



Northern Territory of Australia

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Northern Territory of Australia

Motor Vehicles Act 1949

Load Carrying Vehicles Oversize Exemption

I, Cindy-Lee McDonald, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, under section 135(1) of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, exempt the class of motor vehicles identified in Division 1 of the Schedule from the requirements of regulation 19 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003*, and rules 66(1), 68(1)(a), 68(1)(b), 68(2), 69(1)(d), 70(1), 70(4) and 72(1) of Schedule 6 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003*, subject to the conditions set out in Divisions 2 to 13 of the Schedule.

Dated 1 April 2025

C-L. MCDONALD
Registrar of Motor Vehicles

Note: This exemption was granted by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles after having regard to the matters in section 135(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act 1949.

Schedule 1

Division 1 Exempt Class

1. Load carrying motor vehicles which exceed one or more of the maximum vehicle or load dimension requirements specified in regulation 19 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003* or rule 66(1), 68(1)(a) or (b) or (2), 69(1)(d), 70(1) or (4) or 72(1) of Schedule 6 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003* because the vehicle carries, or is designed to carry, an indivisible oversize item.

Division 2 Vehicle

The vehicle and combination

2. The vehicle must have its headlights switched on to low beam at all times while travelling.
3. The vehicle must be suitable for the load, and must have appropriate axle ground contact width for the stability of wide and/or high loads.
4. A copy of this exemption must be carried in the vehicle at all times and must be presented by the driver to the Registrar, an inspector or an officer on request.

Empty Travel

5. An unladen low loader, low loader dolly, house removal trailer, load platform or jinker must not be constructed wider than:
 - (a) 2.5m where there are 4 tyres on each axle; or
 - (b) 2.7m where there are 8 tyres on each axle; or
 - (c) 3.5m for a load platform where the ATM is 100t or greater; or
 - (d) 3.5m for a house removal trailer; or
 - (e) 3.5m for a load platform or module used to form a load platform.

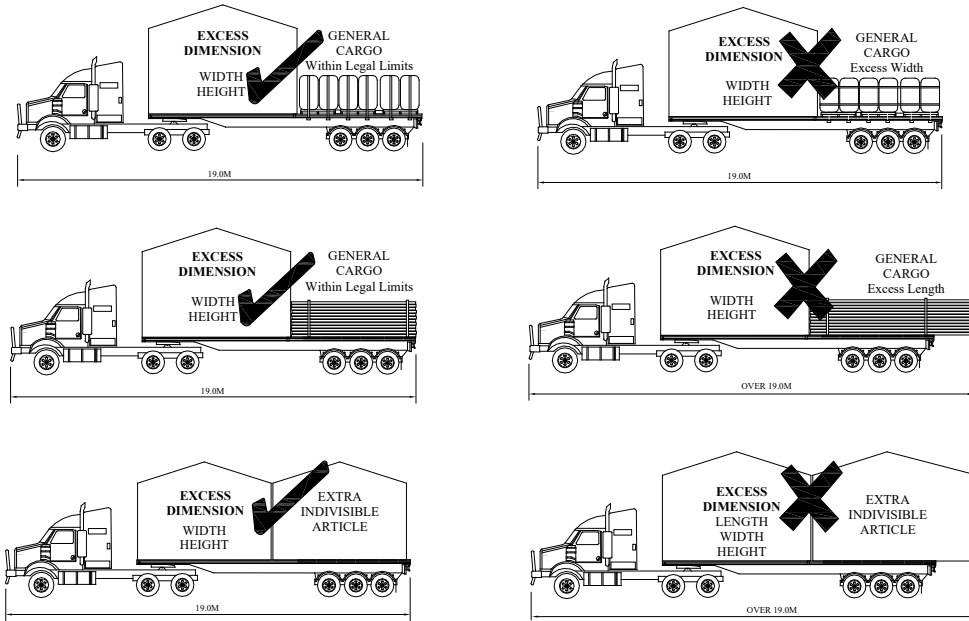
Division 3 Load

The load

6. The motor vehicle may only carry a load that consists of:
 - (a) one indivisible oversize item only; or
 - (b) multiple items (at least one of which is an indivisible oversize item) if the dimensions of the divisible items loaded together with the vehicle do not exceed any of the following:
 - (i) 2.5m wide when the items are loaded side by side; and
 - (ii) 4.3m high when the items are loaded one on top of the other; and
 - (iii) 12.3m from the king pin to rear of the load when the items are loaded one behind the other on a trailer; and
 - (iv) 12.5m overall length when the items are loaded one behind the other on a motor vehicle; and

