

# Cotton Trailer Extensions – Information sheet

This document provides information on Multi State Class 3 Heavy Vehicle (Cotton Transportation) Dimension Exemption Notice 2017 (No 1).

## Purpose of the Notice.

The purpose of the notice is to allow type 1 road train combinations engaged in transporting round cotton modules and when unladen between cotton farms and cotton gins to be exempted from prescribed dimension requirements when travelling on an approved route.

A type 1 road train means a road train consisting of a prime mover hauling unit towing two trailers connected by a converter dolly when the combination length is no longer than 36.5 metres.

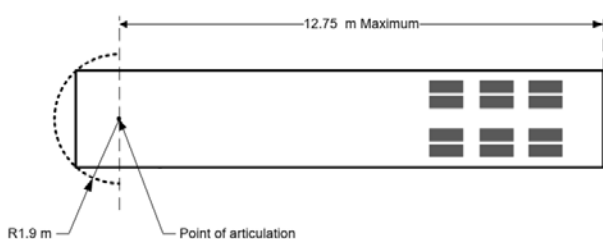
## What loads are covered

This information sheet applies only to round cotton modules.

## What are the exemptions?

This notice allows for the following exemptions:

### First Trailer

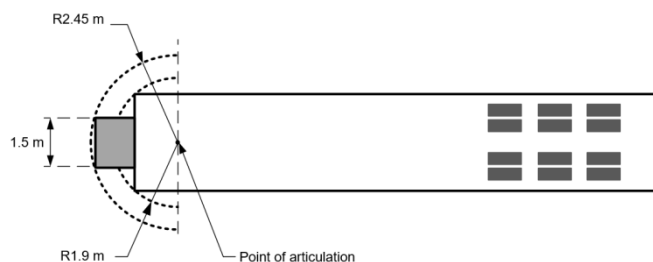


The first trailer cannot exceed the following dimensions:

The coupling overhang can exceed 0.3 metres but not more than 0.75 m.

### Second trailer

The second trailer can have an extension to carry an extra cotton bale. The extension is limited to the following dimensions:



The trailers must not exceed 2.5m in width when loaded.

Road trains must comply with the signage requirements stated in the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation and all other requirements in the National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle Road Train Authorisation (Notice).

## Vehicle modifications

The fitting of an extension to a trailer is a modification, but whether or not it requires assessment and approval from an Approved Vehicle Examiner (AVE) will depend on the design and attachment method.

For an extension where the attachment requires mounting points to be welded to, or holes to be drilled in, the trailer chassis, the modification must be performed and certified in accordance with Modification Code H5 of the National Code of Practice for Vehicle Modifications (VSB6).

This includes the mounting points for a removable extension.

For an extension that attaches to the existing body of the trailer, it is important to assess whether the existing body mountings are sufficient for the extra mass and altered loading that will be imposed by the extension and the load it will carry. If new or modified trailer body mounts are needed, the modification must be performed and certified in accordance with Modification Code J1 of the National Code of Practice for Vehicle Modifications (VSB6).

### For more information:

Subscribe: [www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe)

Visit: [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR\* (1300 696 487)

Email: [info@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:info@nhvr.gov.au)

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Disclaimer: This fact sheet is only a guide and should not be relied upon as legal advice.  
\*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.

When designing or constructing a trailer extension, the NHVR strongly recommends engaging the services of an appropriately qualified engineer, tradesperson or AVE.

## Operation by State

### Queensland

An eligible vehicle operating under this notice may only use the type 1 road train areas and routes shown on the Multi-combination Routes in Queensland maps found at: <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Heavy-vehicles/Multicombination-vehicles/Maps.aspx>

**Note:** Queensland operators will need to comply with vehicle modifications requirements. However, they will be offered a two year grace period finishing on 31 January 2019 on requiring the certification. Queensland operators must obtain vehicle modification requirements before operating in NSW.

### New South Wales

An eligible vehicle operating under this notice may only use the map and/or list of approved roads for Type 1 A-double road trains routes available at:

GML: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/rav-gml-networks>

HML: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/rav-hml-networks>

**Note:** All operators using an eligible vehicle under this notice must have their vehicle approved by an AVE. In NSW AVE assessments and approvals are performed under the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS). Further details can be viewed at: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/examiners/vscs/>

### Other States and Territories

This policy is not applicable.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I use these trailers in a semi-trailer configuration?

No, the dimension exemptions are only applicable when operating as a Type 1 road train configuration on an approved route.

### Can I travel unladen with the trailer modification in the extended position?

Yes, but the extension must be restrained in a way that is compliant with the National Load Restraint Performance Standards<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The load restraint performance standards are listed in the Load Restraint Guide published by the National Transport Commission ([www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au)).

In NSW, the extension must be minimised as far as practicable when travelling unladen.

### What if I want to access roads not listed in the notice?

If you want to access roads not listed in the notice you must apply to the NHVR for a permit.

### Can time restrictions and other conditions be placed on permits?

Yes, road managers can set travel conditions (times and direction of travel), and road conditions. They may also request vehicle conditions; however the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) needs to agree to them.

### Will the NHVR secure third party approval for my permit application?

No. Operators will have to secure all other applicable approvals from electricity companies, rail authorities and other third parties as part of the application process, before your permit can be issued.

### How do I apply for a permit?

To apply for new a permit:

1. Go to <https://www.service.nhvr.gov.au> and if not already registered, follow the prompts to set up an account.
2. Once registered, from the home screen, click on the 'Permit Applications' tile in the centre of the top row.
3. Click on the 'New Application' button (on the right) and enter a permit name or reference for your application.
4. Click on the green 'Select Configuration' button and then click on the heading 'Road Train (Inc. HML)'.  
HML).
5. Select the image that represents 'A doubles' at the top of the list.
6. The radio button 'Class 2 - A doubles' will already be selected, click on 'Height – Up to 4.3m', then 'Length – Up to 36.5m (Type 1)
7. In the 'Freight' section, click on the radio button for 'Commodity' then type in the 'Description of load – Cotton Bales'
8. In the 'Permit Scheme' section, type in 'Cotton Trailer Extension' in the 'Permit Schemes' field.
9. On the 'Route / area details' page, click the 'Route Type – Single Route' radio button then enter your route ID. If you do not have a route

ID, click on the 'Create New Route' button and follow the prompts to create your journey.

10. On the 'Period' page, you will be prompted to enter the required permit period.
11. Follow the prompts to confirm your contact details and complete payment for your application.

For further help contact 1300 MYNHVR (1300 636 487)