

National heavy vehicle general dimension requirements

The prescribed dimension requirements for heavy vehicles are set out under the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation 2013 (the Regulation)*.

General dimensions

Width

The width limit for vehicles is 2.5 metres, excluding:

- › rear vision mirrors, signalling devices and side-mounted lamps and reflectors
- › anti-skid devices mounted on wheels, central tyre inflation systems, tyre pressure gauges
- › permanently fixed webbing-assembly-type devices, such as curtain-side devices, provided that the maximum distance measured across the body including any part of the devices does not exceed 2.55 metres.



Height

The height limit is 4.3 metres unless it is a:

- › vehicle built to carry cattle, horses, pigs or sheep on two decks - 4.6 metres
- › vehicle built with at least 2 decks for carrying vehicles - 4.6 metres
- › double-decker bus - 4.4 metres



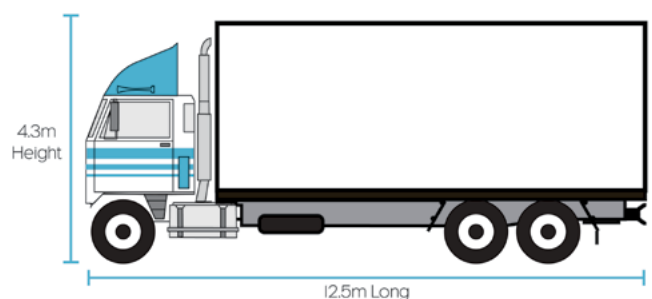
The information contained in this fact sheet is accurate at the time of publication and in the unlikely event of any conflict the HVNL prevails. This document does not cover the authorised access. Some vehicles are not permitted to operate in some states. This document does not cover PBS Vehicles, if you require this information about PBS vehicles, please refer to the PBS Fact Sheet.

Length

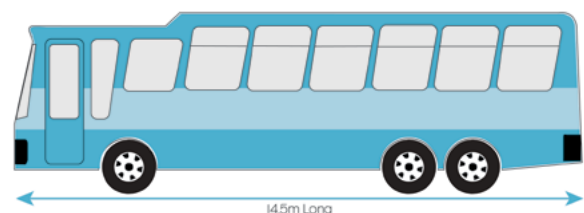
The length of a heavy vehicle is:

- › for a combination other than a B-double, road train or a car carrier—19 metres
- › for a B-double—25 metres
- › for a road train—53.5 metres
- › for a car carrier —25 metres
- › for an articulated bus—18 metres
- › for a bus other than an articulated bus—14.5 metres
- › for another vehicle—12.5 metres