- (v) rear overhang length of the lesser of 3.7m or 60% of the wheel base, when the items are loaded one behind the other.

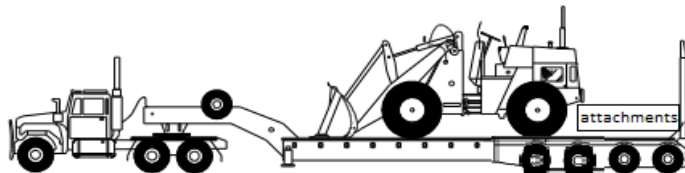
Example for clause 6(b)



An indivisible oversize item that exceeds a height and width requirement in the exempt provisions, but not a length requirement, may be carried together with a second item that exceeds the height and width requirements to the same or a lesser extent, provided this does not result in a length requirement also being exceeded.

7. For clause 6, an indivisible oversize item of plant or machinery carried together with equipment, tools, substances or detached parts essential for the use of that plant or machinery is taken to be a single indivisible oversize item.

Example for clause 7 - A bucket may be carried in conjunction with an excavator; a blade may be carried in conjunction with a dozer; or drill rods may be carried with a drill rig.



8. The dimensions of the load must be made as small as is practicable.
9. If the load can be safely loaded in more than one way, it must be loaded in a way that minimises the width as far as practicable.

10. The load must be loaded on the vehicle in a way that:
- (a) keeps the centre of gravity as low as possible.
 - (b) minimises rear overhang.

Division 4 Height

Maximum height

11. Subject to clause 6, the height of the vehicle and the indivisible load must not exceed the height specified for the route being travelled in Table 1.

Table 1 – Maximum Height

Route (Corridor)	Maximum Height	Load
Stuart Hwy (inclusive of Railway Terrace, Telegraph Terrace and Paterson St) from Hook Rd Darwin to SA/NT Border	5.6m	
Stuart Hwy from Hook Rd Darwin to QLD/NT Border via Barkly Hwy	5.6m	
Stuart Hwy from Hook Rd Darwin to WA/NT Border via Victoria Hwy	5.6m	
WA/NT Border to QLD/NT Border via Victoria, Bi-Centennial Rd, St Hwy, Barkly Hwy	5.6m	
Arnhem Hwy from Stuart Hwy to Kakadu Hwy to Stuart Hwy	5.6m	
Darwin Rural – Virginia Rd, Girraween Rd,	5.3m	
Darwin Urban – Stuart Hwy to Hook Rd, Berrimah Rd (from Tiger Brennan) to East Arm Port, Amy Johnston, Bagot Rd, McMillian Rd, Nightcliff Rd, Lee Point Rd, Wishart Rd, Channel Island Rd, Tiger Brennan Drive, Woolner Rd, Elrundie Ave	5.3m	
Katherine – Zimin Drive to Florina Rd, Florina Rd, Emungalan Rd	5.3m	
Tennant Creek – Stanley St, Orlando Rd, Warrego Rd	5.3m	
Alice Springs – Stott Terrace, Railway Terrace (Stuart Hwy), Telegraph Terrace (Stuart Hwy), Larapinta Drive, Lovegrove Drive, Smith St	5.3m	

12. Where the height exceeds 4.9m, a trailer with a maximum deck height of 1.2m must be used.

Division 5 Length

Overall length

13. Subject to clause 6, the overall length of the vehicle or combination, including the load must not exceed the length specified for the vehicle type in **Table 2**.

