

# Road Transport (General) Act 2005

## General Class 3 Truck and Dog Trailer Combination Notice under Division 5 of Part 2 of the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005

I, Mike Hannon, A/Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority, in pursuance of Division 5 of Part 2 of the *Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005*, by this Notice, exempt Class 3 truck and dog trailer combinations from the provisions of Clause 6 (1) and (2) of Schedule 1 to that Regulation, subject to the conditions and requirements set out in this Notice.

**Mike Hannon**  
**A/ Chief Executive**  
**Roads and Traffic Authority**

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## Part 1 – Preliminary

### 1.1 Citation

This Notice may be cited as the General Class 3 Truck and Dog Trailer Combination Notice 2005.

### 1.2 Commencement

This Notice takes effect on the date of Gazettal

### 1.3 Interpretations

**1.3.1** Unless stated otherwise, words and expressions used in this Notice that are defined in Part 5 of this Notice or the Dictionary forming part of the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005 have the same meanings as those set out in that Part or that Dictionary.

**1.3.2** Except where a contrary intention is indicated, the index, diagrams and notes in the text of this Notice do not form part of this Notice.

### 1.4 Effect

This Notice remains in force until 1 September 2010 unless it is amended or repealed earlier.

### 1.5 Application

**1.5.1** This Notice applies to a Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination whose total mass limit exceeds the limit specified in Schedule 1 to the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005, but does not exceed the limit specified in clause 3.3 of this Notice.

**1.5.2** Unless stated otherwise, Class 3 truck and dog trailer combinations operating under this Notice must comply with the provisions of the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005.

#### Note:

This Notice only applies to truck and dog trailer combinations whose hauling unit has a gross combination mass (GCM) in excess of 42.5 tonnes.

To be eligible to load in excess of 42.5 tonnes, you **must** meet all of the requirements specified in this Notice including:

- minimum axle spacing for trailers (3-axle dog trailers only); **and**
- suspension systems; **and**
- appropriate documentation.

Unless you meet **all** the requirements you will **not** be permitted to load your vehicle to more than 42.5 tonnes.

## **Part 2 – Operating and travel requirements**

### **2.1 Operating requirements**

- 2.1.1** A copy of this Notice, or an information sheet issued by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) setting out the obligations imposed under this Notice, must be carried in the driving compartment whenever the vehicle is operating as a Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination and must be produced to a police officer or an authorised officer when requested.
- 2.1.3** The driver of a Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination must hold and produce to a police officer or an authorised officer when requested a driver's licence authorising the driver to drive a combination of the gross combination mass specified.

### **2.2 Travel requirements**

Class 3 truck and dog trailer combinations operating under this Notice may operate on all roads, except where prohibited by a load limit specified for a road, bridge or causeway by a sign or notice specified under Section 28 of the Road Transport (General) Act 2005.

## **Part 3 – Suspension requirements, and mass and dimension limits**

### **3.1 Suspension systems**

Class 3 truck and dog trailer combinations operating under this Notice must be fitted with an approved air suspension system on all axles or axle groups of the combination, with the exception of the steer axle or twin steer axle group of the hauling unit.

### **3.2 Dimension limits**

The dimensions of the hauling unit, trailer and combination must not exceed the dimension limits specified in Schedule 1 to the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005, or Schedule 4 to the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 1998.

**Note:**

The overall length of a truck and dog trailer combination cannot be more than 19 metres long.

### **3.3 Mass limits for axles and axle groups**

The mass on an axle group or single axle must not exceed the limit provided for such axle or group in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Mass limits for single axles and axle groups**

Description of single axle or axle group	Mass Limit (tonnes)
<b>Single axles and single axle groups</b>	
Single steer axle	6.0
Single axle or single axle group fitted with single tyres with section width of:	
(a) less than 375 mm	6.0
(b) at least 375 mm but less than 450 mm	6.7
(c) at least 450 mm	7.0
Single axle or single axle group fitted with dual tyres	9.0
<b>Twinsteer axle groups</b>	
Twinsteer axle group without a load-sharing suspension system	10.0
Twinsteer axle group with a load-sharing suspension system	11.0
<b>Tandem axle groups</b>	
Tandem axle group fitted with single tyres with section width of:	
(a) less than 375 mm	11.0
(b) 375 mm or more but less than 450 mm	13.3
(c) 450 mm or more	14.0
Tandem axle group fitted with single tyres on one axle and dual tyres on the other axle	13.0
Tandem axle group fitted with dual tyres	16.5
<b>Tri-axle groups</b>	
Tri-axle group on a vehicle fitted with single tyres with section width of less than 375 mm on all axles, or single tyres on 1 or 2 axles and dual tyres on the other axle or axles	15.0
Tri-axle group with either single tyres with section width of at least 375 mm, dual tyres, or a combination of those tyres	20.0