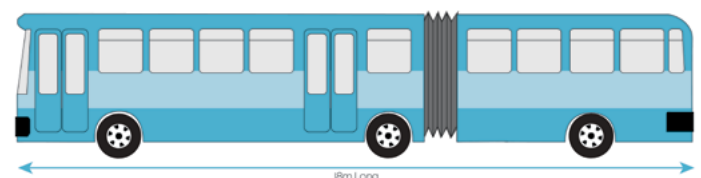
▼ Rigid truck



▼ A bus other than an articulated bus - 14.5 metres



▼ 18m articulated bus



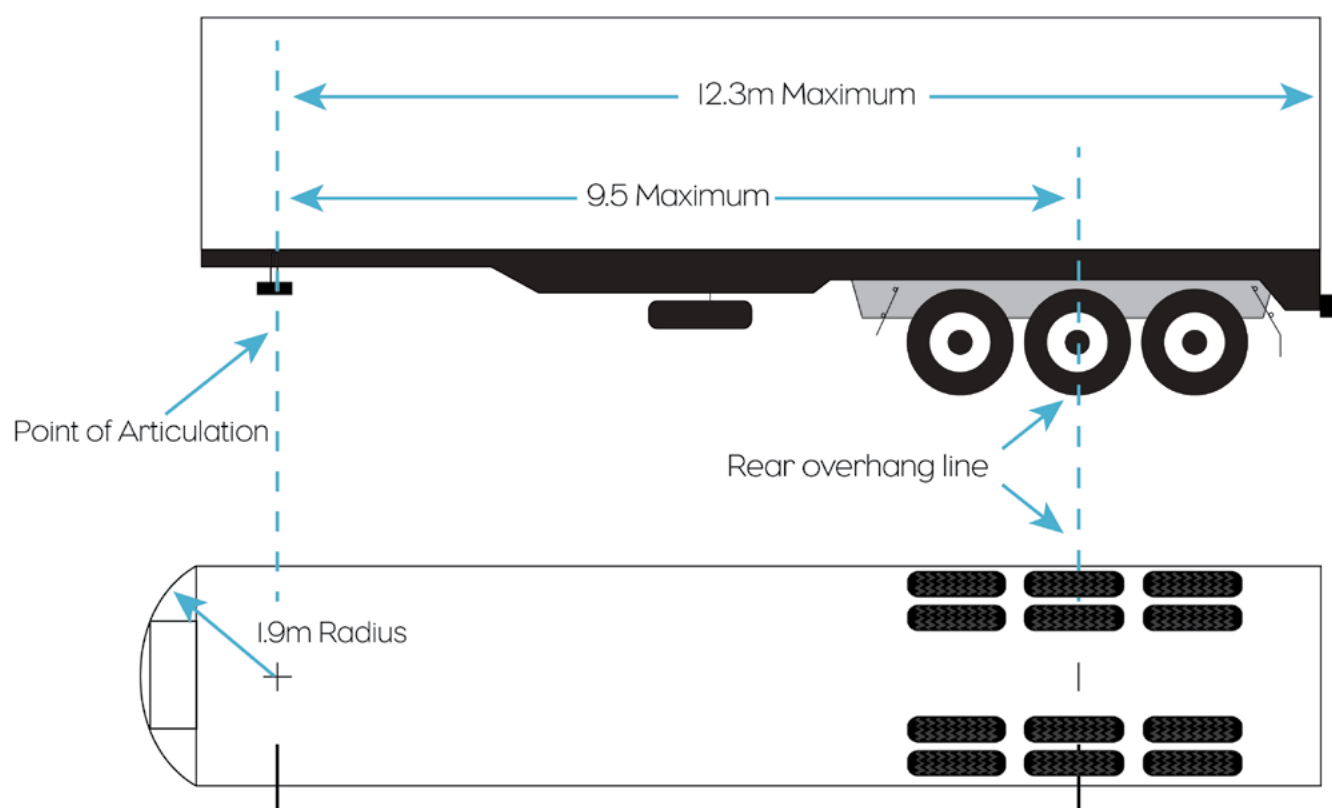
Length

Trailers

On a semi-trailer or dog trailer the distance from the front articulation point to the rear overhang line must not be more than 9.5 metres and the distance from the front articulation point to the rear of the trailer must not be more than 12.3 metres.

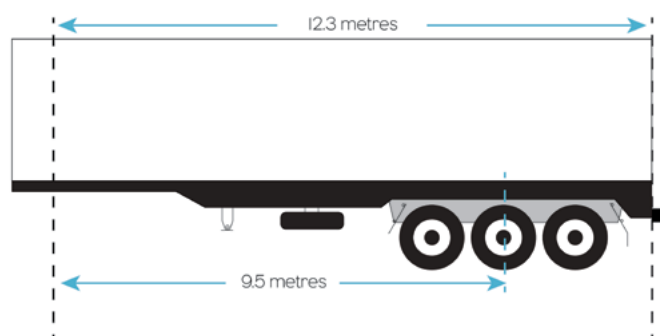
The maximum forward projection of a semi-trailer, or anything attached to a semi-trailer must not protrude beyond a 1.9-metre arc from the towing pivot pin (King pin).

The articulation point to the rear of a semitrailer may be up to 13.2 metres if the trailer has a distance of not more than 9.5 metres from the front articulation point to the rear overhang line, does not operate in a B-double or road train combination and otherwise complies dimensionally.

