

Cotton Australia 2017 Cotton Harvest Transport Update **(As of March 17, 2017)**

Cotton Pickers

Queensland

Walking Cotton Pickers

In Queensland there have been no changes to the rules around “walking” John Deere 7760 cotton pickers. They can be “walked” under the provisions of the <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/c2016g00880-qld-class-1-cotton-harvester-mass-dimension-exemption-notice-2016-no1.pdf> . This exemption notice must be carried in the vehicle. Pickers must be conditionally registered.

Operators of JD CP/CS 690 pickers cannot operate under the above notice and must apply for a permit.

Operators can either apply for a permit through the National Heavy Vehicle regulator (NHVR), or if operating solely within Qld can apply directly to the department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). The process of applying through TMR is outlined here - <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Heavy-vehicles/National-heavy-vehicle-regulator/Application-forms> See the section **Oversize, Overmass and Special Purpose Vehicles**.

An alternative to using the on-line NHVR portal is to lodge the application by fax. The form for lodgement can be found here - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/nhvr0006-4-201609-agricultural-vehicle-permit-application.pdf> .

The permit issued should have essentially the same conditions that currently apply to the JD7760, except CS690s will have to have the front removed when being “walked”.

Permit applications through the NHVR can be made through its Customer Portal available here - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/customer-portal> .

Floating Cotton Pickers

Excess Dimension - Operators may be able to operate under the *Guideline for Excess Dimension Carry Indivisible Articles, Special Purpose vehicles, Vehicle that require a pilot or Escort in Queensland, Form 4* if they comply with the dimension limits and meet the conditions of the guideline.

Excess Mass - Operators may be able to operate under the *Guideline for Operation of Excess Mass, Special Purpose Vehicles to 40 tonnes and Vehicles Carrying an Indivisible Item to 59.5 tonnes*, Form 11 if they comply with the mass limits and meet the conditions of the guideline.

These guideline are available on the NHVR website at; <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/notices-and-permit-based-schemes/transitional-notices>

Operation outside of Guideline Mass or Dimension Limits - If “floating” a picker entirely within Qld applications for an Oversize Overmass permit can be made through either the NHVR or TMR. If the permit is required for an interstate journey then the application must be made through the NHVR.

<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Heavy-vehicles/National-heavy-vehicle-regulator/Application-forms>

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/customer-portal>

New South Wales

In NSW, the single journey “walk” has been increased from 80km to 100km. This was implemented through a Notice of Permit Amendment on 7 November 2016, which must be carried with the original permit. New permits applied from this date have the increased distance limit applied as a condition.

To be walked in NSW on State controlled roads all roundbale pickers (JD CP/CS 690, JD7760) need to be conditionally registered and have a Class 1 Special Purpose Vehicle or Agricultural Vehicle Permit. A form for applying for this permit can be found here - <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/forms/45071380-agricultural-vehicle-permit.pdf>

If the journey includes travel on local government roads, permits need to be obtained from the relevant Local Government jurisdiction.

Alternatively, a single application which would cover both State Controlled roads and local government roads can be made through the NHVR using its Customer Portal - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/customer-portal>

An alternative to using the on-line NHVR portal is to lodge the application by fax. The form for lodgement can be found here - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/nhvr0006-4-201609-agricultural-vehicle-permit-application.pdf> .

For “floating” in NSW a Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicle Permit is required. Applications can be either made directly to RMS - <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/forms/45071379-class-1-load-carrying-vehicle-permit.pdf>. If the journey includes travel on local government roads, permits need to be obtained from the relevant Local Government jurisdiction.

Or through the NHVR - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/customer-portal>

Permits for all interstate journeys must be made through the NHVR - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/customer-portal>

Transportation of Modules

Cotton Australia has a range of approved Load restraint Guides for the transportation of cotton modules from farm to cotton gin available here - <http://cottonaustralia.com.au/cotton-growers/resources/transport>

Operators are reminded that if relying on a Load restraint Guide, they must be able to demonstrate full compliance with its requirements.

For the 2017 harvest the 9-round bale module load restraint system which has been available in NSW has been approved for use in Queensland.

This system can be used “as of right” in NSW under Notice, but in Qld, when used in a roadtrain configuration, a permit is required.

To aid in the permit application process (Through the NHVR - <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/access-management/customer-portal>), Cotton Australia has worked with NVHR, TMR and the Local Government Association of Queensland to gain pre-approval on roadtrain routes on the TMR network and cotton producing Local Government areas. Pre-approval does not negate the need for a permit, but should minimise the permit application turn-around time.

NHVR have prepared two fact sheets on the use and permit requirements of this load restraint system.

[Transporting cotton bales on road trains up to a height of 4.6 metres](#)

[Transporting cotton bales on road trains up to a height of 4.6 metres – vehicle performance](#)

Trailer Extensions for Carting up to 6 Round Modules per trailer in Road Train Configuration

Access is currently not available in NSW for Trailers Extensions.

Movement of Cotton Picking Equipment over Easter Holidays

NSW

In NSW the movement of cotton picking equipment over Easter will be allowed under the either the conditions of a Class One Agricultural Vehicle Permit (for “walking” machinery), or the NEW SOUTH WALES CLASS 1 AGRICULTURAL COTTON VEHICLE EXEMPTION FOR PERMITTED HEAVY VEHICLES (NOTICE) 2016 (No. 1) (for “floating” machinery)

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/c2016g00308-nsw-class-1-agricultural-cotton-easter-vehicle-exemption-2016-n01.pdf>

While operators need to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the above, in general cotton harvesting machinery can be “walked” over the Easter period, and where “floating” would normally be restricted, it is allowed on prescribed routes during daylight hours on Easter Sunday and Monday as outlined in the Notice.

QLD

TBA – Currently being worked on