

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 MLAs. 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 – see Glossary on page 3) 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 – see page 4 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.

Roads and Maritime Services

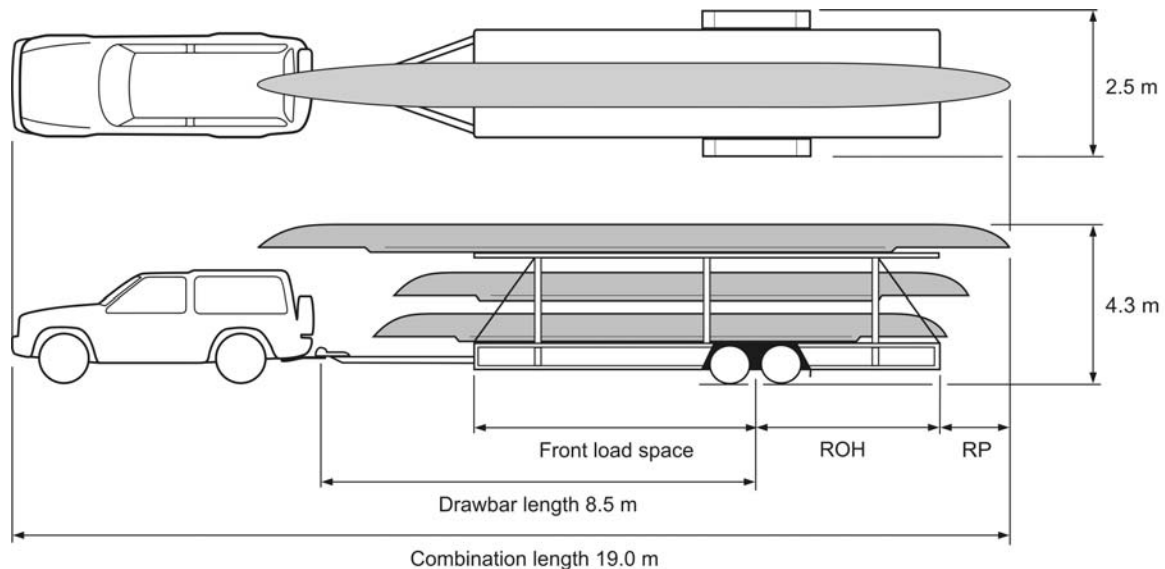
Level 4, 99 Phillip Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box 1120 Parramatta NSW 2124 | T 1300 137 302 | F 02 8837 0037 | E tech-enq@rms.nsw.gov.au
www.rms.nsw.gov.au | 13 22 13

Dimension limits for 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.

The dimensions shown in Figure 1 are the maximum allowable for a combination up to and including 4.5 tonnes gross combination mass (GCM). The combined length must not exceed 19 metres.

FIGURE 1: VEHICLE AND LOADED TRAILER IN COMBINATION



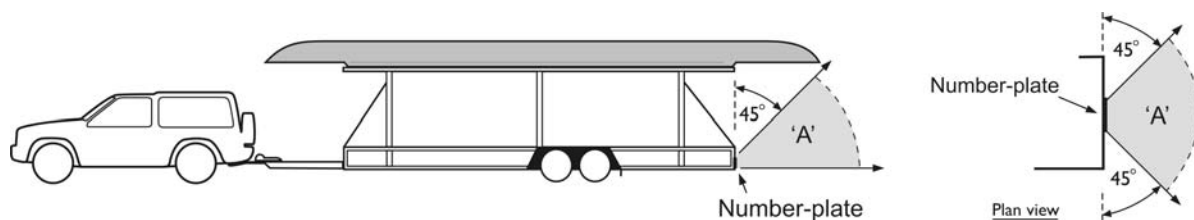
- Rear overhang (ROH): No more than the length of the front load space or 3.7 metres, whichever is the lesser.
- Rear projection (RP): If greater than 1.2 metres, a red flag or similar object not less than 300 mm square must be fitted at the end of the boat projecting the most and be clearly visible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

FIGURE 2: VISIBILITY OF TRAILER NUMBER-PLATE

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



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 number-plate/light bar, such as that shown in Figure 3, will enable the number-plate to be easily relocated and provide all the necessary lights.

FIGURE 3: VISIBILITY OF TRAILER REAR LIGHTS

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



Exemptions

It is sometimes impracticable for a vehicle combination carrying rowing boat/s to be within the maximum dimension limits imposed by the Regulation or the MLAs. In this case the combination, when loaded with rowing boat/s, may be driven on the road under the 'Rowing Boat Trailer Combination Exemption Notice 2011' (the Notice), provided it:

- does not exceed 19.5 metres in length, and
- complies with all of the requirements and conditions of the Notice.

The Notice is published in NSW Government Gazette No.106, 4 November 2011. A copy of the Notice is attached to this VSI No.43 Rev.1.