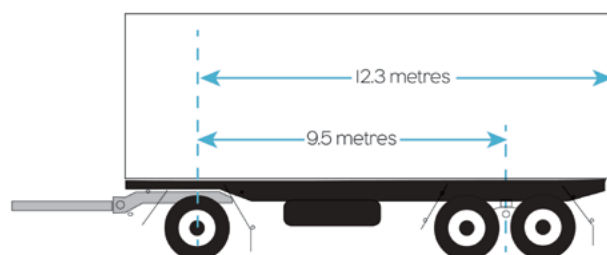


Examples

▼ Semi-trailer



▼ Dog-trailer

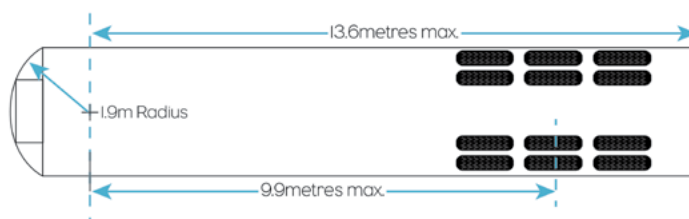


Length

Refrigerated van trailers

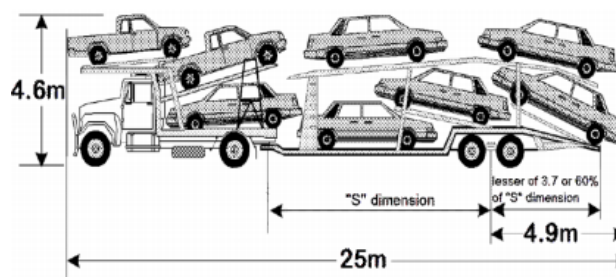
The distance from the articulation point to the rear of a semi-trailer may be up to 13.6 metres if the trailer is designed and constructed for the positive control of temperature through the use of refrigerated equipment, has a distance from the articulation point to the rear overhang line of no more than 9.9 metres and does not operate in a B-Double or road train combination and otherwise complies dimensionally.

▼ Example of refrigerated van trailer dimensions



Car carriers

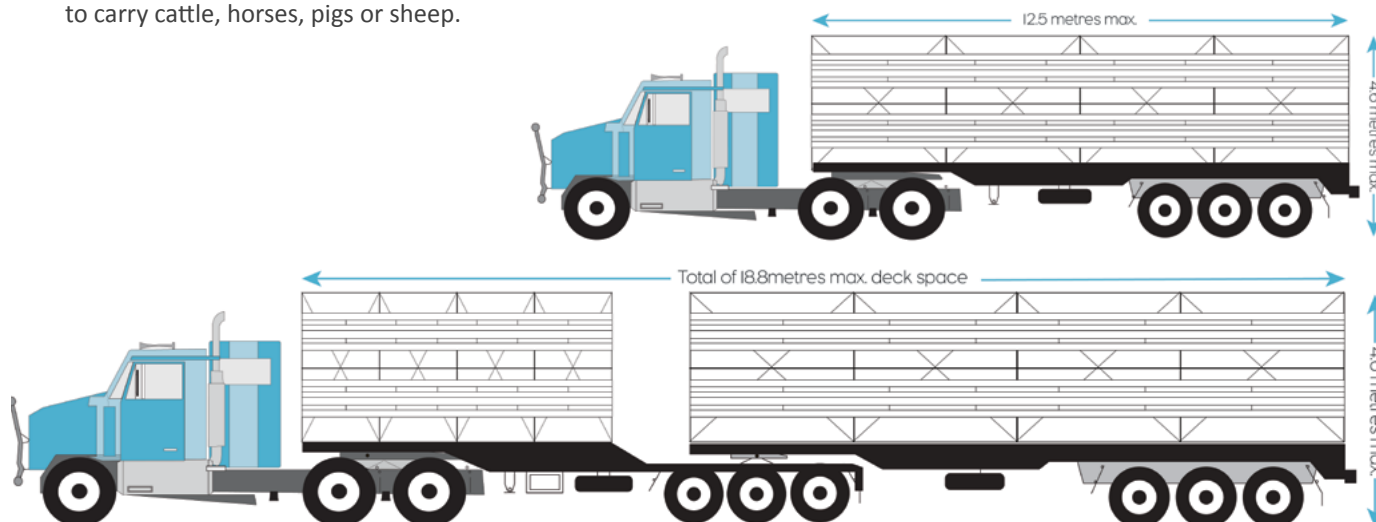
The distance measured at right angles between the rear overhang line of a trailer carrying vehicles on more than one deck and the rear of the rearmost vehicle on the trailer must not exceed 4.9 metres.



