



Tasmania  
Department of  
Infrastructure, Energy  
and Resources

LAND TRANSPORT  
SAFETY

## INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR THE LIVESTOCK LOADING SCHEME

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The Transport Commission issues this Information Bulletin.

*The information contained in this Information Bulletin was correct at the time of publication. Transport operators are reminded that both technical and operation requirements may change from time to time and that the Commission reserves the right to alter any conditions set out in this bulletin or remove the right to operate in accordance with this bulletin.*

**It is an offence to operate a vehicle or combination contrary to the conditions of a permit issued in accordance with this bulletin**



*This Information Bulletin is for the Livestock Loading Scheme. It should be carried in the vehicle or combination at all times.*

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Tasmanian Livestock Loading Scheme is an agreement between the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) and the Livestock Transport Association. It is designed to facilitate the safe and efficient transportation of livestock by:

- ◆ reducing the chances of animals being injured;
- ◆ increasing the productivity of livestock transportation;
- ◆ protecting road and bridge infrastructure; and
- ◆ reducing the chances of vehicles rolling over.

Road safety is enhanced by:

- ◆ requiring road friendly air suspensions;
- ◆ reducing the ability of livestock to move to one side of the vehicle en masse; and
- ◆ the use of low profile semi-trailers.

Participation in the scheme is voluntary. It is limited to six axle articulated vehicles and nine axle B-doubles, provided they comply with the dimension limits, axle spacings and other requirements shown in this information

bulletin. Vehicles that participate in the scheme are exempted from complying with normal vehicle mass limits except for manufacturers' ratings.

Vehicles that do not participate in the scheme can be used to transport livestock, but they are not exempted from complying with normal vehicle mass limits.

**2. LIVESTOCK**

Livestock, in this scheme, are defined as cattle, sheep or pigs.

**3. MASS CONTROLS**

The scheme controls the mass of livestock vehicles by limiting:

- ◆ maximum trailer length and height (crate size);
- ◆ maximum vehicle tare mass; and
- ◆ the maximum number of animals carried in accordance with animal welfare codes and regulations.

Vehicles operated in accordance with the scheme are eligible for exemptions from normal mass limits provided manufacturer's ratings are not exceeded.

**4. DIMENSION LIMITS**

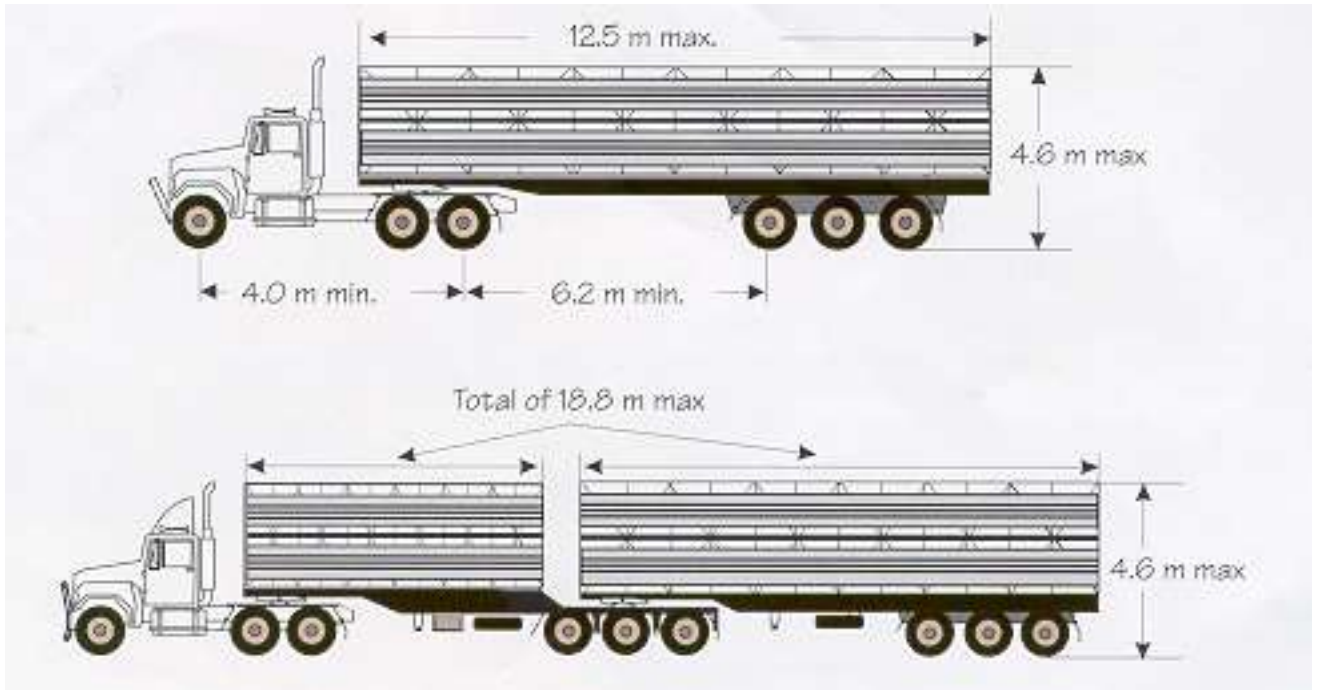
The national maximum loading space for livestock carrying vehicles is 12.5m for semi-trailers, and a total of 18.8m for B-double trailers, as shown below.