Glossary

Aggregate trailer mass (ATM) is the laden mass of the trailer. The ATM is specified by the trailer manufacturer and is shown on the identification plate fitted to the trailer.

Gross vehicle mass (GVM) of a vehicle means the maximum loaded mass of the vehicle as specified by the vehicle's manufacturer.

Gross combination mass (GCM) is the value specified by the manufacturer of a vehicle as being the sum of its GVM plus the maximum loaded mass of any trailer that it can tow in combination.

Attachment

Rowing Boat Trailer Combination Exemption Notice 2011.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Roads and Maritime Services Technical Enquiries

PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

T 1300 137 302 | F 02 8837 0037 | E tech-enq@rta.nsw.gov.au

- Vehicle construction and registration requirements in NSW

Roads and Maritime Services

W www.rms.nsw.gov.au | T 13 22 13 for details of your nearest motor registry

- Brochure *Towing trailers – things you should know*
- Load Restraint Guide

New South Wales Legislation

W www.legislation.nsw.gov.au | T (02) 9321 3333

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

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Vehicle Safety Standards

GPO Box 594 Canberra ACT 2601

W www.infrastructure.gov.au | T 1800 815 272 | F (02) 6274 6013

- VSB No. 1 *Building small trailers*

Roads and Traffic Authority

ROAD TRANSPORT (GENERAL) ACT 2005

Rowing Boat Trailer Combination Exemption Notice 2011

I, MICHAEL BUSHBY, Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority, pursuant to Clause 54 of the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005, exempt motor vehicle and trailer combinations to which this Notice applies from the requirement of Clauses 53 (1) (a) (iii) and 53 (1) (f) (ii) of the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005 as provided in the Schedule of this Notice.

MICHAEL BUSHBY,
Chief Executive,
Roads and Traffic Authority

SCHEDULE

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1.1 Citation

This Notice may be cited as the Rowing Boat Trailer Combination Exemption Notice 2011.

1.2 Commencement

This Notice takes effect on and from the date of publication in the *New South Wales Government Gazette*.

1.3 Effect

This Notice remains in force up to and including 31 October 2016 unless it is amended or repealed earlier.

1.4 Interpretation

1.4.1 Unless stated otherwise in this Notice, the words and expressions used in this Notice have the same meaning as those defined in the Road Transport (General) Act 2005.

1.4.2 Except where a contrary intention is indicated, the notes in the text of this Notice do not form part of this Notice.

PART 2 – APPLICATION

2.1 Application

2.1.1 This Notice applies to a combination:

(1) which comprises:

(a) a motor vehicle; and

(b) a rowing boat trailer designed to carry dragon boats, outrigger canoes, kayaks, rowing shells or similar rowing boats; and

(2) where the trailer is loaded comprised of vessels as described in 2.1.1 (1) (b); and

(3) which has a Gross Vehicle Mass or Gross Combination Mass not exceeding 4.5 tonnes.

PART 3 – DIMENSIONS

3.1 Dimension Limits

3.1.1 The combination and its load must not exceed an overall length of 19.5 metres.

3.1.2 The combination and its load must not exceed the dimension limits prescribed in Table 1.

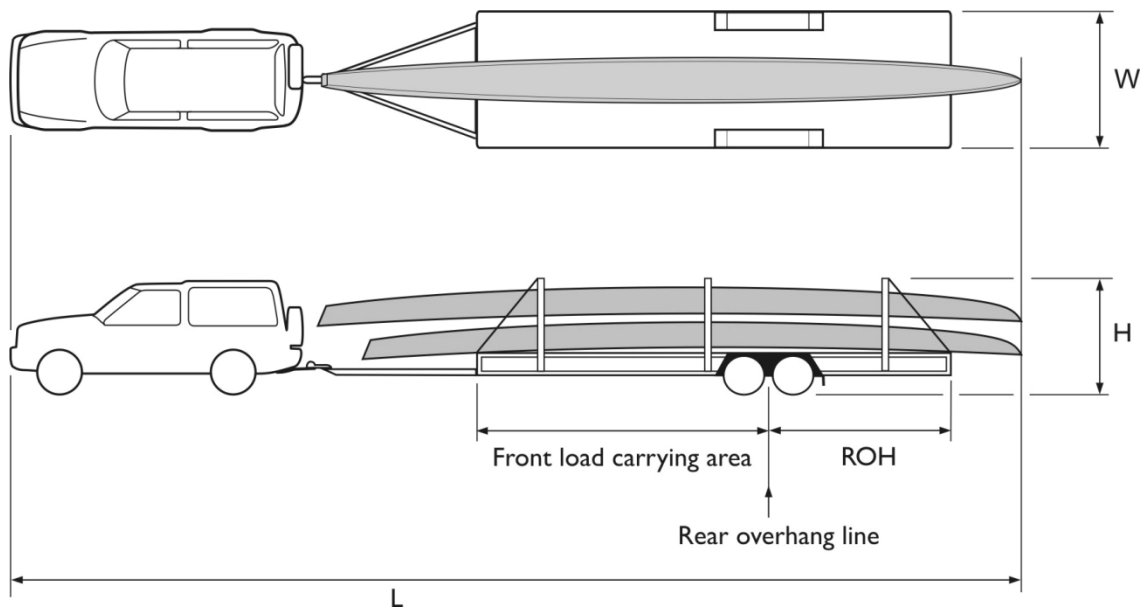
3.1.3 As far as is practicable, any projection beyond the rear of the vehicle must be minimised.

