

Transporting rowing boats

Purpose

This Vehicle Standards Information (VSI) No. 43 is intended to inform vehicle owners, operators and manufacturers of the dimension limits applying to vehicles and trailers used for transporting rowing shells, outrigger canoes, kayaks, dragon boats and other similar rowing boats on New South Wales roads.

For the purpose of this publication, all of these and similar boats are herein referred to as 'rowing boats'.

Introduction

In NSW, the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007 (the Regulation) limits the width, height, length and some internal dimensions of vehicles and/or combinations. In addition, the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005 (the MLAs) limits the mass and dimensions of vehicles and/or combinations when loaded. These regulations are intended to ensure that vehicles using the road network are compatible with the road systems and do not present a danger to other road users.

Rowing boat trailers

Due to their length, the types of rowing boats described in this VSI No. 43 are usually transported on specially designed trailers. When designing a trailer to carry rowing boats, every attempt should be made to keep its overall specifications, unloaded or loaded, within the limits of the Regulation and of the MLA's. In some cases this might be achieved by using a suitable axle or axle group positioning and balancing of the trailer by moveable ballast.

Trailers must be constructed within the dimension limits described in the Regulation. In addition, if the trailer has an Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM*) of 4.5 tonnes or less, it must meet the construction standards set out in Vehicle Standards Bulletin (VSB) No.1 *Building small trailers*, published by the [Commonwealth] Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) – see page 3 for contact details.

A trailer that is not within the dimension limits of the Regulation or does not meet the construction requirements of VSB No.1 if its ATM is 4.5 tonnes or less cannot be registered in NSW and therefore cannot be used on NSW roads or road-related areas unless exempted – see page 3.

* ATM is the total mass of the trailer when carrying the maximum load recommended by the manufacturer.-

Vehicle and trailer combination

A vehicle and trailer combination must be within the dimension limits imposed under the Regulation and MLAs if it is to be allowed general access to the road network – see page 2, 'Dimension limits'.

For further enquiries

RTA Technical Enquiries, PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

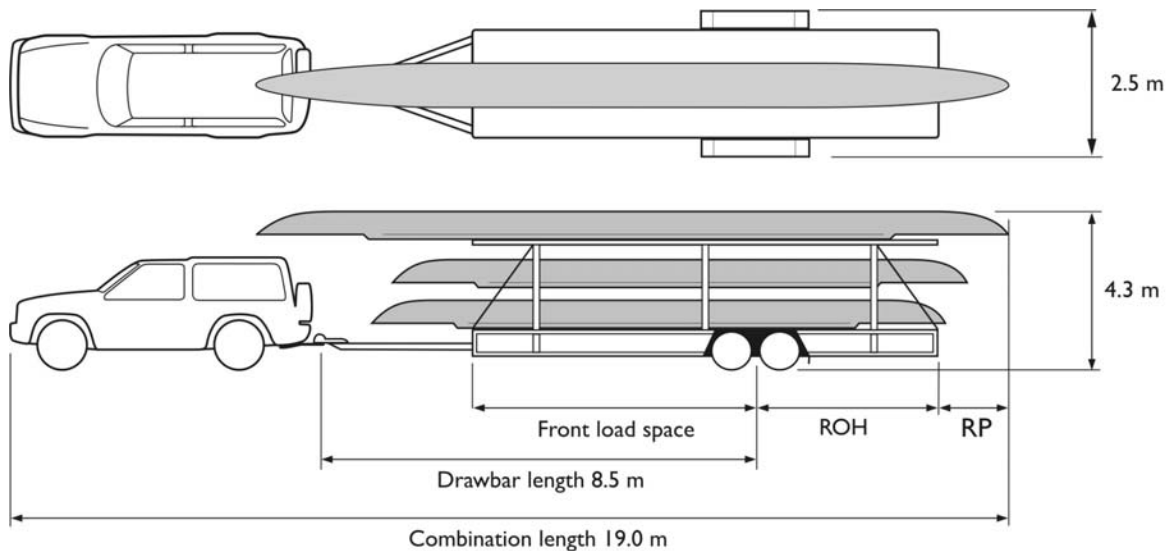
T 1300 137 302 | F 02 9843 3821 | E tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au

www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Dimension limits

The dimensions shown in Figure 1 below are the maximum allowable under the Regulation and the MLA's. The combined length must not exceed 19 metres.

