



Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin

No. 03

For:

- RTA Inspectors, Vehicle Regulations
- RTA Motor Registry Managers
- Engineering Signatories
- AIS Examiners
- AIS Proprietors
- AUVIS Examiners
- AUVIS Proprietors

Revision 1, July 1998

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/dvpr/vss.htm

First Issued May 1996

Braking Requirements for Trailers up to 4.5 tonnes ATM

This bulletin concerns trailer braking requirements and applies to trailers with an aggregate trailer mass (ATM) of up to 4.5 tonnes, first registered before 1 July 1990. Trailers first registered after this date must comply with the requirements of Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) No. 1 "Building Small Trailers" issued by the:

Federal Office of Road Safety
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6274 7111

This bulletin should be read in conjunction with Vehicle Standards Bulletin No. 1.

A trailer first registered before 1 July 1990 can be re-registered using the braking requirements as described in:

- Automotive Information Sheet (AIS) 24; or
- VSB No.1.

The table on page 2 summarises these requirements.

TYPE OF TRAILER	WEIGHT RATING		MINIMUM BRAKING EQUIPMENT	
	AIS 24 REQUIREMENTS	VSB No.1 REQUIREMENTS		
Caravans	Unladen weight up to 410kg	OR	Single axle trailers (and tandem axle trailers with axles less than 1 metre apart) with a GTM up to 750kg	Exempt brakes
	Unladen weight more than 410kg and up to 1020kg	OR	GTM up to 2000kg	Overrun or independent brakes
	Heavier caravans	OR	GTM over 2000kg	Independent brakes
Box trailers, "Skeleton type" boat trailers AND "Skeleton type" car trailers	Unladen weight up to 150kg	OR	Single axle trailers (and tandem axle trailers with axles less than 1 metre apart) with a GTM up to 750kg	Exempt brakes
	Unladen weight more than 150kg and up to 510kg	OR	GTM up to 2000kg	Overrun or independent brakes
	Heavier trailers	OR	GTM over 2000kg	Independent brakes
Horse floats	Unladen weight up to 150kg and constructed to carry only one animal	OR	Single axle trailers (and tandem axle trailers with axles less than 1 metre apart) with a GTM up to 750kg	Exempt brakes
	Unladen weight more than 150kg and up to 510kg AND constructed to carry only one animal	OR	GTM up to 2000kg	Overrun or independent brakes
	Other trailers	OR	GTM over 2000kg	Independent brakes
Plant trailers (concrete mixers, air compressors)	Unladen weight up to 410kg	OR	Single axle trailers (and tandem axle trailers with axles less than 1 metre apart) with a GTM up to 750kg	Exempt brakes
	Heavier plant trailers	OR	GTM over 750kg	Overrun or independent brakes (independent brakes required for trailers over 2000kg GTM built to VSB No.1)
Heavy goods trailers (dog trailers, pig trailers, car carriers, tankers etc.)	Unladen weight up to 510kg	OR	GTM up to 2000kg	Overrun or independent brakes
	Heavier goods trailers	OR	GTM over 2000kg	Independent brakes
<p>NOTES</p> <p>1. IF THE TRAILER WEIGHT RATINGS FALL INTO MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY THEN THE LESSER BRAKING REQUIREMENT OF EITHER CATEGORY APPLIES.</p> <p>2. GTM (GROSS TRAILER MASS) IS THE MASS IMPOSED ON THE GROUND BY THE TRAILER WHEELS WHEN THE TRAILER IS CARRYING ITS MAXIMUM LOAD, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY WEIGHT IMPOSED BY THE TOW COUPLING ON THE TOWING VEHICLE.</p>				

In the above table, there are circumstances under the AIS 24 requirements where trailers which are heavier than those specified may be exempt from fitting brakes. In order to be eligible for such exemption the following conditions will apply:

1. Where a plant trailer weighs between 410kg and 1020kg it must be hauled by a vehicle with a tare weight of at least twice the weight of the trailer.
2. Where a box trailer weighs between 150kg and 250kg it must be hauled by a vehicle with a tare weight of at least four times the tare weight of the trailer.
3. Where a boat trailer or similar skeleton trailer weighs between 150kg and 250kg it must be hauled by a vehicle with a tare weight of at least six times the tare weight of the trailer.

For each of the above cases the registration form of the trailer will be endorsed: **“EXEMPT BRAKES IF HAULING UNIT TARE WEIGHT AT LEASTKG”**

Parking brakes

All trailers built to comply with AIS 24 braking requirements (except trailers which were exempted from the requirement to fit brakes) first registered after 1 January 1981 are required to be fitted with a parking brake. Trailers first registered prior to this date are not required to have a parking brake.

Breakaway brakes

Braked trailers built to comply with AIS 24 braking requirements must have a breakaway device that automatically applies the brakes (breakaway brakes) if the trailer is detached from the hauling vehicle where:

- the aggregate trailer mass exceeds 2000kg (for all trailers except plant trailers), or
- the tare weight exceeds 2000kg for plant trailers.

Trailers to be registered using VSB No.1 braking requirements

Where the owner of a trailer first registered prior to July 1990 elects to have the trailer comply with VSB No.1, the trailer's GTM will need to be assessed to determine the applicable braking requirements.

The GTM for trailers to which this bulletin is applicable can be assessed by taking the lesser of the load ratings for;

- the sum of the tyre capacities;
- the axle capacity or the sum of the axle capacities (if known); or
- the suspension capacity or the sum of the suspension capacities (if known).

Additionally, the gross trailer mass must not exceed the ratings for;

- the trailer coupling;
- the safety chain/s; and
- any trailer mass rating marked on, or provided for, the trailer by the trailer manufacturer.

In cases of doubt or where an owner disputes the assessed GTM, an assessment by an Engineering Signatory should be requested.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

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Fax: (02) 9831 0913

RTA Parkes:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
PO Box 334
PARKES NSW 2870

Tel: 1 800 809 388
Fax: (02) 6861 1496

RTA Newcastle:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
59 Darby Street
Locked Bag 30
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Tel: 1 800 049 920
or (02) 4924 0240
Fax: (02) 4323 9905

RTA Wollongong:

Vehicle Regulation Unit
104 Market Street
PO Box 5398
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Tel: (02) 4226 7007
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