

Higher Mass Limits



FACT SHEET

Since July 2006 Higher Mass Limits (HML) have been available in New South Wales on certain roads and for certain vehicles. HML allows those vehicles eligible to operate at increased mass limits compared to statutory limits.

What are the benefits of HML?

HML provides a significant increase in the productivity of road freight transport vehicles, as detailed below:

Vehicle Configuration	Standard (Gross) Mass Limit*	Concessional Mass Limit (CML)*	Higher Mass Limit (HML)*
19 metre (6 axle) semi-trailer	42.5 tonnes	43.5 tonnes	45.5 tonnes
25/26 metre (9 axle) B-Double	62.5 tonnes	64.5 tonnes	68 tonnes
Double Road Train	79 tonnes	81 tonnes	85 tonnes

Who is eligible for HML?

To operate a vehicle at HML in NSW, an operator must:

- Be accredited under the Mass Module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).
- Be fully enrolled with the RTA in the Intelligent Access Program (IAP).
- Have Road-Friendly Suspension fitted to all axles and axle groups (except the steer axle) of the vehicle or combination.
- Carry and comply with the IAP permit, Higher Mass Limits (Eligible Vehicles) Notice 2006 and Concessional Mass Limits Notice 2006.
- Not exceed the allowable mass limit under HML.

* Vehicles that comply with Front Underrun Protection Systems (FUPS) requirements, cabin strength requirements, and the Australian Design Rule (ADR) 80/01 are permitted an additional 500kg on a single steer axle and the total combination mass limit.

What types of vehicles can operate under HML?

HML vehicles include:

1. Short combination vehicles (standard six-axle semi-trailers).
2. B-Doubles.
3. Road Trains.
4. Vehicles operating under Performance Based Standards (PBS) schemes.

What are the mass restrictions under HML?

Axle/axle group	Mass Limit
Single Steer	6.0 tonnes*
Twin Steer (Non Load Sharing)	10.0 tonnes
Twin Steer (Load Sharing)	11.0 tonnes
Single Axle – Dual Tyres	9.0 tonnes
Tandem Axle – Dual Tyres	17.0 tonnes
Tri-Axle – Dual Tyres	22.5 tonnes
Quad Axle – Dual Tyres	27 tonnes

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This information is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation.

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Vehicle types	Total Combination Mass Limit
19 metre Semi Trailer – 6 axle	45.5 tonnes
Quad Axle Semi Trailer	50 tonnes
25/6 metre B-double – 9 axle	68 tonnes
Double Road Train – 11 axle	85 tonnes
B-Triple	90.5 tonnes
AB-Triple	113 tonnes

Axle spacing requirements still apply and the vehicle or combination cannot exceed:

- The individual axle or axle group mass limit.
- The Total Combination Mass (TCM) † limit.
- The sum of the manufacturers' mass limits for the prime mover (GVM) and the semi-trailer (GTM).
- The Gross Combination Mass (GCM) limit specified by the prime mover manufacturer.

† Total Combination Mass (TCM) of a vehicle combination is defined as the total mass of the Prime mover, any attached trailers plus any load onboard the vehicle combination. This is defined as "total mass" in the Road Transport (Mass Loading and Access) Regulation 2005.

Operators fully enrolled in the IAP must self-declare their total combination mass at the start of their journey, whenever there is a change in the vehicle configuration or the total mass.

Where may HML vehicles travel?

Vehicles fully enrolled in the IAP can carry HML on all approved state and local HML roads in NSW as indicated on the RTA IAP HML network maps. A map of the HML access zone is available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au/iap

By using the Route Confirmation Service on the RTA website, operators can request HML access on any road not yet approved for HML within the HML access zone set by the NSW Government.

For more information on the Intelligent Access Program visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au/iap or www.iap.gov.au