Livestock carriers

- › A trailer built to carry cattle, horses, pigs or sheep on two or more partly or completely overlapping decks must not have more than 12.5 metres of its length available to carry cattle, horses, pigs or sheep.
- › In a B-double built to carry cattle, horses, pigs or sheep, the two semitrailers must not have more than 18.8 metres of their combined length available to carry cattle, horses, pigs or sheep.

Note - the length available for the carriage of cattle, horses, pigs or sheep on a trailer is measured from the inside of the front wall or door of the trailer to the inside of the rear wall or door of the trailer, with any intervening partitions disregarded.

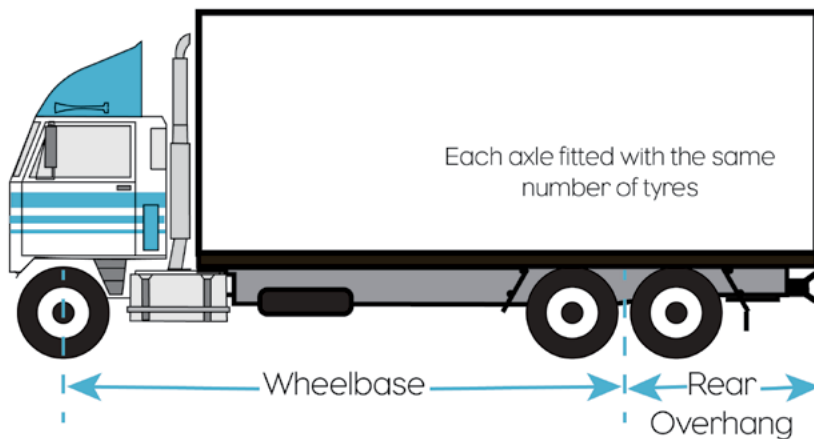


Dimension requirements

Rear overhang

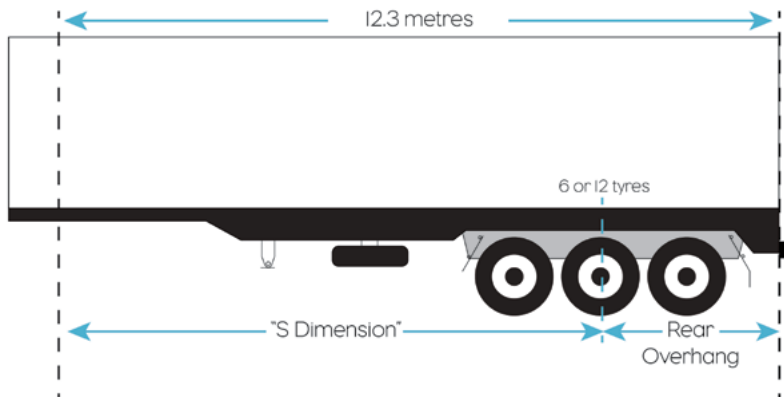
The rear overhang must not exceed the lesser of 60% of the wheelbase or 3.7 metres.

