



# Single Steer Axle Mass Limit Increase to 6.5 tonnes

From 1 January 2007, the single steer axle mass limit, for **vehicles (other than complying buses) with a manufacturer's Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) rating of 15 tonnes or more**, will increase from 6 tonnes to 6.5 tonnes if they comply with the following safety and environmental standards:

- The Front Under-run Protection Systems requirements of EU Regulation UN ECE 93; and
- The cabin strength requirements of EU Regulation UN ECE 29; and
- The diesel engines exhaust emission requirements of Australian Design Rule (ADR) 80/01.

The vehicle's steer axle must have a manufacturer's rating of at least 6.5 tonnes.

## Do I need another permit?

In most cases no. The only vehicles requiring a permit are low loaders etc operating under overmass permits where the total mass of the combination would exceed 49.5 tonnes.

## Will I need to carry another Notice?

Two new Notices have been published to allow complying vehicles to operate at the higher steer axle mass limit while continuing to operate under existing permits or Notices. You are **not** required to carry either of these Notices in the cabin of the vehicle. The new Notices are:

- The *Class 1 Single Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice 2006*, is for Class 1 restricted access vehicles e.g. prime mover and low loader combinations; or
- The *Class 3 Single Steer Axle Mass Limit Exemption Notice 2006*, is for vehicles that don't otherwise need a permit or Notice to operate (i.e. 'general access' vehicles), and Class 2 vehicles (e.g. 25m B-Doubles, Road Trains etc) and Class 3 vehicles (Class 3 semi-trailers, 26m B-Doubles, vehicles operating under the Concessional Mass Limits Notice 2006 etc) operating under a permit or Notice.

The existing *Higher Mass Limits (Eligible Vehicles) Notice 2006*, has been amended to allow complying vehicles with Higher Mass Limits permits to operate at the 6.5-tonne single steering axle mass limit. The drivers of vehicles with Higher Mass Limits permits will still be required to carry this Notice in the cabin of the vehicle.

These Notices can be viewed, printed or downloaded from the RTA's website at [http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/permitnotices/permit\\_notices\\_d11.html?hvliid=13](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/permitnotices/permit_notices_d11.html?hvliid=13).

## Will the additional steer axle mass affect my vehicles existing access to the network?

No. The extra 500kg of mass allowed on the single steer axle of a complying vehicle is in addition to the total mass limit otherwise applicable to that vehicle, or combination that includes the complying vehicle.

## How will 'complying vehicles' be identified?

Vehicles complying with the Front Under-run Protection Systems and cabin strength standards will have to be 'plated' in the same way as the prime movers of 26-metre B-Doubles. Any vehicle with a Compliance Plate dated January 2008, or later, will be deemed to comply with ADR80/01. For other vehicles demonstration of ADR80/01 compliance can be either by a 'plate' on the vehicle or by carrying a letter from the vehicle's manufacturer.

Details of these compliance verification requirements e.g. 'plating', are contained in the Notices referred to in this Fact Sheet.



For further enquiries:



[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)



1800 043 642 (free call)

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