Table 2 – Maximum Length

Vehicle Type	Maximum Length
Rigid truck with single trailer	30.0m
Prime mover with single semi-trailer, low loader (with or without dolly), or platform trailer	30.0m

14. Where a prime mover or rigid truck hauling a single semi-trailer or low loader, with or without a dolly, exceeds 19.0m long, a warning sign must be displayed at the rear of the combination.

Extendable semi-trailers

15. A maximum of two (2) extendable semi-trailers may be used in combination.
16. A combination with up to two (2) extendable semi-trailers must not exceed 53.5m overall length.
17. Extendable semi-trailers must be:
- (a) closed to the minimum length:
 - (i) for all empty travel; and
 - (ii) where the load does not require an extended deck length; or
 - (b) extended as far as practicable to minimise any rear overhang and or rear projection.

Rear overhang

18. Subject to clause 6, the rear overhang of any load on a prime mover with a single semi-trailer, low loader (with or without a dolly) or platform trailer must not exceed 5.5 m or 25% of the trailer's overall length, whichever is lesser.

19. Where the rear overhang exceeds the lesser of 3.7m or 60% of the wheelbase:
- (a) a warning sign must be displayed at the front and rear of the combination; and
 - (b) a warning flag must be fitted to the extremities of the load; and
 - (c) all trailer lighting (brake lights, tail lights, turn signals, marker lights) must be clearly visible and no more than 300mm forward of the rear of the load.

Note: Additional lighting may be fitted at the rear of the load to comply with (c).

20. Clause 19(c) does not apply if an oversize load pilot travels behind the load at all times.

Note: See Division 8 of this schedule for further information on oversize pilots.

Projecting loads

21. Any load must not project more than 1.2m from the front of the vehicle.
22. Where the load projects more than 1.2m from the rear of the vehicle:
- (a) a warning flag must be fitted to the extremities of the load; and
 - (b) travelling during the hours of darkness, a red light must be fitted to the rear of the load and be seen for at least 200 metres from the rear.
23. Where a load which is less than 500mm thick projects more than 150mm from either side of the vehicle:
- (a) delineators must be fitted in each corner of the load facing to the front and rear; and
 - (b) warning flags must be fitted to the extremities of the load; and
 - (c) a warning light must be attached to the front and rear of the vehicle and load.

Division 6 Width

Maximum width

24. Subject to clause 6, the width of the vehicle and the indivisible load must not exceed the width specified for the vehicle type in **Table 3**.

Table 3 – Maximum Width

Vehicle Type	Maximum width
Single rigid truck, or rigid truck with one trailer	3.5m
Rigid truck with two trailers (road train)	3.2m
Prime mover with single semi-trailer or low loader (with or without dolly)	4.5m
Prime mover with two trailers (double road train)	3.5m
Prime mover with three trailers (triple road train)	3.2m
All other vehicles	2.5m

25. Where the load is wider than 2.5m:
- (a) a warning sign must be displayed at the front and rear of the combination;
 - (b) a warning flag must be fitted to the extremities of the load.
26. Where the load is wider than 3.0m a warning light must be attached to the front and rear of the vehicle and load.
27. Where the load exceeds 3.5m wide, an oversize load pilot is required to travel with the load at all times.

Note: See Division 8 of this Schedule for further information on oversize load pilots.

Division 8 Oversize Load Pilot

Oversize load pilot requirements

28. An oversize load pilot must drive a pilot vehicle.
29. One oversize load pilot is required to travel with any load which exceeds 3.5m wide at all times.
30. Two oversize load pilots are required where:
 - (a) the load exceeds 3.5m wide; and
 - (b) the driver has no clear view to the rear along both sides of the vehicle; and
 - (c) the load is travelling within the Darwin or Alice Springs urban areas.
31. An oversize load pilot must have radio communication with the driver of the oversize load, and any other oversize pilots involved in the movement of the load.
32. An oversize load pilot must travel behind the load if the rear overhang of a load exceeds the lesser of 3.7m or 60% of the wheelbase, and
 - (a) all trailer lighting (brake lights, tail lights, turn signals, marker lights) are not clearly visible; and
 - (b) within 300mm forward of the rear of the load.