▼ Rear overhang on rigid trucks

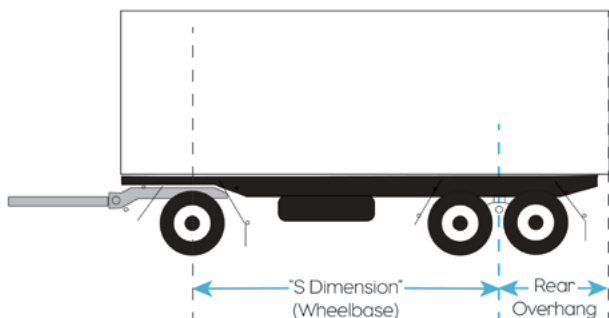


▼ Rear overhang on semi-trailer or dog trailer

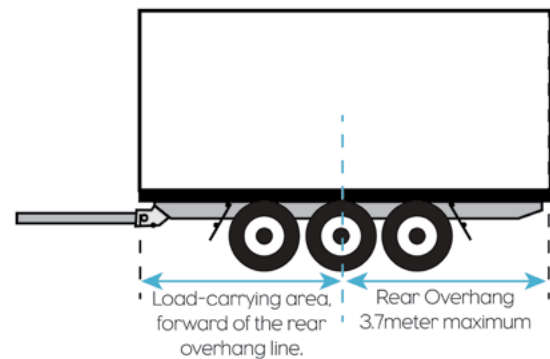
The rear overhang must not exceed the lesser of 60% of the "S Dimension" or 3.7 metres.



▼ Dog trailer



▼ Pig trailer



Rear overhang on a pig trailer must not exceed the lesser of the length of the load-carrying area, forward of the rear overhang line or 3.7 metres.

Class 2 vehicle/combo dimensions

What is a class 2 heavy vehicle?

Class 2 heavy vehicles as defined under the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (HVNL)* as follows:

A heavy vehicle is a class 2 heavy vehicle if-

- a. It-
 - i. Complies with the prescribed mass requirements and prescribed dimension requirements applying to it; and
 - ii. is-
 - A. B-double; or
 - B. road train; or
 - C. bus (other than an articulated bus) and that is longer than 12.5 metres; or
 - D. combination designed and built to carry vehicles on more than 1 deck and that together with its load is longer than 19 metres or higher than 4.3 metres; or
 - E. motor vehicle or a combination that is higher than 4.3 metres and is built to carry cattle, sheep, pigs or horses; or
- b. Performance-Based Standard (PBS) vehicle *.

*Further information about PBS requirements can be found at:

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/pbs>

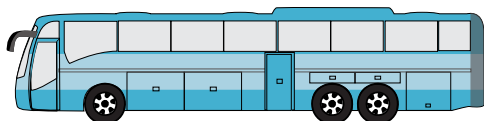
▼ Double road train – 36.5 metres



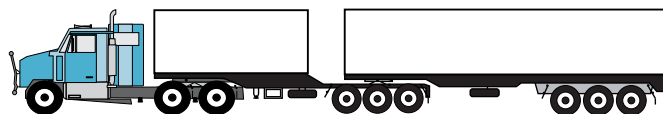
▼ Triple road train – 53.5 metres



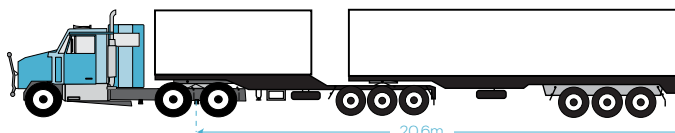
▼ Controlled access bus – 14.5 metres



▼ B-double – 25 metres



▼ B double – 26 metres



B-doubles can be 25m in length, however they can operate at 26m in length if the distance from the front articulation point of the most forward semi-trailer to the rear of the B-double is not more than 20.6m and the prime mover and the B-double is fitted with a:

- › front under-run protective device complying with Regulation 93 made under the UNECE Agreement or ADR 84-Front Underrun Impact Protection (FUPS)
- › for a prime mover manufactured after December 2005 – is fitted with a cab complying with Regulation 29 made under the UNECE Agreement; and
- › does not have an area built to carry goods.

About the NHVR

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is Australia's dedicated independent regulator for heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass.

The NHVR was created to administer one set of rules for heavy vehicles under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), improve safety and productivity, minimise the compliance burden on the heavy vehicle transport industry and reduce duplication and inconsistencies across state and territory borders.

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Please note: While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the content of this fact sheet, it should not be relied upon as legal advice.