

# Vehicle Standards Information

VSI.43 | Rev. 1 | 20 May 2013

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## 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 light vehicles towing 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 2017* (the **Regulation**) limits the width, height, length and some internal dimensions of vehicles and/or combinations. In addition, the *Road Transport (General) Regulation 2013* 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 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 Regulations. 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 **Regulations**. 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 No.1 (VSB.01) *Building small trailers*, published by the [Commonwealth] Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications – see page 4 for contact details.

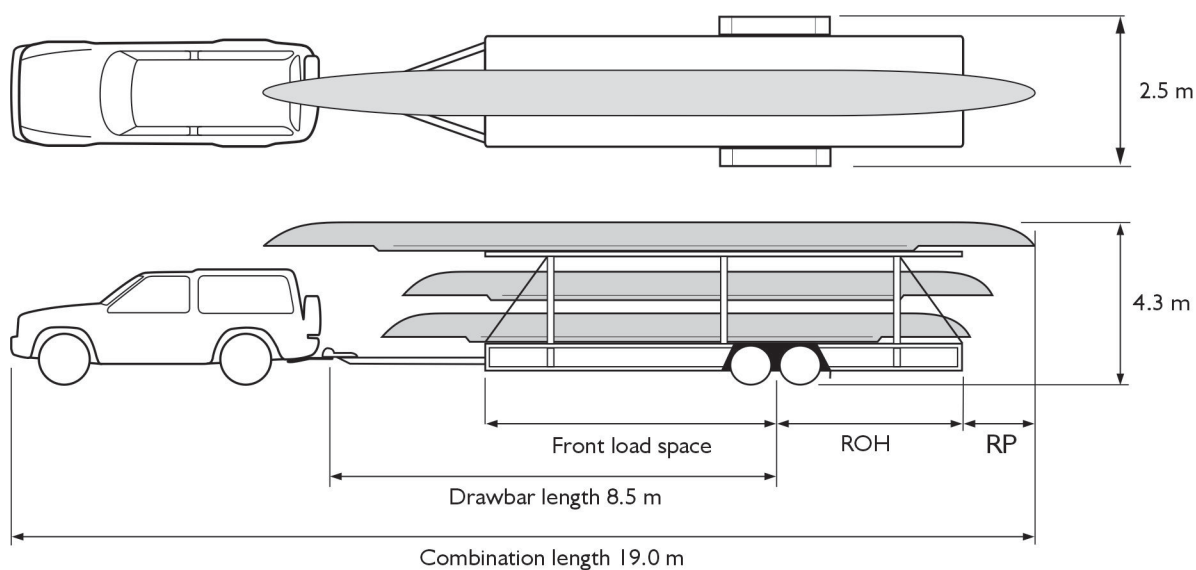
A trailer that is not within the dimension limits of the regulations, or that does not meet the construction requirements of VSB.01 if its ATM is 4.5 tonnes or less, cannot be registered in NSW and therefore cannot be used on NSW roads or road-related areas.

### Dimension limits for vehicle and trailer combination

A vehicle and trailer combination must be within the dimension limits imposed under the **Regulations** 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 with a gross combination mass (GCM) up to and including 4.5 tonnes. The combined length must not exceed 19 metres.

**FIGURE 1: VEHICLE AND LOADED TRAILER IN COMBINATION**



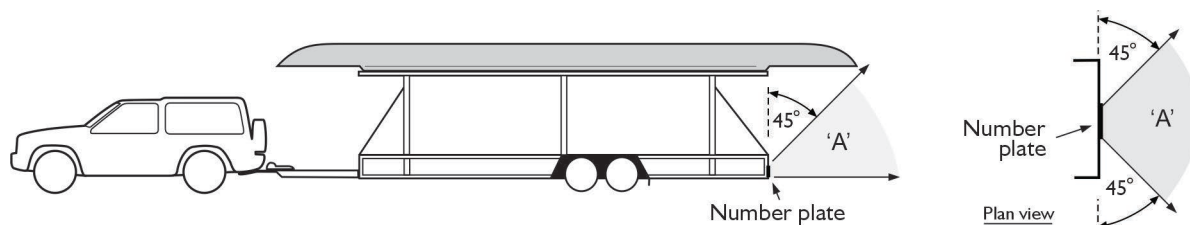
**Rear overhang (ROH):** No more than the length of the front load space, or 3.7 metres, whichever is the lesser.

**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's 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**

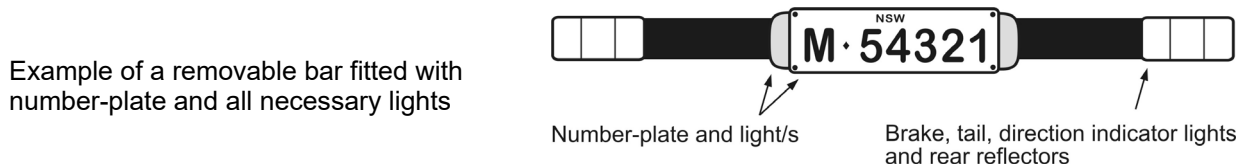


The trailer's brake, tail, indicator, number-plate lights and rear reflectors must not be obscured when boats are being carried. If any lights or reflectors are obscured an additional set must be attached at the rear of the boat/s.

