

# Variations of Buses under the Heavy Vehicle National Law & Gazette Notices

Disclaimer: This chart shows variations of buses that are approved to operate under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) and Gazette Notices. It is not a comprehensive representation of the entire Australian heavy vehicle fleet. Other bus configurations may be achievable which are not represented. This chart illustrates some common buses from Gazette notices and is provided for guidance only and it does not supersede either the HVNL or the respective gazette notices. Height and width have not been represented in this chart as they are prescribed in the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation (MDL). Please ensure you comply with the relevant sections of the HVNL and the appropriate gazette notice you are operating under by referencing either the HVNL and/or the appropriate gazettal. For further information, contact the NHVR at 13 NHVR (13 64 87) or info@nhvr.gov.au or www.nhvr.gov.au/contact-us

| Description    Maximum length (metres)   Total vehicle mass (limit (tonnes)   Applicable State/Territory  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 Axle Bus  ≤ 12.5  16.0  All  Rear overhang is as per MDL - Must be a 'complying but or a be authorised to carry standing pas is not an eligible 2-axle bus.  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - Must be a 'complying but or a be authorised to carry standing pas is not an eligible 2-axle bus.  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 6 tyred tandem axle  S 12.5  20.0  All  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 6 tyred tandem axle  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 8 tyred tandem axle - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  S tyred tandem axle - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 8 tyred tandem axle - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 6 tyred tandem axle - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 6 tyred tandem axle - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  - Access to all roads |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eligible 2 Axle Bus  ≤ 12.5  18.0  All  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Rear overhang is as per MDL  Access to all roads  Access to all roads  Access to all roads  Access to all roads  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 Axle Bus  ≤ 12.5  20.0  All  Rear overhang is as per MDL  6 tyred tandem axle  Access to all roads Rear overhang is as per MDL  8 tyred tandem axle  - Access to all roads Rear overhang is as per MDL  8 tyred tandem axle  - Access to all roads Rear overhang is as per MDL  8 tyred tandem axle  - Access to all roads Rear overhang is as per MDL  6 tyred tandem axle  - Must meet the definition of a 'elibus' in the MDL.  - Access to all roads   | igible 2-axle |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 Axle Bus  ≤ 12.5  22.5  All  Rear overhang is as per MDL  8 tyred tandem axle  - Access to all roads - Rear overhang is as per MDL - 6 tyred tandem axle - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  - Access to all roads - Access to all roads - Must meet the definition of a 'eli bus' in the MDL.  - Access to all roads  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eligible 3 Axle Bus  ≤ 12.5  22.0  All  • Rear overhang is as per MDL • 6 tyred tandem axle • Must meet the definition of a 'elibus' in the MDL.  • Access to all roads   |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | igible 3-axle |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| • Rear single axle group fitted with  | h dual tyres  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 3 Axle Ultra-Low Floor Articulated Bus ≤ 18.0 26.0 All • Access to all roads • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Rear single axle group fitted with   | h dual tyres  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Access to all roads  • Rear overhang is as per MDL • Rear single axle group fitted with • Twinsteer with load sharing susp  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New South Wales Class 3 Bus Mass Exemption Notice 2024  |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Class 3   |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|         | New South Wales Class 3 Bus Mass Exemption Notice 2024 |                       |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|-----------------------|------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Class 3 |  |                       |      |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9       | 3 Axle Bus   | L ≤ 12.5m             | 20.5 | NSW | <ul> <li>Must be a 'complying bus'</li> <li>6 tyred tandem axle</li> <li>Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice.</li> <li>Access to all roads in NSW</li> </ul>                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10      | 3 Axle Bus   | L ≤ 12.5m             | 23.0 | NSW | <ul> <li>Must be a 'complying bus'</li> <li>8 tyred tandem axle</li> <li>Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice.</li> <li>Access to all roads in NSW</li> </ul>                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11      | 3 Axle Rigid Ultra Low Floor Bus                       | 12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m     | 20.8 | NSW | 6 tyred tandem axle     Access to all roads in NSW   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12      | 3 Axle Articulated Ultra Low Floor B                   | l <b>us</b> L ≤ 18.0m | 26.8 | NSW | Dual tyres on centre and rear axles     Access to all roads in NSW   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13      | 3 Axle Double Decker Bus                               | L ≤ 12.5m             | 22.0 | NSW | <ul> <li>Must be a regular bus service</li> <li>Twinsteer axle</li> <li>Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice.</li> <li>Allowed to operate on <b>Double Decker Bus Routes</b> in NSW</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14      | 3 Axle Double Decker Bus                               | L ≤ 12.5m             | 22.0 | NSW | Must be a regular bus service     6 tyred tandem axle     Must comply with vehicle safety conditions specified in the Notice.     Allowed to operate on <b>Double Decker Bus</b>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### Routes in NSW **National Gazette Notices** These notices include the Class 2 component. Examples in this section reflect buses that comply with the 'eligible 2 or 3-axle bus' definition in the MDL. Other bus variants may be possible. National Class 2 Bus Authorisation Notice 2024 · Rear overhang is as per MDL 15 2 Axle Controlled Access Bus $12.5m < L \le 14.5m$ 18.0 ΑII Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 2-axle bus' in the MDL. • Rear overhang is as per MDL • 6 tyred tandem axle 3 Axle Controlled Access Bus $12.5m < L \le 14.5m$ ΑII Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 3-axle bus' in the MDL National Class 3 Bus Rear Overhang Dimension Exemption Notice 2024 • Rear overhang exceeds MDL, refer to **Network** Access and Conditions table below 2 Axle Controlled Access Bus 12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 2-axle bus' in the MDL.