### 3.4 Gross mass limits

The gross mass of a Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination must be the lowest of:

- (a) the sum of the axle and axle group mass limits as determined in Clause 3.2;
- (b) the sum of the gross vehicle mass (GVM) limits for the hauling unit and the dog trailer;
- (c) the gross combination mass (GCM) limit of the hauling unit; or
- (d) 50.0 tonnes.

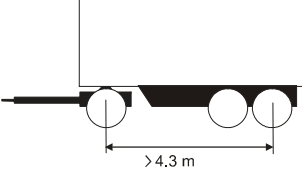
### 3.5 Mass limits relating to axle spacing

**3.5.1** For any Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination, the mass limits in Table 2 must not be exceeded in relation to the distances set out in that Table that apply to the combination or any vehicle forming part of it.

**3.5.2** In addition to the requirement specified in clause 3.5.1, the extreme axle spacing for a three-axle dog trailer with a single axle at the front and a tandem axle group at the rear of the trailer must exceed 4.3 metres.

**Example:**

The extreme axle spacing for a **three axle** dog trailer, ie the distance between the centre of the first axle and the centre of the last axle, must be more than 4.3 metres.



If your trailer does not comply with this minimum axle spacing requirement, the combined weight of your truck and dog trailer and load (gross mass of the combination) **must not exceed** 42.5 tonnes.

**3.5.3** For any Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination, the mass limits in Table 2 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.

**3.6 Measurement of distances for Table 2**

Each distance in Table 2 refers to:

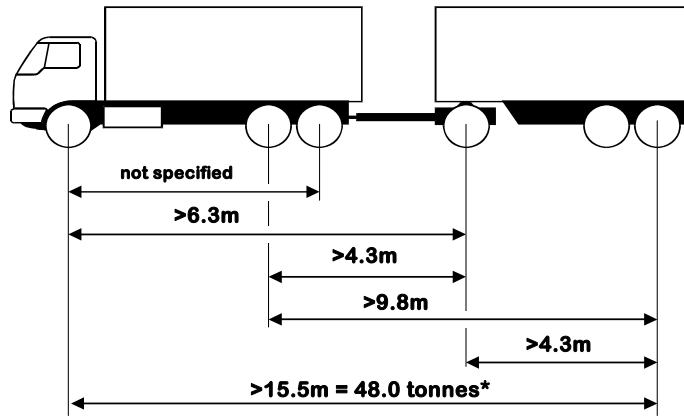
- (a) the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of any other single axle;
- (b) the distance from the centre of any single axle to the centre of the furthest axle in any axle group; or
- (c) the greatest distance between the centres of axles in any 2 axle groups.

**Table 2 – Mass limits relating to axle spacings – Class 3 truck and dog trailer combinations**

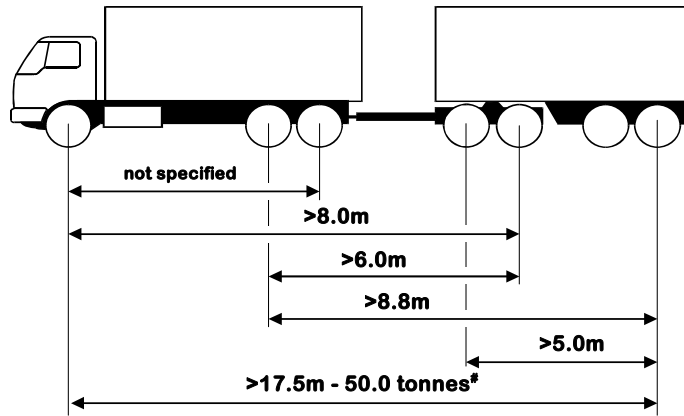
Distance (metres)		Mass limit (tonnes)
Exceeding	Not exceeding	
0	3.7	23.0
3.7	3.8	23.5
3.8	4.0	24.0
4.0	4.2	24.5
4.2	4.3	25.0
4.3	4.5	25.5
4.5	4.7	26.0
4.7	4.8	26.5
4.8	5.0	27.0
5.0	5.2	27.5
5.2	5.3	28.0
5.3	5.5	28.5
5.5	5.7	29.0
5.7	5.8	29.5
5.8	6.0	30.0