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**

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## Exemptions

It is sometimes impracticable for a vehicle combination carrying rowing boat/s to be within the maximum dimension limits imposed by the Regulations. In this case the combination, when loaded with rowing boat/s, may be driven on the road under the 'RowingBoat 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.

**General access** means the combination may operate on any road, except where a load or dimension restriction is indicated by a sign – see VSI.5 over for more information.

**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.

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

### 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.

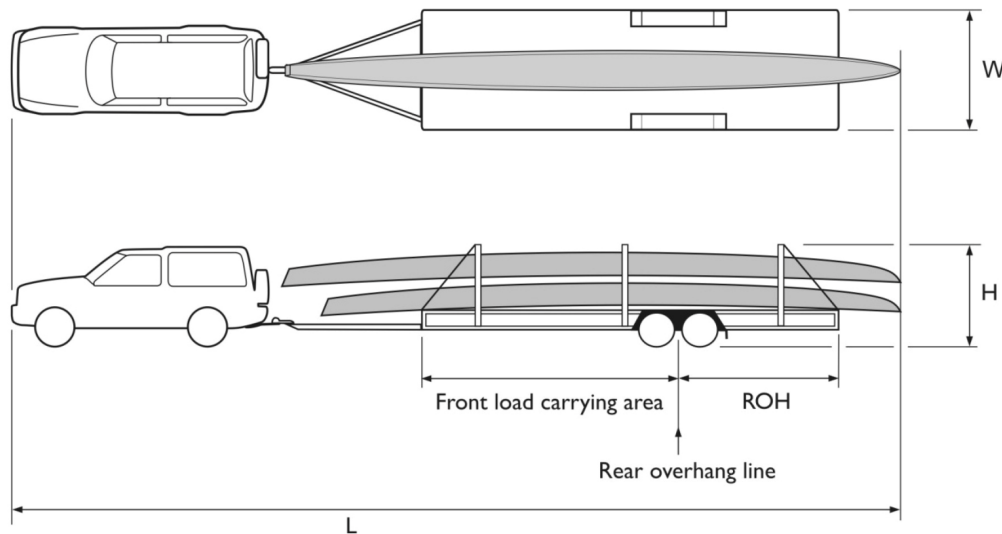
3.1.2 The combination and its load must not exceed the dimension limits prescribed in Table 1.

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

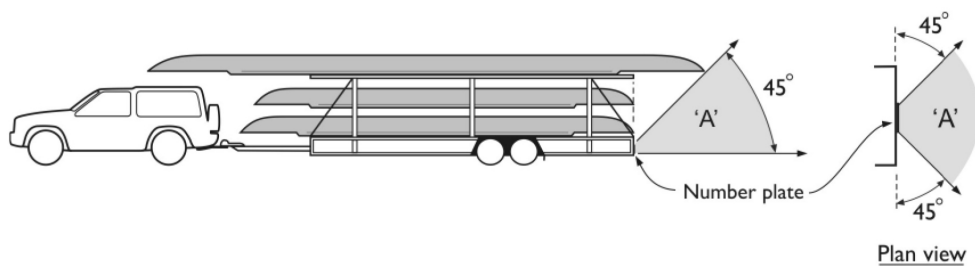
- 4.1.1 A copy of this Notice must be carried in the driving compartment whenever the combination is operating under this Notice, and must be produced when the driver is requested to do so by a police officer or an authorised officer.

##### 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
- the capacity of the towing attachment fitted to the motor vehicle, or
  - the maximum laden weight for the trailer.

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

- the maximum laden weight for the trailer that the manufacturer of the motor vehicle has specified in respect of the motor vehicle, or
  - 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:
    - 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
    - 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'

## Further information

### NSW Legislation

- *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2017*

[legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://legislation.nsw.gov.au)

### Service NSW (SNSW)

To register a vehicle, apply for a permit and to apply for a driver or rider license

To locate your nearest SNSW office

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/> | T 13 77 88

### Transport for NSW

For Information & advice related to vehicle registration, permits & driver/rider licenses

[roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au) | T 13 22 13

### TfNSW Technical Enquiries

For Information & advice related to vehicle construction, modification and registration requirements in NSW

PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124

E [technical.enquiries@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:technical.enquiries@transport.nsw.gov.au) | T 1300 137 302 | F (02) 8837 0037

### TfNSW Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS)

For Information & advice related to VSCCS Licensed Certifiers.

[VSCCS](http://VSCCS) | E [vscs@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vscs@transport.nsw.gov.au) | T 1300 336 206

### Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

For information related to building or importing road vehicles for use in road transport within Australia; also for information on & to access Australian Design Rules (ADRs) & associated Circulars; Vehicle Standards Bulletins (VSBs)

GPO Box 594 Canberra ACT 2601

[infrastructure.gov.au](http://infrastructure.gov.au) | T 1800 815 272 | F (02) 6274 6013

### National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

For Information & advice related to the construction and modification of heavy vehicles (ie those with a GVM or ATM exceeding 4.5tonnes); requirements for heavy vehicle permits & exemptions.

PO Box 492, Fortitude Valley Q 4006

[nhvr.gov.au](http://nhvr.gov.au) E | [info@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:info@nhvr.gov.au) | T 1300 696 487 | F (07) 3309 8777