Note: For more information relating to Oversize Pilot and Escort requirements can be found in The Northern Territory Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Overmass vehicles, published in the heavy vehicle section of the Northern Territory Government website.

Division 9 Routes of Travel

Routes of Travel

33. The vehicle must only travel on the following routes:
 - (a) the Road Train and Oversize Load Routes defined in *Appendix B* of the Northern Territory *Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles*;
 - (b) the Stuart Highway;
 - (c) the Arnhem Highway;
 - (d) the Buntine Highway;
 - (e) the Buchannan Highway;

- (f) the Tanami Road;
- (g) the Victoria Highway;
- (h) the Barkly Highway;
- (i) the Tablelands Highway;
- (j) the Carpentaria Highway;

Note 1: A trip specific permit of exemption must be obtained to travel overmass on any other route.

Note 2: All routes are subject to restrictions as published by the Department.

Division 10 Travel Restrictions

34. Where the load is wider than 2.5m the vehicle must not travel:
- (a) during the hours of darkness (sunset to sunrise); or
 - (b) during adverse weather conditions; or
 - (c) during the curfew hours of 0700 – 0900 and 1600 – 1800 from Monday to Friday in the Alice Springs or Darwin urban or built-up areas.
35. Despite clause 34(c), a vehicle of a type and width specified in **Table 4** may travel in urban or built-up areas during curfew hours during the times and on the routes specified for the vehicle in the table.

Table 4 – Curfew Travel Conditions

CURFEW TRAVEL PERMITTED				
Time (Monday to Friday)	Width of load	Vehicle type	Direction	Route/s (subject to clause 36)
0700 - 0900	Up to 3.2m	Road train – 3 trailers	Southernly (Outbound from Darwin City) to the Arnhem Highway and	Berrimah Road, Stuart Highway, Brennan Drive, Tiger
	Up to 3.5m	Road train – 2 trailers only		
	Up to 4.5m	Prime mover with single semi-trailer or low		

		loader (with or without dolly) up to 30m in length	Stuart Highway Intersection	
1600 - 1800	Up to 3.2m	Road train – 3 trailers	Northernly (Inbound toward Darwin City) from the Arnhem Highway and Stuart Highway Intersection	Stuart Highway, Tiger Brennan Drive, Berrimah Road
	Up to 3.5m	Road train – 2 trailers only		
	Up to 4.5m	Prime mover with single semi-trailer or low loader (with or without dolly) up to 30m in length		

36. When travelling during curfew hours in accordance with **Table 4**:

- (a) access to Berrimah Road from the industrial estates of Berrimah and East Arm industrial precinct is only permitted via recommended oversize routes; and
- (b) access to Tiger Brennan Drive (south of Berrimah Road) from the industrial areas of Tivendale and Wishart is only permitted via recommended oversize routes; and
- (c) access to travel in southern direction on the Stuart Highway from Pinelands and Yarrowonga industrial estates is only permitted via the recommended oversize route at the Deviney Road and Temple Terrace traffic light intersections.

Note: For more information relating to recommended road train and oversize routes can be found in Appendix B of the Northern Territory Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles, published in the heavy vehicle section of the Northern Territory Government website.

Division 11 Night travel

37. Despite clause 34(a), a vehicle with a load that is no more than 3.1m wide, and that is:

- (a) a prime mover hauling a single semi-trailer (including a low loader with or without a dolly), with a combination length of no more than 30m long; or
- (b) a rigid truck; or
- (c) a rigid truck hauling a single trailer, with a combination length of no more than 30m;

may travel during the hours of darkness, but only at times when the warning devices specified in clause 38 are fitted, and only on the roads specified in clauses 39 and 40.