Table 1: Dimensions

<i>Rear Overhang (ROH)</i>	<i>Length (L)</i>	<i>Height (H)</i>	<i>Width (W)</i>
The rear overhang must not exceed the lesser of: (a) the length of the load carrying area, or body ahead of the rear overhang line, and (b) 3.7 metres.	19.5 metres	4.3 metres	2.5 metres

Note: The rear overhang (ROH) means the distance between the rear overhang line and the rear of the vehicle.

Diagram 1: Dimensions



PART 4 – OPERATING, TRAVEL AND OTHER CONDITIONS

4.1 Operating Conditions

4.1.1 A copy of this Notice must be carried in the driving compartment whenever the combination is operating under this Notice, and must be produced when the driver is requested to do so by a police officer or an authorised officer.

4.2 Travel Conditions

4.2.1 When the load extends more than 3.7 metres from the rear overhang line, the combination must not travel in a “Limited Access Zone”, as defined in the **SPV Travel Restrictions and Approved Routes** published by the Authority as Appendix 2 to the **Class 1 Special Purpose Vehicle Notice 2011**, between the hours of 6.30am and 9.30am and/or between 3.30pm and 6.30pm on business days.

4.2.2 If any of the trailer’s lights, directional indicators or reflectors are obscured, an additional set must be attached at the rear of the load. The additional lights, directional indicators and reflectors may be attached to a removable light panel.

4.2.3 The trailer is to be fitted with an **OVERSIZE** and a **DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE** sign, compliant with Part 7 of Schedule 2 to the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005, as close as possible to the rear of the combination.

4.2.4 A red flag or other suitable object of not less than 300 mm square must be fitted at the extreme rear of the load and the flag or object is kept clearly visible as a warning to persons on the roadway in the near vicinity of the vehicle or trailer.

4.2.5 The combination is restricted to a speed limit of 80 km/h.

4.2.6 The laden weight of the trailer must not exceed

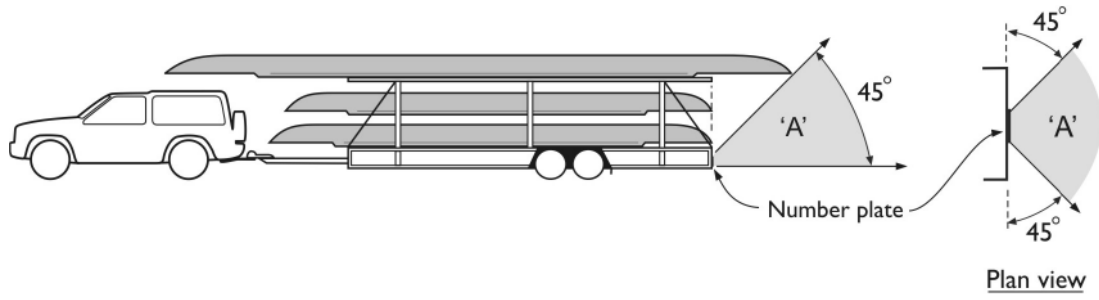
- (a) the capacity of the towing attachment fitted to the motor vehicle, or
- (b) the maximum laden weight for the trailer.

Note: For the purposes of 4.2.6, the **maximum laden weight** for the trailer is:

- (a) the maximum laden weight for the trailer that the manufacturer of the motor vehicle has specified in respect of the motor vehicle, or
- (b) if the manufacturer of the motor vehicle has not specified such a maximum, the manufacturer cannot be identified or the motor vehicle has been modified to the extent that the manufacturer’s specification is no longer appropriate:
 - (i) one and a half times the unladen weight of the motor vehicle if the trailer is fitted with a braking system that is working properly, or
 - (ii) the unladen weight of the motor vehicle in any other case.

4.2.7 Number plates must not be obscured and must be visible within an arc of 45 degrees to the top and sides of the plates as shown in Diagram 2. If necessary, the number plate must be relocated to the rear of load. Provision must be made to illuminate the number plate.

Diagram 2: Number plate visibility



Number plates must be clearly visible from 20 metres at all points within arcs 'A'