

# V75 Heavy vehicle steer axle mass

## Information Bulletin

### Introduction

The mass limits for single steer axles and twinsteer axle groups on vehicles are prescribed under regulation 7(b) of the *Motor Vehicle (Standards) Regulations 2003* as follows in **Table 1**.

Single Steer Axle	6.0 tonnes
Twinsteer Axle Group (without a load-sharing suspension system)	10.0 tonnes
Twinsteer Axle Group (with a load-sharing suspension system)	11.0 tonnes

### Exemption Scheme

Under the Northern Territory's steer axle mass exemption scheme (the Scheme), the masses in **Table 1** may be exceeded under certain circumstances.

Under some of these circumstances, exemptions are provided at no cost via an instrument of exemption published in the Government Gazette. Operators of vehicles eligible for these exemptions do not need to make an application, or carry any documentation in the vehicle.

Under other circumstances, exemptions are provided via an individual permit of exemption where the operator must apply and pay a fee before the permit can be issued.

The mass on any axle cannot exceed the mass limit rating set by the manufacturer of the vehicle, any wheel or tyre, or any axle or suspension component as set by its manufacturer.

For an overview of the NT heavy vehicle steer axle mass permit scheme, see **Table 2** over leaf.

**Table 2 - Overview of steer axle mass exemption scheme**

Exemption number <i>(see notes)</i>	Steer axle type	Maximum mass	Minimum tyre size	Permit	Fee
1	Single steer axle on a vehicle with a GVM of 15 tonnes or more, meeting certain emission and safety criteria	6.5 t	n/a	No	No
2	Twinsteer axle group with a load-sharing suspension system on a road train rated vehicle	12.0 t	375mm	No	No
3	Single steer axle on a road train rated vehicle	6.5 t	295mm	No	No
4	Single steer axle on a road train rated vehicle	7.1 t	375mm	No	No
5	Single steer axle on a road train rated vehicle	7.2 t	375mm	Yes	Yes

## Exemption Number 1

### Criteria:

1. Gross Vehicle Mass of 15.0 tonnes or more;
2. Engine that complies with the emission control requirements of Australian Design Rule 80/01 (or a later version);
3. Front underrun protection device that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 93; and
4. Cabin that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 29.

[Appendix A – 6.5 Tonne Steer Axle Mass Exemption \(Copy\)](#)

## Exemption Numbers 2, 3 and 4

### Criteria:

Vehicle must be identified as a road train rated vehicle.

For the purposes of these exemptions, a road train vehicle is a vehicle which:

1. if manufactured on or after 1 July 1991 –
  - a. is certified as complying with ADR 64, and –
  - b. has the words “ROAD TRAIN” marked on a vehicle plate affixed to the vehicle, in accordance with ADR 61; or
  - c. has the code S8 marked on a modification plate affixed to the vehicle, approved in accordance with the heavy vehicle modification scheme in the state or territory where the modification plate was affixed; or
2. if manufactured before 1 July 1991 -
  - a. is approved for use in a road train combination by the vehicle registration authority in the state or territory where the vehicle is registered.

### [Appendix B – Road Train Steer Axle Mass Exemption \(Copy\)](#)

## Exemption Number 5

### Criteria:

In applying for a permit, operators must provide evidence that a vehicle is road train rated and that the vehicle’s steer axle assembly is suitably rated for the required mass.

Acceptable evidence includes:

- a. a manufacturer’s rating letter; or
- b. an approved modification plate and/or certificate issued by a registration authority or the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

Any acceptable evidence must identify the vehicle by its vehicle identification number.

### [VS75 Steer axle permit application form](#)

Form attached with this bulletin.

## Appendix A – 6.5 Tonne Steer Axle Mass Exemption (Copy)

NT Gazette Notice (G15, 15 April 2015)

### NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

#### *Motor Vehicles Act*

#### EXEMPTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES (STANDARDS) REGULATIONS

##### 6.5 Tonne Steering Mass Exemption

I, PAUL NATHAN RAJAN, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to section 135 of the *Motor Vehicles Act*, exempt a single steer axle of a vehicle with a gross vehicle mass of 15 tonnes or over from the application of regulation 7(b) of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations* subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the mass carried on the steer axle does not exceed 6.5 tonnes;
- (b) the vehicle must have appropriately rated wheels, tyres, axle and suspension to allow a mass of 6.5 tonnes to be carried on the steer axle;
- (c) the vehicle must be fitted with:
  - i. an engine that complies with the emission control requirements of Australian Design Rule 80/01 (or a later version); and
  - ii. a front underrun protection device that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 93; and
  - iii. a cabin that complies with UN ECE Regulation No. 29.

Dated 8 April 2015

P.N. Rajan  
Registrar of Motor Vehicles

## Appendix B – Road Train Steer Axle Mass Exemption (Copy)

NT Gazette Notice (G32, 12 August 2020)

Northern Territory of Australia

*Motor Vehicles Act 1949*

### Road Train Steer Axle Mass Exemption

I, Simon Phillip Saunders, Registrar of Motor Vehicles:

- a) under section 59(2) of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, and with reference to section 43 of the Interpretation Act 1978, revoke the exemptions made in the instrument titled “Road Train Steer Axle Mass Exemption”, dated 14 May 2019 and published in Gazette No. S35 on 15 May 2019; and
- b) under section 59(2) of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949* exempt the class of vehicles identified in Item 1 of the Schedule to this instrument (referred to in this instrument as “Exempt Class”), from regulation 7 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003* in so far as it provides for a maximum load limit for vehicles fitted with a single steer axle or a twinsteer axle group with a load-sharing suspension system, on the conditions specified in Item 3 of the Schedule to this instrument.