38. A vehicle described in clause 37, must be fitted with the following warning devices if it is travelling during the hours of darkness:

- (a) warning lights fitted front of the vehicle and rear of the load that emit a rotating, flashing, yellow coloured light clearly visible at a distance of 500m; and
- (b) lights showing yellow to the front and red to the rear (known as “side markers”), no more than 2 metres apart along both sides of the vehicle or load; and
- (c) yellow or white lights (known as “front clearance lights”) one each side of the front of the load or trailer not over 400 millimetres from the outer edge of the widest part of the load or trailer, clearly visible to oncoming traffic; and
- (d) red lights (known as “rear clearance lights”) one each side of the rear of the load or trailer not over 400 millimetres from the outer edge of the widest part of the load or trailer, clearly visible to following traffic; and
- (e) if carrying a load that is not contained within the confines of the vehicle, flood lights attached to the load or the trailer, directed upward at the extremities of the load in a manner so as not to dazzle any driver;

39. A vehicle described in clause 37 must only travel on the following sections of the following roads while travelling during the hours of darkness:

- (a) the section of the Barkly Highway between the Queensland border and the intersection with the Stuart Highway;

- (b) the section of the Tanami Road between the Western Australia border and the entrance to the Granites Gold Mine;
 - (c) the section of the Stuart Highway between the South Australian border and the intersection with Berrimah Road;
 - (d) the section of the Victoria Highway between the Western Australia border and the intersection with the Stuart Highway;
 - (e) the section of Tiger Brennan Drive between the intersection with Berrimah Road and the entry (or exit) to (or from) the Stuart Highway;
 - (f) the entire length of the Arnhem Highway.
40. In addition to the sections of road specified in clause 39, a vehicle described in clause 37 may access the Stuart Highway or Tiger Brennan Road during the hours of darkness, via roads identified in Map 1, Map 2, Map 3 and Map 4 in appendix B of the Northern Territory Permit guidelines for Oversize and Overmass Vehicles.

Division 12 Road and Infrastructure Conditions

Road Conditions

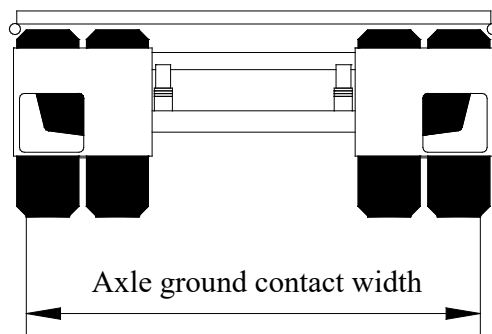
- 41. The NT Road Report must be consulted online at <http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/roadreport/> or via phone on 1800 246 199 prior to travelling on any route.
- 42. The vehicle must not travel on any roads or structures that have been damaged (for example by floods, submergence or subsidence).

Division 13 Definitions

43. In this Schedule:

adverse weather conditions means conditions such as (but not limited to) rain, dust, smoke, etc that reduce visibility.

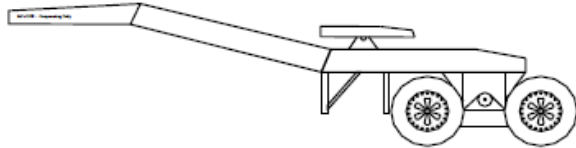
axle ground contact width means the distance between the outside of the two outer tyres of the same axle where they contact the ground.



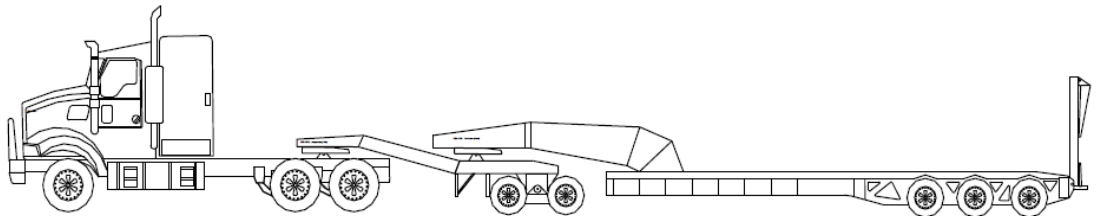
built-up area in relation to a length of road, means an area in which either of the following is present for a distance of at least 500 metres or, if the length of road is shorter than 500 metres, for the whole road:

- (a) buildings, not over 100 metres apart, on land next to the road;
- (b) street lights not over 100 metres apart.

low loader dolly means a dolly (also known as a compensating dolly) designed to distribute mass, which is coupled to a prime mover's fifth wheel and a low loader's king pin.