FIGURE 1: VEHICLE AND LOADED TRAILER IN COMBINATION



Rear overhang (ROH): No more than the length of the front load space or 3.7 metres, whichever is the lesser.
 Rear projection (RP): If greater than 1.2 metres, a red flag or similar object not less than 300mm square must be fitted at the end of the boat projecting the most and be clearly visible as a warning to other road users.

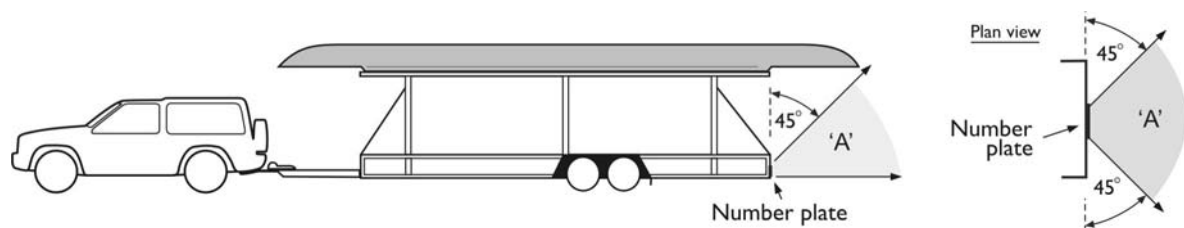
Visibility of trailer number plate and rear lights

The trailer number plate must be clearly visible from 20 metres at all points within the arcs 'A' shown in Figure 2 below. If any boat obscures the number plate, the plate must be moved to the rear of the boat/s for the duration of the journey. In such a case the plate must face the rear and its top edge must not be more than 1.3 metres above the ground. A light must be provided that will enable the number plate to be read from 20 metres at night or in adverse weather.

The trailer's brake, tail, indicator, number plate lights and rear reflectors must not be obscured when boats are being carried. If any lights or reflectors are obscured an additional set must be attached at the rear of the boat/s.

Using a removable light bar, such as that shown in Figure 2, will enable the number plate to be easily relocated and provide all the necessary lights.

FIGURE 2: VISIBILITY OF TRAILER NUMBER PLATE AND REAR LIGHTS



The trailer number plate must be clearly visible from 20 metres at all points within arcs 'A'.

Example of a removable bar fitted with number plate and all necessary lights



Exemptions

It is sometimes impracticable for a vehicle combination carrying rowing boats to be within the maximum dimensions/limits imposed by the Regulation or the MLAs. In this case it requires a written exemption from the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) before it is allowed to operate on NSW roads and/or road related areas.

Application for exemption

An application for exemption must be submitted in writing to the RTA for assessment. The application must include the following items:

- Trailer registration number.
- Owner's name and address.
- Nominated driver/s of towing vehicle/combination.
- Type of boat/s to be carried.

If an exemption is granted, any special operating conditions that apply will be described in the exemption letter.

Otherwise, the combination is considered to be a 'restricted access' combination and may only operate under a specific permit issued by the RTA Special Permits Unit – see below for contact details.

Contact details for additional information

Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2007; Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005:

New South Wales Government Contact Centre,
T 133 679, www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

VSB No. 1 Building Small Trailers:

Department of Infrastructure and Transport,
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601. T 1800 815 272, F (02) 6274 6013.
www.infrastructure.gov.au,

Vehicle construction and registration requirements in NSW:

RTA Technical Enquiries, PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124
T 1300 137 302, F 02 9843 3821, E tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au,

Applications for exemption:

General Manager, Safer Vehicles, NSW Centre for Road Safety
Locked Bag 928, North Sydney NSW 2059

Towing trailers – things you should know (brochure):

RTA www.rta.nsw.gov.au, or

RTA Motor Registries; T 13 22 13 for details of your nearest motor registry.

Load Restraint Guide:

RTA Motor Registries, T 13 22 13 for details of your nearest motor registry, or
National Transport Commission, ntc@ntc.gov.au

Overdimension and/or overmass permits:

RTA Permits, PO Box 97, Glen Innes NSW 2370
T 1300 656 371, F 1300 361 570, E special_permits_unit@rta.nsw.gov.au