

Clarification of Queensland Livestock Loading Scheme Conditions

Introduction

This information sheet clarifies the conditions of the Queensland Livestock Loading Scheme (Scheme) and the Queensland Class 3 Livestock Loading Exemption Notice 2024 (the Notice).

The Queensland Government implemented the livestock loading scheme to enhance animal welfare and vehicle safety, ensuring the safe and efficient transportation of livestock throughout Queensland.

For more details on the scheme, visit the Queensland notices on the [NHVR website](#) (under Law and Policies, State-based notices, Queensland) and the [Department of Transport and Main Roads \(TMR\) livestock loading operators guide](#) on the TMR website.

Types of livestock covered by the notice

The type of livestock eligible for transportation under the Notice are cattle, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep.

The number of decks used to transport livestock cannot exceed:

- 2 decks for cattle;
- 3 decks for pigs; and
- 4 decks for sheep and goats.

No other freight can be carried when transporting livestock.

The lower deck must be fully loaded before carrying livestock in the upper deck(s).

Livestock must be loaded as per the [Australian Animal Welfare Standards And Guidelines - Land transport of livestock code](#).

Animal welfare

Animal welfare protection is prescribed by state-based legislation. It's important to note that the notice doesn't provide authorisation to exceed loading density limits provided in the [Australian Animal Welfare Standards And Guidelines - Land transport of livestock code](#).

Queensland Livestock Loading S10 modification code

The code aims to ensure heavy vehicles carrying livestock, operating under the Scheme are assessed by an appropriately qualified and accredited approved vehicle examiner (AVE) to determine and certify the maximum mass limits allowed.

The AVE ensures the mass certification does not exceed the manufacturer's specifications and evaluates the deck capacity and distribution of the load, allowing for additional items such as fuels, water, and livestock.

To operate under the Scheme, an eligible vehicle (excluding tri-axle converter dollies) must be fitted with a compliant S10 modification plate.

An S10 modification plate may be a maroon or blue plate, depending on the date of issue.

A S10 certification cannot increase the manufacturer's specifications. A modification plate is considered non-compliant if an AVE has certified the mass limits to be greater than the manufacturer's specifications.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator can use non-compliance with the certification on an S10 modification plate for compliance and enforcement purposes.

For specific advice relating to S10 certification, refer to the [NHVR Modification Code S10 Concessional Livestock Loading - Vehicle Rating](#) or visit the NHVR Heavy Vehicle modification page at www.nhvr.gov.au.

Eligible vehicles under the notice

An eligible vehicle of the Notice must be carrying livestock and have a current livestock loading S10 plate, and includes one of the following vehicles or combination types:

1. A rigid truck; or
2. A rigid truck towing a five or six-axle dog trailer; or
3. A prime mover towing a semi-trailer; or
4. A B-double combination; or
5. B-triple combination; or
6. A Road train combination



Statutory mass limits of the Scheme and Notice

The statutory laden maximum mass limits provided by the Scheme and Notice is the lesser of:

- the mass limits as listed on the S10 modification plate, or
- vehicle GVM, or
- trailer ATM, or
- trailer GTM, or
- the mass limits in the Notice

The statutory unladen maximum mass limits provided by the Scheme and Notice are:

- The total mass of both unladen trailers combined in a B-double combination must not exceed 22t.
- The total mass of all unladen trailers combined in a B-triple combination must not exceed 32t.

Other considerations

Vehicles operating under the scheme must comply with the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) and the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension, and Loading) National Regulations unless exemptions are provided in the Queensland Class 3 Livestock Loading Exemption Notice

For more information:

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