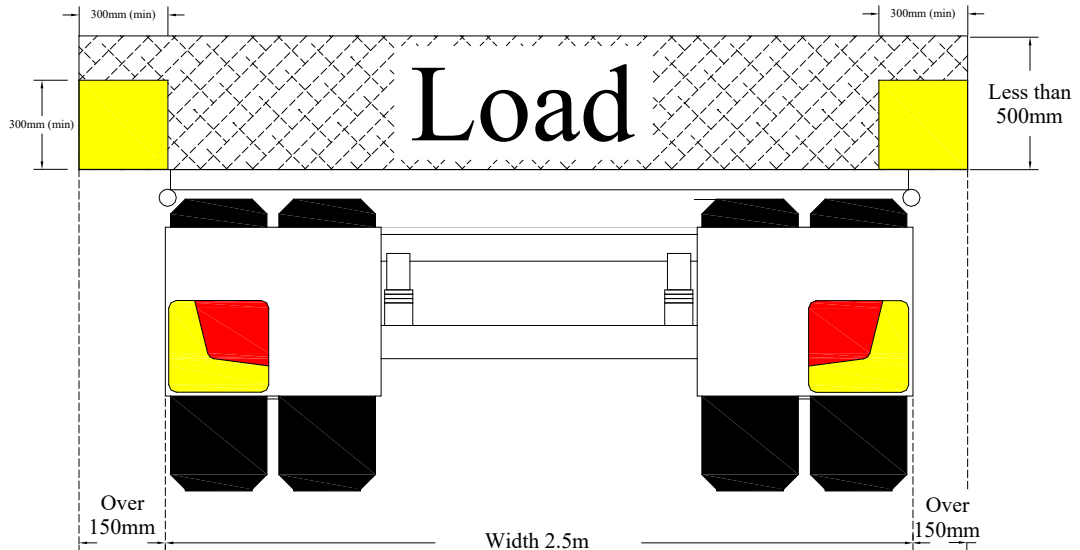


low loader or compensating dolly



prime mover hauling a low loader with a low loader or compensating dolly

delineator means a flat, rigid yellow piece of material measuring at least 300 x 300mm square, and complying with class 1 or 2 of Australian Standard AS1906.1:2007 “Retro-reflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes” as amended.



delineators

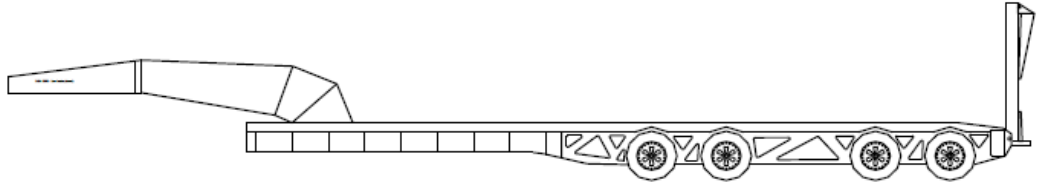
extendable semi-trailer means a semi-trailer with a chassis that can be extended to increase the distance between the king pin and the axle group, allowing for longer loads.

hours of darkness means the time each day between sunset and sunrise as published.

indivisible oversize item means an item:

- (a) that cannot, without disproportionate effort, expense or risk of damage, be divided into two or more loads for the purpose of transport on public roads; and
- (b) that is too large to be carried in a way that complies with all the dimension requirements specified in clause 1.

low loader means a semi-trailer with a loading deck no more than 1m above the ground.