6.0	6.2	30.5
6.2	6.3	31.0
6.3	6.5	31.5
6.5	6.7	32.0
6.7	6.8	32.5
6.8	7.0	33.0
7.0	7.2	33.5
7.2	7.3	34.0
7.3	7.5	34.5
7.5	7.7	35.0
7.7	7.8	35.5
7.8	8.0	36.0
8.0	8.2	36.5
8.2	8.3	37.0
8.3	8.5	37.5
8.5	8.7	38.0
8.7	8.8	38.5
8.8	9.0	39.0
9.0	9.2	39.5
9.2	9.3	40.0
9.3	9.5	40.5
9.5	9.7	41.0
9.7	9.8	41.5
9.8	10.0	42.0
10.0	10.5	42.5
10.5	11.0	43.0
11.0	11.5	43.5
11.5	12.0	44.0
12.0	12.5	44.5
12.5	13.0	45.0
13.0	13.5	45.5
13.5	14.0	46.0
14.0	14.5	46.5
14.5	15.0	47.0
15.0	15.5	47.5
15.5	16.0	48.0
16.0	16.5	48.5
16.5	17.0	49.0
17.0	17.5	49.5
17.5	-	50.0

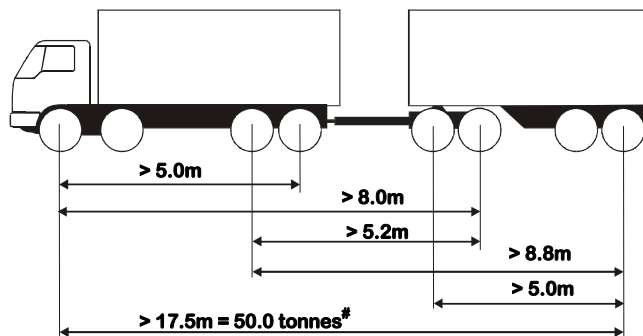
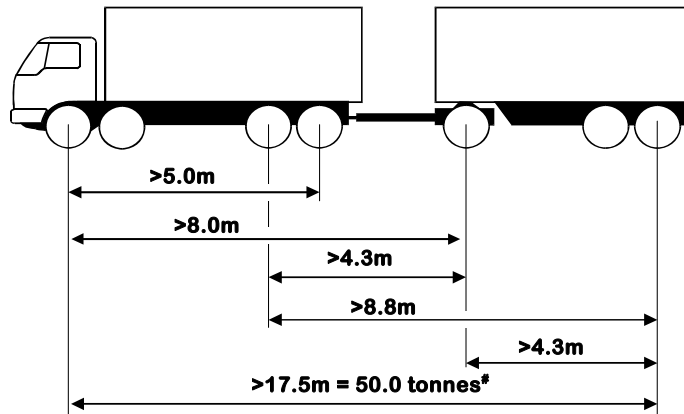
**Note:**  
The following diagrams show some typical truck and dog trailer combinations that, under this Notice, can be loaded above 42.5 tonnes. The minimum axle spacings required to achieve the maximum load for each combination are also shown. Not all combinations that can be loaded to more than 42.5 tonnes have been shown. . The minimum spacings are specified to control bridge loadings and vehicle dynamic performance.



\* For a 48 tonne load, the extreme axle spacing must be more than 15.5 metres. Reduce the total load of the combination by 0.5 tonnes for each 0.5m reduction in extreme axle spacing.



# For a 50.0 tonne load, the extreme axle spacing must be more than 17.5 metres. Reduce the total load of the combination by 0.5 tonnes for each 0.5m reduction in extreme axle spacing.



