

Permit Application Process for Transporting a Round Bale Picker on QLD Roads [2016 Harvest Season]

This guidance note has been prepared by Cotton Australia and is aimed towards helping to explain the Permit application process for transportation on QLD roads of the John Deere 7760 round bale cotton picker during the 2016 cotton harvest period.

Approval to transport over-width and/or over-mass special purpose vehicles on QLD roads, including agricultural machinery, is obtained under a range of Guidelines, National Notices and individual permits from the QLD Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), and/or the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).

What Permits Are Available

Two separate approvals are required to “walk” and to float the John Deere (JD) 7760 round bale cotton picker on QLD roads and a different set of conditions apply to each. The relevant permit or national notice must be carried by the transport operator depending on which task is being carried out; i.e. ‘walking’ or ‘floating’.

‘Walking’ National notice

Class Permit No. 125-TH-13am2 John Deere 7760 Cotton Harvesters Over-Size and Over Mass Concession has been replaced and is contained in National Notice ‘*Queensland Consolidated National Miscellaneous Class 1 and Class 3 Exemption (Notice) 2015 (No 1)*’. Schedule 4 of the national notice, ‘*Queensland Class 1 Heavy Vehicle (Cotton Harvester) Mass and Dimension Exemption (Notice) 2015 (No.1)*’ is specific to John Deere 7760 harvesters.

The notice can be downloaded off the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/c2015g01023-qld-consolidated-national-miscellaneous-class-1-3-exemption-2015-no1.pdf>

Contained in the notice is a list of go/no go routes and a link to “Do Not Cross” structures maps.

It must be noted that the conditions of the national notice must be strictly adhered to, and the national notice also requires compliance with TMR’s Form 14

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/t145-qld-guideline-for-excess-dimension-agricultural-vehicles-and-combinations-form14.pdf>

The current national notice is valid to June 30, 2016.

In particular operators must be aware:

- That in order to comply with the national notice the maximum John Deere harvester dimensions must not exceed 5.5m in width and 5.3m in height.
- That the national notice only applies to State Controlled Roads, and appropriate permits must also be obtained from the NHVR if travelling on Council Controlled Roads.
- That there are identified “do not cross” structures (bridges and culverts), and operators must prepare and retain a trip plan, identifying how they will avoid any “do not cross” structures.
- That consent from rail, communication and power infrastructure authorities be sought if the machine is in excess of the height requirements detailed in, schedule 4, section 13 of the national notice.
- Pilot and escort requirements in the national notice and the Form 4 over-dimensional guideline must be strictly adhered to.
- A copy of the national notice must be carried at all times when operating in accordance with the national notice.

The “do not cross” structures are identified on the national notice, and are also detailed on maps available both on the TMR, NHVR and Cotton Australia website.

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'Floating' Permit

To "float" a JD7760 round bale picker, the operator must fully comply with the requirements of the TMR *Guideline for Excess Dimension – Vehicles that Carry Indivisible Articles, Special Purpose Vehicles and Vehicles that Require a Pilot or Escort, Form 4* and the *Guideline for Operation of Excess Mass Special Purpose Vehicles to 40t and Vehicles Carrying Indivisible Item to 59.5t, Form 11*.

The Form 4 and Form 11 guidelines are both available from the guidelines and class permits page on the TMR website: <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Heavy-vehicles/Heavy-vehicle-guidelines-and-class-permits.aspx>

While Form 4 provides all necessary requirements for transportation of indivisible loads at up to 5.5 metres, an Excess Dimension Permit (formally a letter of no objection) is required for loads wider than 4.6m wide or 4.5m wide when operating within critical areas or on critical roads. Additional, escort requirements as outlined in Form 4. Should the loaded vehicle exceed the dimension limits contained within Form 4 then a Permit Application Excess Mass/ Excess Dimension will have to be applied for. The application form is available at the web address below- <https://www.support.transport.qld.gov.au/qt/formsdat.nsf/Forms/M4130> .

Special considerations for permit applications and operating restrictions

Trailer requirements when "Floating":

- The Letter Of No Objection (LONO), now known as an Excess Dimension Permit is issued to the hauling vehicle and is NOT transferrable.
- References to a low loader trailer mean a gooseneck semitrailer with deck height no greater than 1.2m above the ground.
- The prime mover drive axle group must have a minimum mass of 14 tonnes.
- The minimum required low loader trailer type and axle spacing necessary for proper mass distribution when floating the JD 7760 round bale picker are:

Low loader type	Quadaxle	5 axles
Axle spacing	1.2/2.4/1.2m spacing	1.2m spacing
Mass limits:	35.0t	35.0t

Note: 5 axle low loader combinations require an excess mass period permit. For more information contact the Heavy Vehicle Road Operations Program Office on (07) 3066 5511.

General Requirements:

- Compliance with QLD TMR Form 11- Guideline for Operation of Excess Mass and Form 4- Guideline for Excess Dimension must be maintained when floating the JD 7760 round bale picker on QLD roads.
- If floating the picker with a permit, make sure you read all the Permit Conditions, including Piloting requirements, all Restrictions and ensure full compliance.
- The Permit is NOT a complete document; it must be operated in conjunction with any other documents listed under the Permit Conditions section (eg references to Form 4 or 11).
- A copy of the Permit and other prescribed documentation must be carried by the transport operator and made available on request by an authorised officer.

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Important Disclaimer:

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Information in this guide is not meant nor should be considered as an alternative or substitute to information and advice provided by The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator or QLD Department of Transport and Main Roads. Cotton Australia urges relevant persons to contact either NHVR or QLD TMR to confirm any requirements for legal compliance.