

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

V10 – Northern Territory Livestock Loading Scheme

(Effective Date 29 June 2018)

Introduction

The Northern Territory (NT) Livestock Loading Scheme allows for the safe and efficient transport of livestock at optimum loading densities, providing vehicle dimension and safety as well as animal welfare requirements are strictly adhered to.

Who may enter the scheme?

Entry to the scheme is available to both NT and Interstate operators, but is not compulsory. Normal load limits will apply to all other livestock vehicles.

Entry Requirements

NT Registered vehicles and Interstate Registered vehicles that are not participating in a Livestock Loading Scheme in their jurisdiction of registration and are seeking entry to the NT scheme must present each unit (truck, trailer, and dolly) to a Vehicle Standards Centre in Darwin, Katherine or Alice Springs for a Transport Inspector to carry out a specific Livestock Loading technical inspection. Tare mass details are required for each trailer in the combination.

Interstate Registered vehicles that are participating in a Livestock Loading Scheme in their jurisdiction of registration and have evidence of that, do not require a vehicle entry inspection, however may operate at the increased mass limits, provided they have a current NT Livestock Loading Permit.

There is no requirement for on-going annual Livestock Loading vehicle inspections unless the operator advises of changes to the tare mass of a trailer.

Technical Requirements

The NT scheme is open to double decker livestock transport vehicles in either double or triple configuration. All trailers, including dollies, must be fitted with dual tyred axle groups and may be fitted with Road Friendly or Steel Suspension.

Livestock loads are not to exceed 420 kg per square metre of deck space.

For vehicles operating under a current NT Livestock Loading permit of exemption, maximum axle mass limits of 18.5 tonnes on dual tyred tandem axle groups and 25 tonnes on dual tyred tri-axle groups apply.

Inspection and Placarding

All vehicles (truck, trailer, dolly) except those interstate registered vehicles that are participating in a Livestock Loading Scheme in their jurisdiction of registration, must be presented for inspection and assessment against the technical requirements as per **Table 1**.

Note 1: Where the rating or rating/roadworthiness inspection is carried out together with a livestock inspection, a single inspection fee for each unit will apply.

Note 2 Where only a livestock inspection is carried out, separate inspection fees for each unit will apply.

On entry to the scheme, each vehicle will be labelled by Transport Inspectors with a livestock loading sticker to indicate compliance to tare mass and safety rating requirements.

Table 1: Minimum Technical Requirements

	Prime mover	Trailer	Dolly
Gross Vehicle Mass	* 24.5 tonnes	N/A	N/A
Gross Combination Mass	*136.5 tonnes	N/A	N/A
Aggregate Trailer Mass	N/A	40 tonnes	18.5 tonnes
Tow Coupling	N/A	186kN (19 tonnes)	186kN (19 tonnes)
5th Wheel	177 kN (18 tonnes)	N/A	177 kN (18 tonnes)
King Pin	N/A	177 kN (18 tonnes)	N/A

***Note 3:** GVM/GCM does not include exceeding the legal mass on the steer axle.

***Note 4** 136.5 tonnes is for a triple road train combination.

Livestock loading permit and fees

All eligible livestock vehicle operators wishing to transport livestock at increased axle mass limits require a permit of exemption to operate on the NT road network.

Fees for trailers are based on the tare mass of the trailer.

The total of the fee is calculated on the number of trailers and dollies in the combination.

Note 5: A livestock loading permit is inclusive of a steer axle exemption, but is only valid whilst transporting livestock.

Note 6 Refer to Transport fees <https://nt.gov.au/driving/fees>

Further Information

Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) <https://nt.gov.au/driving/driverlicence/motor-vehicle-registry-mvr/find-a-motor-vehicle-registry-mvr-office>

Email Mvr.Permits@nt.gov.au