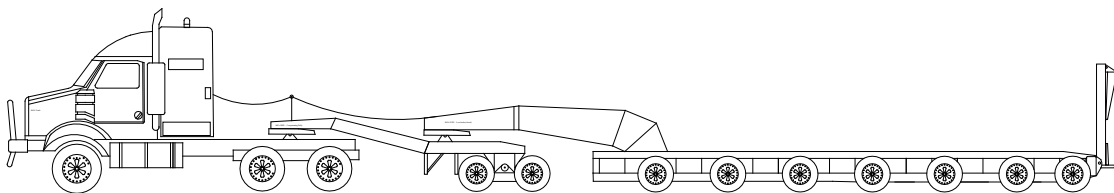


low loader

oversize load pilot means the holder of a current “C” class driver’s licence (minimum) operating a fully compliant Pilot Vehicle that meets all requirements defined in the *Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles*.

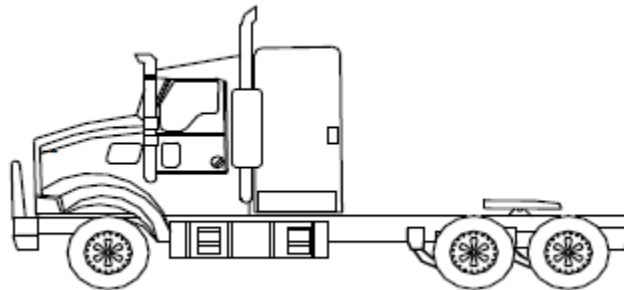
pilot vehicle means a vehicle complying with all the specifications in sections 3.7 and 3.8 of the *Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles*.

platform trailer means a trailer with at least 5 axles at even spacings along the length of the trailer. Platform trailers may be connected to the prime mover via a gooseneck or drawbar type coupling. A platform trailer may also be of a modular construction.



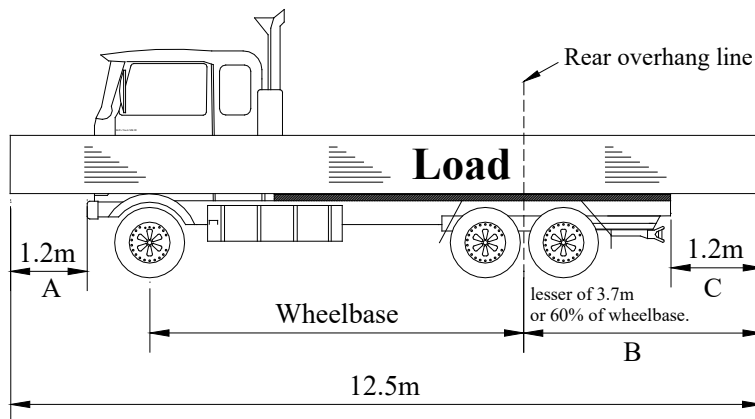
Platform trailer with gooseneck type coupling, being hauled by prime mover and platform trailer

prime mover means a truck designed to have a semi-trailer attached via a fifth wheel coupling (or drawbar type coupling in the case of a platform trailer), and which does not have any other means to carry a load.

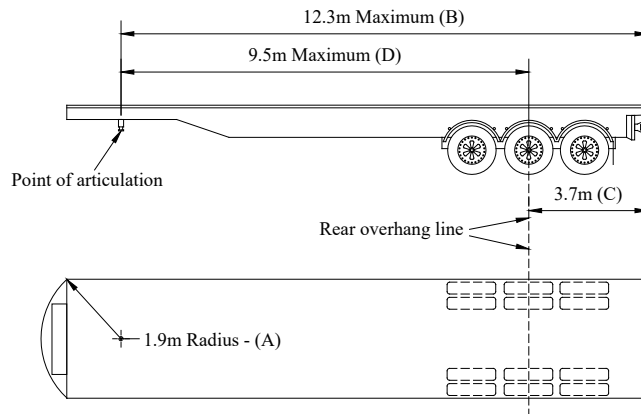


prime mover

rear overhang means the distance measured at right angles between the rear overhang line of a vehicle and the rear of the vehicle or any load it is carrying.