Dated 6 August 2020

S. P. Saunders  
Registrar of Motor Vehicles

### Schedule

1. **Exempt Class.** Any vehicle which satisfies all of the criteria specified in Item 2 of this Schedule is within the exempt class, but only at those times when all of those criteria are satisfied.
2. **Qualifying Criteria**
  - a) **Criteria 1**
    - (i) If the vehicle has a single steer axle, the tyres fitted to that axle must have a section width of at least 295 mm.
    - (ii) If the vehicle has a twinsteer axle group with a load-sharing suspension system, the four tyres fitted to that axle group must have a section width of at least 375 mm.

b) **Criteria 2**

- (i) If the vehicle was manufactured on or after 1 July 1991, it must have been certified to comply with ADR 64, and satisfy one of the following:
  - (1) have the words "ROAD TRAIN" marked on a vehicle plate affixed to the vehicle, in accordance with ADR 61; or
  - (2) have the code "S8" marked on a modification plate affixed to the vehicle, approved in accordance with the heavy vehicle modification scheme in the state or territory where the modification plate was affixed.
- (ii) If the vehicle was manufactured before 1 July 1991, it must have been approved for use in a road train combination by the vehicle registration authority in the state or territory where the vehicle is registered.

3. **Conditions.** The conditions of the exemption are that the mass carried on the axle or axle group:

- a) must not cause a component part of the axle or axle group and suspension system to exceed the limit specified by the manufacturer of that part; and
- b) must not exceed the lesser of:
  - (i) the mass carrying limit of the axle or axle group and suspension system as set by its manufacturer; or
  - (ii) the mass carrying limit specified in the following table for the type of axle or axle group:

Description of axle or axle group	Mass Limit (tonnes)
Single axle fitted with single tyres with section width of:	
(a) at least 295 mm, but less than 375 mm	6.5 t
(b) at least 375mm	7.1 t
Twinsteer axle group with a load-sharing suspension system, fitted with single tyres with a section width of at least 375mm	12.0t

4. **ADR.** A reference in this instrument to an ADR followed by a number is a reference to a third edition ADR (as defined in Schedule 6 of the *Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations 2003*) of that number, as amended from time to time.

# Steer axle permit application

VS75

Office use only		Customer Id	Receipt Id
All fields are required			
<b>Section 1 - Applicant details</b>			
Applicant			
Address			
Postal address			
Phone		Email	
<b>Section 2 - Vehicle details</b>			
Registration no	Make	Model	
State	GVM	GCM	
<b>Section 3 - Mass details</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 7200kg = <a href="#">Click Here For Fees and Charges</a>			
<b>Section 4 - Type of application - new or renewal</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> New - go to Section 5 (including renewal at greater mass)		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal - go to Section 6 (same or less mass than previous)	
<b>Section 5 - Vehicle rating details</b>			
You must provide evidence that the vehicle's steer axle assembly is appropriately rated for 7200kg			
Evidence of vehicle rating identifying the vehicle by its vehicle identification number:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer's rating letter; or			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved modification plate/certificate			
<b>Approved</b> means approved by:			
i. a State or Territory vehicle registering authority;			
ii. the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator; or			
iii. a person approved or appointed by a State or Territory vehicle registering authority, or the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, to approve heavy vehicle modifications			
<b>Section 6 - Tyre size - minimum steer tyre section width - 375mm</b>			
Tyre size			
<b>Section 7 - Applicant declaration</b>			
By signing below, I declare that that I have the authorisation necessary to make this application and the information in this form is true and correct in every particular.			
Applicant signature		Date	

**Section 8 – How to submit**

Email completed application form to [mvr.permits@nt.gov.au](mailto:mvr.permits@nt.gov.au) - telephone (08) 8951 5263

**Section 9 – Payment options**

<b>Credit card</b> <i>(over the phone transaction)</i>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Telephone or mobile</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Registry Office</b> <i>(pay in person)</i>	<b>Any MVR Office</b> <i>(normal business hours)</i>	
<b>MVR account number</b> <i>(where applicable)</i>		

**Section 10 - Applicant notes**

1. Applicant to fill out all the information required.
2. The exemption granted by a permit shall be null and void where:
  - there has been a failure to disclose a material fact, or
  - there has been any misrepresentation of any material fact on the basis of which an exemption has been granted.
3. If a breach of a permit conditions occurs, the permit will be declared null and void and immediately cancelled.

**Section 11 - Privacy statement**

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to collect information for registrations, licenses and permits under section 92 of the *NT Motor Vehicles Act 1949*. The Registrar adheres to the department's privacy statement and the *Information Act 2002*.

Further information on privacy can be found at [www.dipl.nt.gov.au](http://www.dipl.nt.gov.au)

Official use