### 3.7 Mass ratio

The loaded mass of a dog trailer must not exceed by more than 25 percent, the loaded mass of the towing vehicle.

### 3.8 Combinations not to exceed load limits

Class 3 truck and dog trailer combinations operating under this Notice must not be operated on a road or road related area in excess of any of the load limits specified in this Notice.

### 3.9 Load height – 3 axle dog trailers only

- (a) Unless the RTA otherwise approves in writing, the height of the load on any three axle dog trailer must not exceed 3.5 metres.
- (b) An approval under paragraph (a) may relate to a specific combination or to a class of combinations and may be conditional or unconditional.
- (c) An approval under paragraph (a) may be revoked or varied at any time.

**Note:**

The special 3.5 metre load height limit only applies to 3-axle dog trailers being used in truck and dog trailer combinations with a mass of more than 42.5 tonnes.

## Part 4 - Miscellaneous requirements

### 4.1 Gradeability of combinations

A Class 3 truck and dog trailer combination must be capable of starting movement on a 12% gradient, and maintaining a constant speed of 70 km/h on a 1% gradient when operating at the nominated gross combination mass.

**Note:**

The approximate power to weight ratio required to meet the gradeability standard is 6.4 hp/tonne (4.8 kW/tonne).

## Part 5 – Definitions

**“approved air suspension system”** in relation to a vehicle, means a suspension system in which:

- (a) vertical movement between each axle and the body of the vehicle is controlled by variations in the pressure of air in an airspring, and
- (b) the proportion of the vehicle's mass that is borne by the spring remains substantially constant despite variations in the pressure of air in the airspring.

**“authorised officer”** means a person employed by the RTA as an enforcement officer.

**“Class 3 vehicle”** means a restricted access vehicle other than a Class 1 vehicle or a Class 2 vehicle.

**“combination”** means a motor vehicle connected to one or more trailers.

**"dog trailer"** means a trailer (including a trailer consisting of a semi-trailer and converter dolly) with:

- (a) one axle group or single axle at the front that is steered by connection to the towing vehicle by a drawbar; and
- (b) one axle group or single axle at the rear;

**“extreme axles”** means the two axles, one of which is nearest to the front of the vehicle or combination, as the case may be, and the other of which is nearest to the rear of the vehicle or combination.

**"GCM"** (gross combination mass), in relation to a motor vehicle, means the greatest possible sum of the maximum loaded mass of the motor vehicle and of any vehicles that may lawfully be towed by it at one time:

- (a) as specified by the motor vehicle's manufacturer:
  - (i) on a plate fixed to the vehicle by the manufacturer; or
  - (ii) if the manufacturer has not specified the sum of the maximum loaded mass on a plate fixed to the vehicle-in another place; or
- (b) as specified by the vehicle registration authority if:
  - (i) the manufacturer has not specified the sum of the maximum loaded mass; or
  - (ii) the manufacturer cannot be identified; or
  - (iii) the vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer's specification is no longer appropriate.

**"GVM"** (gross vehicle mass) means the maximum loaded mass of a vehicle:

- (a) as specified by the manufacturer; or
- (b) as specified by the vehicle registration authority if:
  - (i) the manufacturer has not specified a maximum loaded mass; or
  - (ii) the manufacturer cannot be identified; or
  - (iii) the vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer's specification is no longer appropriate.

**“hauling unit”** means a motor vehicle which forms part of a combination.

**“information sheet”** means advice published or adopted by the Authority (and available on request from the Authority).

**"single axle"** means an axle not forming part of an axle group.

**“single axle group”** means a group of 2 or more axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre lines of the outermost axles is less than 1m.

**"tandem axle group"** means a group of at least 2 axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is at least 1 metre, but not more than 2 metres.

**"tri-axle group"** means a group of at least 3 axles, in which the horizontal distance between the centre-lines of the outermost axles is more than 2 metres, but not more than 3.2 metres.

**"twinsteer axle group"** means a group of 2 axles:

- (a) with single tyres, and
- (b) fitted to a motor vehicle, and
- (c) connected to the same steering mechanism, and

the horizontal distance between whose centre-lines is at least 1 metre, but not more than 2 metres.