

FACT SHEET

Introduction

This information sheet provides general information about the operation of B-Doubles in NSW. It aims to assist B-Double owners, operators and drivers by outlining the rules and specifications that generally apply to B-Doubles as detailed in road transport legislation. In particular, this information sheet should be read in conjunction with the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2005* and the *Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005*.

The information in this fact sheet is intended to be a guide only. It is the responsibility of owners/operators/drivers to be aware of the laws which apply to a particular vehicle that is intended to be operated. This information sheet should be read in conjunction with road transport legislation, as defined in Section 5 of the *Road Transport General Act 2005*. The legislation will prevail over any inconsistencies with this fact sheet. NSW legislation can be accessed at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

This fact sheet is limited to B-Doubles which may operate as general access vehicles and B-Doubles that exceed 19 metres in length, to a maximum of 25 metres, which are Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV). This factsheet does not cover the mass limits for B-Doubles travelling at Higher Mass Limits (HML). Information on HML can be found at www.rta.nsw.gov/heavyvehicles/iap/hml.

CLASS 2 B-DOUBLES

A B-Doubles, which exceeds 19 metres in length, to a maximum of 25 metres is a Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV). These vehicles can only operate on routes that have been approved for B-Doubles up to 25 metres, and have been gazetted in the *Class 2 B-Double Notice 2010*.

What documents must be carried?

A copy of the *Class 2 B-Double Notice 2010* (excluding the Appendix), must be carried in the vehicle's driving compartment, and must be produced when requested to do so by an authorised officer such as a RTA Inspector or Police Officer.

All units used in a B-Double must be registered in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth or under the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme.

The driver of a B-Double must hold, and be able to produce, if requested, a driver's licence authorising the driver to drive a B-Double.

Owners/Operators/Drivers should also be aware of other heavy vehicle notices which also may apply to the vehicle.

To access heavy vehicle notices, including the *Class 2 B-Double Notice 2010*, and further information about heavy vehicle licensing and registration please visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles.

OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

Approved routes

RAV B-Doubles may only operate on approved routes and areas provided by the *Class 2 B-Double Notice 2010*. The travel conditions imposed on any approved route or area must be observed.

Deviation from a route may occur in case of an emergency, and only if the vehicle has been exempted by the Authority, pursuant to Clause 75

Road Transport (Mass, Loading & Access Regulation) 2005.

It is responsibility of the owner/operator/driver of a B-Double to find out what routes are approved for B-Doubles.

Approved B-Double routes are published in the *Class 2 B-Double Notice 2010* and are updated in the NSW Government Gazette from time to time. The Government Gazette can be accessed at: www.gazette.nsw.gov.au.

Restricted Access Vehicle maps are also available, and are regularly updated on the RTA's website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles.

Route assessment procedures

Where a proposed route has not been approved an application must be made to the RTA, or to the appropriate local council (for local roads), in accordance with the Restricted Access Vehicle Route Assessment Guidelines which are available on the RTA's website.

For detailed information on routes access please contact the local Regional Route Freight Coordinator via the contact details listed below.

REGION	PHONE	FAX
Sydney	02 8849 2320 0411 438 779	02 8849 2766
Grafton	02 6640 2869 0411 129 298	02 6640 1304
Western	02 6861 1478 0417 259 038	02 6861 1496
Southern	02 4221 2468 0411 018 148	02 4221 2590
Hunter	02 4924 0341	02 4924 0342
South-West	02 6938 1145 0411 129 401	02 6938 1183

Safe travel distance

Unless you are:

- driving on a multi-lane road,
- driving in a built up area, or
- overtaking.

A B-Double must be driven at least:

- 200-metres behind a long vehicle (7.5 metres long including load) in B-Double areas, if in a road train area, or
- 60-metres behind a long vehicle, if in any other area.

Speed limiting

A B-Double must comply with the speed limiting requirements of Third Edition Australian Design Rule 65, so that it has a maximum road speed capability of 100 km/h.

Turning capability

A B-Double must be able to turn both left and right within a circle not exceeding 25 metres diameter when measured at the outer edge of the tyre track at ground level.

CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

All vehicles must be constructed to the specifications in *Australian Design Rules* and the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2005*. For B-Doubles, these include:

Spray suppression devices

Spray suppression devices must be fitted to all axle groups and singles of a B-Double combination.

Vehicle Standards Information No. 39 provides further information in relation to spray suppression devices for heavy vehicles, and is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

Braking & coupling

The braking and coupling requirements for B-Doubles apply in addition to the braking system and coupling requirements that apply to all heavy vehicles. The specific requirements for B-Doubles are set out in the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulations 2005*.

Warning signs

A B-Double that is more than 22 metres long must be fitted with a "Long Vehicle" warning sign, horizontally to the rearmost part of it a B-Double in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 2 of the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007*.