3 Axle Controlled Access Bus

|    | List of common terms and HVNL definitions |
|----|---|
| NL |   |

**Articulated bus** means a bus with 2 or more rigid sections connected to one another in a way that allows-

(a) passenger access between the sections; and (b) rotary movement between the sections.

**Bus** means a heavy motor vehicle built or fitted to carry more than 9 adults (including the driver).

Complying bus means a bus with 2 or 3 axles, 1 of which is a steer axle, that is fitted with an approved air suspension system and

- (a) the emergency exit specifications in ADR 44; and
- (b) the rollover strength specifications in ADR 59; and
- (c) the occupant protection specifications in ADR 68.

## Class 2 heavy vehicles

A heavy vehicle is a class 2 heavy vehicle if—

(a) it-

- (i) complies with the prescribed mass requirements and prescribed dimension requirements applying to it; and
- (c) a bus, other than an articulated bus, that is longer than 12.5m;

#### Heavy Vehicle (Mass Dimension and Loading) National Regulation (MDL)

### Length-general

- (1) A heavy vehicle must not be longer than—
- (e) for an articulated bus-18m; or
- (f) for a bus other than an articulated bus—14.5m;

#### eligible 2-axle bus-

A bus is an eligible 2-axle bus if the bus-

- (a) was manufactured before 1 January 2016; and
- (b) has 2 axles, 1 of which is a single-drive axle fitted with dual tyres; and
- (c) is 1 of the following-
- (i) a complying bus;
- (ii) an ultra-low floor bus:
- (iii) a bus, other than an ultra-low floor bus, that is authorised to carry standing passengers;
- (iv) a bus, other than an articulated bus, whose length is more
- than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m; and (d) For a bus manufactured before 1 January 2016, is fitted with—
- (i) a complying anti-lock braking system; or
- (ii) a vehicle stability function that complies with the version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13 that applied to the bus at the bus's date of manufacture or a later version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13.
- For a bus manufactured on or after 1 January 2016, is fitted with—
- (i) a complying anti-lock braking system; and
- (ii) either-
- (A) an eligible electronic braking system; or
- (B) a vehicle stability function that complies with the version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13 that applied to the bus at the bus's date of manufacture or a later version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13.

## eligible 3-axle bus-

A bus is an eligible 3-axle bus if the bus-

(a) was manufactured before 1 January 2015; and

(b) has 3 axles, including a rear tandem axle group fitted with single tyres on 1 axle and dual tyres on the other axle; and (c) is 1 of the following-

- (i) a complying bus;
- (ii) a bus, other than an articulated bus, whose length is more than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m; (iii) an ultra-low floor bus;
- (iv) a bus, other than an ultra-low floor bus, that is authorised to carry standing passengers under an Australian road law; and
- (d) For a bus manufactured before 1 January 2015, is fitted with— (i) a complying anti-lock braking system; or
- (ii) a vehicle stability function that complies with the version
- of UN ECE Regulation No. 13 that applied to the bus at the bus's date of manufacture or a later version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13.
- For a bus manufactured on or after 1 January 2015, is fitted with—
- $(i) \ \ \text{a complying anti-lock braking system; and} \\$  $(ii) \ \ \text{for a complying bus or a bus, other than an articulated bus,} \\$
- whose length is more than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m -(A) is fitted with an eligible electronic braking system; or
- (B) a vehicle stability function that complies with the version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13 that applied to the bus at the bus's date of manufacture or a later version of UN ECE Regulation No. 13.

A vehicle stability function is also known as electronic stability control or ESC.

## **COMMON TERMS**

'Controlled access bus' means a bus, other than an articulated bus, longer than 12.5m but not more than 14.5m long. 'Rear overhang dimension limit' means the requirement in section 5(1) of Schedule 6 of the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension

and Loading) National Regulation. 'Ultra-low floor bus' means a bus that-

- (a) has stairless entry; and
- (b) is accessible to wheelchairs; and (c) is authorised to carry standing passengers

| NETWORK ACCESS AND CONDITIONS                          | QLD  | NSW   | VIC   | TAS   | SA  | ACT   |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Network<br>(Applicable to both Class 2 and 3<br>buses) | State Road Network of Queensland Map     Schedule A, Part 1 – Local government<br>routes other than Brisbane City Council     Schedule A, Part 2 - Brisbane City<br>Council routes | NSW Controlled Access Bus (CAB)     Network     Controlled Access Bus Approved     Routes (PDF)   | Controlled Access Buses Network   | 14.5m long Controlled Access Buses<br>Network   | 14.5m Long Bus Route Network<br>(General Mass Limits)     Up to 13.7m may use all roads<br>subject to notice conditions   | Approved routes for 14.5m Controlled<br>Access Bus  |
| Rear overhang<br>(Applicable to Class 3 buses)         | Rear overhang must be no more than<br>the lesser of <b>4.7m or 70%</b> of the distance<br>between the centre-line of the front axle<br>and the rear overhang line.                 | Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of <b>4.9m or 70%</b> of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line. | Rear overhang must be no more than<br>the lesser of <b>4.3m or 60%</b> of the<br>distance between the centre-line of<br>the front axle and the rear overhang<br>line. | Rear overhang must be no more than<br>the lesser of <b>4.3m or 60%</b> of the<br>distance between the centre-line of<br>the front axle and the rear overhang<br>line. | Rear overhang must be no more than<br>the lesser of <b>4.3m or 60%</b> of the<br>distance between the centre-line of<br>the front axle and the rear overhang<br>line. | Rear overhang must be no more than the lesser of <b>4.9m or 70%</b> of the distance between the centre-line of the front axle and the rear overhang line. |

22.0

ΑII

18

12.5m < L ≤ 14.5m

Rear overhang exceeds MDL, refer to Network

• Must meet the definition of a 'eligible 3-axle

Access and Conditions table below.

· 6 tyred tandem axle

bus' in the MDL.