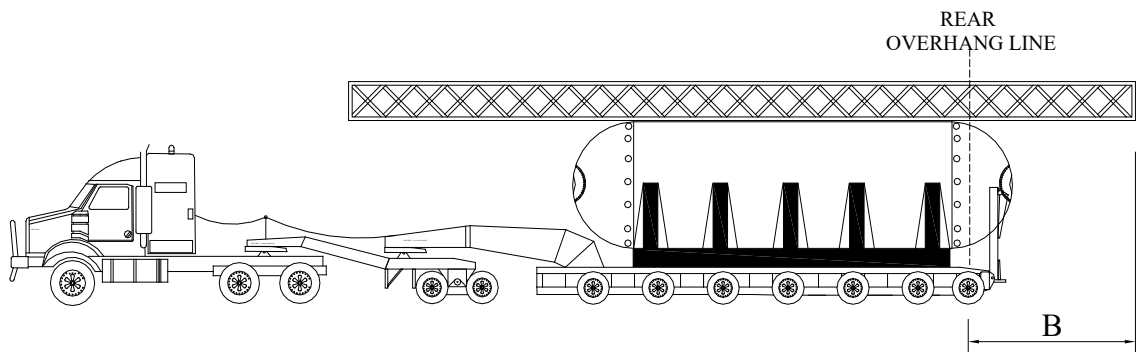


Rear overhang (B) of a rigid truck



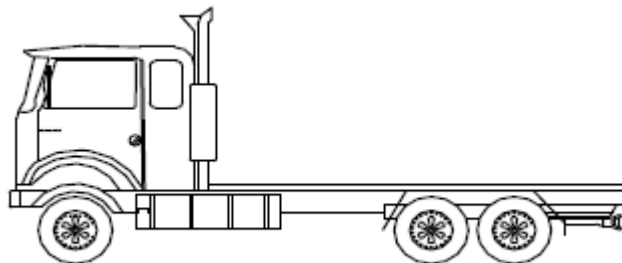
Maximum standard dimensions of a semi-trailer

rear overhang (C) of a semi-trailer



rear overhang (B) of a platform trailer

rigid truck means a truck which has a body constructed to take a load.



rigid truck

semi-trailer means a trailer (including a pole-type trailer) that has:

- (a) 1 axle group or single axle to the rear; and
- (b) a means of attachment to a prime mover that results in some of the load being imposed on the prime mover.

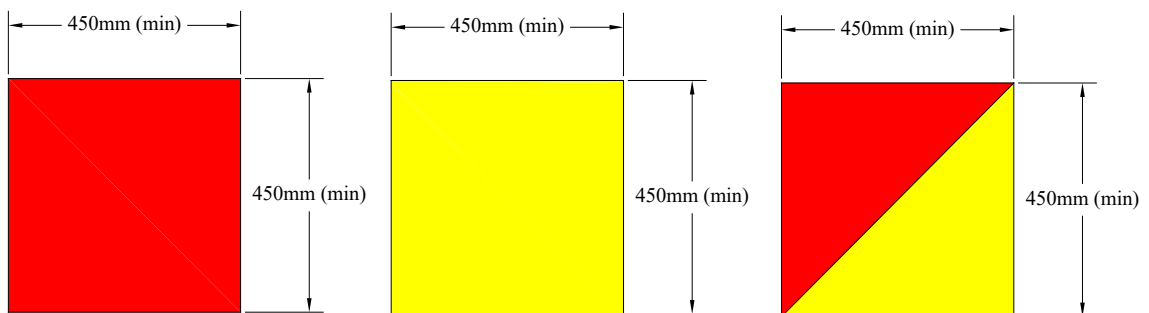


semi-trailer

urban areas means:

- (a) In Alice Springs – the road network area between Heavitree Gap in the South and the Sargent Street/Stuart Hwy intersection in the North.
- (b) In Darwin – the road network area northern side of the Arnhem Hwy/Stuart Hwy intersection.

warning flag means a brightly coloured red, yellow, or red and yellow flag complying with the specifications in section 3.9 of the *Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles*.



example warning flags

warning light means a rotating/flashing yellow light complying with the specifications in section 3.8 of the *Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles*.

warning sign means an Oversize Vehicle Sign complying with the specifications in section 3.9 of the *Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Over-mass Vehicles*.