MASS AND DIMENSION LIMITS

Maximum dimension limits

A B-Double must not be more than 25 metres long or more than 2.5metres wide. A B-Double over 25-metres and up to 26-metres may travel on the existing approved routes for 25 metre B-Doubles, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in the *Class 3 26 metre B-Double Exemption Notice 2010*.

A B-Double must not be more than 4.3 metres high. However, a B-Double may be higher than 4.3 metres, but not more than 4.6 metres high, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in the *4.6 Metre High Vehicle Route Notice*, as well as the *Class 2 B-Double Notice 2010*.

Maximum limits for axles and axle groups

The maximum axle mass limits for a B-Double must be the lowest of:

Steering single axle	6.0 tonnes gross*
Single axle consisting of 4 tyres	9.0 tonnes gross
Tandem axle group consisting of 8 tyres	16.5 tonnes gross
Tri-axle group consisting of 12 tyres	20.0 tonnes gross
Tri-axle group consisting of 6 tyres with section widths of at least 375 millimetres	20.0 tonnes gross

or

the manufacturers' mass ratings,

or

the sum of the mass limits for the tyres fitted to the axles and axle groups.

* Vehicles may operate up to 6.5 tonnes subject to compliance with the conditions set out in the *Class 3 Single Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice 2006*.

Maximum gross mass limits

The maximum gross mass limit for a B-Double must be the lowest of:

- the sum of the axle and axle group mass limits listed above.
- the sum of the manufacturers' mass limits for the prime mover gross vehicle mass (GVM) and the semi-trailer gross trailer mass (GTM),
- the gross combination mass (GCM) limit specified by the prime mover manufacturer, or
- 62.5 tonnes.

Mass limits relating to axle spacing

For any B-Double, the mass limits in Table I must not be exceeded in relation to the distances set out in that Table that apply to the B-Double or any vehicle forming part of it.

For any B-Double, the mass limits in Table I apply to the sum of the masses of each axle group or single axle in the distance referred to in that Table,

including the axles between which the distance is measured.

2.5 metres/15 Tonnes Rule

The total mass of a vehicle and any load, **must not exceed 15 tonnes** if the distance between any 2 axles that are not part of the same axle group is **less than 2.5 metres**.

The total mass of any vehicle that is being towed, and any load, **must not exceed 15 tonnes** if the distance between the rearmost axle of the preceding vehicle and the foremost axle of the succeeding vehicle is **less than 2.5 metres**.



Table I – Mass limits relating to axle spacings – B-Doubles

Each distance in Table I refers to:

- the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of any other single axle,
- the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of the furthest axle in any axle group, or
- the greatest distance between the centres of axles in any 2 axle groups.

For any B-Double, the loaded mass of which can lawfully exceed 42.5 tonnes where the distance between the extreme axles does not exceed 21 m, the mass limit must not exceed that calculated in accordance with the formulae opposite	$M = 1.5L + 29.5$ where: M is the mass limit in tonnes and L is the distance in metres
For any B-Double, the loaded mass of which can lawfully exceed 42.5 tonnes where the distance between the extreme axles is not less than 21 metres, the mass limit must not exceed that specified opposite	62.5 tonnes
For all B-Doubles, the axle loads of the axles in any two or more adjacent axle groups (or of any single axle and the axles in one or more adjacent axle groups) must not exceed that calculated in accordance with the formulae opposite.	For L less than or equal to 11.33 metres, $M = 3L + 12.5$, where: M is the mass limit in tonnes and L is the distance in metres. For L greater than 11.33 metres, $M = 1.5L + 29.5$, where: M is the mass limit in tonnes and L is the distance in metres.

Spacing rules

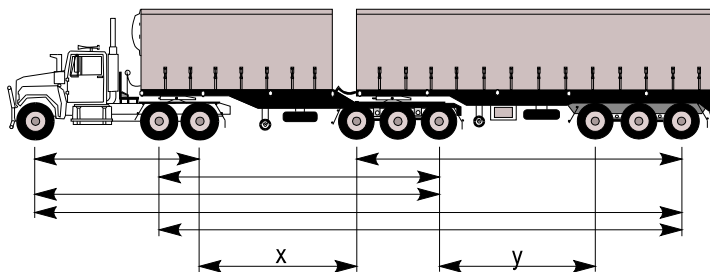
A B-Double with two tri-axle groups must conform to the formulae:

$$x - y \leq 1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$y - x \leq 1.3,$$

where

- x is the distance in metres between the centres of the closest axles of the second and third axle groups, treating the steer axles as the first axle group and assigning to the next rearmost axle group the description 'second axle group' and to each successive axle group a higher ordinal number, and
- y is the distance in metres between the centres in the closest axles of the third and fourth axle groups, treating the steer axles as the first axle group and assigning to the next rearmost axle group the description 'second axle group' and to each successive axle group a higher ordinal number.



Further enquiries

If you have any questions about the contents of this fact sheet please contact:

The Roads and Traffic Authority

Tech Enquiries

Level 9, 101 Miller Street North Sydney NSW 2060

Phone: 131 782