the rear of a vehicle that is at least 2.2 m wide. The centre of a rear clearance light must be not over 400 mm from the nearer side of the vehicle; and at least 600 mm above ground level.

When on, a rear clearance light must show a red light visible 200 m from the rear of the vehicle; and not use over 7 W power.

Side marker lights

A pair of side marker lights must be fitted towards the rear of the sides of a motor vehicle that is over 7.5 m long and at least 2.2 m wide.

At least two side marker lights must be fitted to each side of a semi-trailer that is not over 7.5 m long.

At least three side marker lights must be fitted to each side of a semi-trailer that is over 7.5 m long.

Brake lights

A pair of brake lights must be fitted to the rear of a motor vehicle built after 1959 that has four or more wheels; and a trailer built after June 1973.

The centre of a brake light must be at least 350 mm above ground level; and not over 1.5 m above ground level; or 2.1 m above ground level if it is not practicable to fit the light lower.

Indicator lights

A motor vehicle built after August 1966 with four or more wheels must have a pair of direction indicator lights fitted on or towards its front that face forwards; and a pair of direction indicator lights fitted on or towards its rear that face backwards.

Rear reflectors

A motor vehicle with four or more wheels and a trailer must have a rear-facing red reflector towards each side of its rear. The centre of each reflector must be at the same height above ground level; and not over 1.5 m above ground level.

A reflector fitted to a motor vehicle with four or more wheels or to a trailer must not be over 400 mm from the nearer side of the vehicle.



PART 4

Permits and Exemptions

4.1 Heavy lift tow trucks

Tow trucks are not exempt from statutory mass and dimension requirements. If a tow truck exceeds a statutory mass or dimension limit, they must operate in accordance with an appropriate permit.

The available Heavy Lift Tow Truck Over Mass Period Permits provide extra mass limits on tandem and tri drive axle groups for an approved tow truck, when towing a vehicle on a public road in WA.

Prior to applying for this permit, you must have your tow truck inspected and approved by DoT.

To arrange to have your tow truck inspected, contact the Vehicle Safety & Standards section of DoT via email: vsp@transport.wa.gov.au

Once you have obtained approval from DoT, you must provide this with your permit application.

For further information, as well as other permit options for tow trucks, such as a Class 1 Oversize Period Permit and a Single Trip Permit, contact the Heavy Vehicles section of Main Roads WA.

Phone: 138 HVO (138 486)

Website: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

Over-mass and oversize vehicles

A permit or order is required from Main Roads when driving a Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) on a public road. A vehicle or vehicle combination exceeding any of the statutory limits detailed below is a RAV and must be operated in accordance with a permit or order.

- 2.5 metres in width;
- 4.3 metres in height;
- 12.5 metres in length without the towed vehicle connected;
- 19 metres in length with the towed vehicle connected;
- 42.5 tonnes gross mass;
- 6.5 tonnes on the steer axle with tyres less than 375 mm wide;
- 7.0 tonnes on the steer axle with tyres at least 375 mm wide (GVM > 22.5 tonnes only);
- 10 tonnes on a twin steer axle group with non-load sharing suspension;
- 11 tonnes on a twin steer axle group with load sharing suspension and tyres less than 375 mm wide;
- 12 tonnes on a twin steer axle group with load sharing suspension and tyres at least 375 mm wide (GVM > 22.5 tonnes only);
- 9 tonnes on a single axle with dual tyres;
- 16.5 tonnes on a tandem axle group with dual tyres; or
- 20 tonnes on a tri or quad axle group, with dual tyres.

4.2 Road Traffic Code 2000 – Exemptions for tow trucks

Lights and towed vehicles

A person must not tow a vehicle, during the hours of darkness or in hazardous weather conditions restricting visibility, unless it is equipped with the appropriate lights as prescribed by the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*, and the lights are lit.

The driver of a tow truck must not tow a vehicle unless it is fitted with the equipment referred to in the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* regulation 410(2) and such equipment is operating correctly in accordance with the Vehicle Standards.

The statement above does not apply to the driver of a tow truck if:

- the driver is towing a disabled vehicle carrying a placard load of dangerous goods to a place that is safely off the carriageway; and
- a vehicle carrying a warning to other traffic is following immediately behind the disabled vehicle.

In the above:

dangerous goods

has the meaning given in the *Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007* regulation 28;

placard load

has the meaning given in the *Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007* regulation 4.

Exemption for tow truck drivers

It is a defence to the prosecution of the driver of a tow truck for an offence against a provision listed below if, at the time of the offence:

- the driver is engaged in loading, or connecting to
 - a vehicle at the scene of an accident;
 - a disabled vehicle;
 - a vehicle unsafely or unlawfully parked that the driver is authorised to tow away under another law of this jurisdiction.
- the driver is unable to comply with the provisions listed below;
 - Traffic-control signals (traffic lights and twin alternating red lights)
 - Giving way (Places with a stop sign, stop line, give way sign or give way line applying to the driver)
 - Traffic signs and road markings
 - Roundabouts
 - Keeping left, overtaking and other driving provisions
 - Restrictions on stopping and parking
 - Driving on paths
 - Driving on a nature strip
- the tow truck is displaying a flashing light; and
- the driver is acting safely.

Exemption for certain vehicles displaying flashing warning lights

Regulations prohibiting the use, on a vehicle, of a light displaying intermittent flashes do not extend to the use of a light displaying intermittent yellow flashes upon a tow truck occupying a hazardous position on a road, while stationary or manoeuvring at a speed not exceeding 20 km/h;

Note - The above does not apply to the vehicle hazard warning lights.

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