The loading space is measured from the inside of the front wall or door to the inside of the rear wall or door of the semi-trailer, with intervening partitions being disregarded.

Livestock vehicles may be constructed to a maximum width of 2.5m and a maximum height of 4.6m

**5. AXLE SPACINGS**

To ensure that the mass of livestock vehicles is appropriately distributed on bridges, livestock vehicles must comply with the axle spacings shown in the following diagrams.



**B-Doubles must comply with the axle spacings as specified in Part 2 of the *Vehicle and Traffic (Vehicle Operations) Notice*, relating to B-Doubles.**

## 6. PRIME MOVERS

The tare weight of a prime mover must not exceed 11 tonnes.

The prime mover must have manufacturers' ratings of least:

- ◆ steer axle 6.0 tonnes;
- ◆ drive axle group 17.3 tonnes;
- ◆ GVM 23.3 tonnes;
- ◆ GCM (single articulated) 46.3 tonnes; and
- ◆ GCM (B-double) 68.0 tonnes.

## 7. SEMI-TRAILERS

The tare weight of a semi-trailer must not exceed 12 tonnes. The total tare weight of the prime mover and semi-trailer must not exceed 22.0 tonnes (note that this is less than the sum of the allowable tare weights of the prime mover and the semi-trailer).

Fuel tanks must not be fitted to semi-trailers, and any water carried on the semi-trailer must be in quantities for personal use only. The tare weight is the mass of the empty vehicle with water in any tanks.

Semi-trailers must have a tri-axle with 4 tyres per axle and a manufacturer's rating of least 25.0 tonnes.

## 8. B-DOUBLES

The total tare weight of the two semi-trailers in a B-double combination must not exceed 21.0 tonnes.

The total tare weight of the prime mover and two semi-trailers must not exceed 32.0 tonnes.

## 9. VEHICLE STABILITY

To maintain vehicle stability, the livestock loading scheme is only available to 6 axle articulated vehicles and 9 axle B-doubles.

Vehicles of this type have fifth wheel couplings, which makes them more roll resistant than rigid trucks, or truck/trailer combinations joined by a draw bar. Vehicle stability is also improved by having the maximum number of axles.

To further improve vehicle stability, the following requirements have been included in the livestock loading scheme:

- ◆ Road friendly suspensions will be required on prime movers and semi-trailers that were registered for the first time after 1 July 2001; and
- ◆ Livestock vehicle drivers must be trained in driving high livestock vehicles.

To ensure that the vehicles operate safely, the manufacturer's ratings for the vehicle and its components (eg axles and tyres), must not be exceeded.

Vehicles must be equipped with dual tyres on all non-steering axles to minimise road wear.

#### 10. DRIVER TRAINING

Any driver of a nominated LLS vehicle is to be certified as competent in accordance with national competency standards for livestock vehicle drivers. Training leading to that competence may be provided by any registered training provider. The training course used must be accredited and listed on the National Training Register and provide a qualification at National Certificate Level III. Drivers will be issued a competency card upon successful completion of training. Drivers with interstate qualifications will be accepted and may be issued with a competency card.

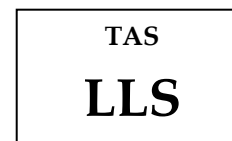
To obtain a certificate for successfully completing the driver training course, the driver will have to satisfy the trainer that he or she:

- ◆ has a good understanding of animal welfare codes and regulations;
- ◆ understands the techniques for loading and unloading livestock vehicles;
- ◆ understands the legal requirements for operating in the livestock loading scheme in Tasmania;

- ◆ understands the techniques of driving vehicles up to 4.6 m high and negotiating adverse road conditions;
- ◆ can drive a high livestock vehicle in a safe manner.

#### 11. EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE

All prime movers and semi-trailers are required to display Tasmanian issued plates (LLS) signifying participation in the livestock loading scheme. Each plate is to be affixed in the vicinity of the registration plates on the front of the prime movers and at the rear of each semi-trailer.



#### 12. CARRYING DOCUMENTS

The driver must carry the following documents in the driving compartment and must produce them for checking when requested by a authorised Officer of DIER or a Police Officer:

- ◆ a copy of the Livestock Loading Scheme certificate signed by an authorised DIER Officer, showing vehicle ratings, tare weight and semi-trailer loading space; and
- ◆ a copy of the certificate from the driver training provider;

#### 13. INTERSTATE REGISTERED VEHICLES

Vehicles registered in another State or Territory that are not currently part of a livestock loading scheme are eligible to apply for participation in the Tasmanian Livestock Loading Scheme.

Interstate registered livestock vehicles participating in Livestock loading schemes in other States or Territories are automatically included in the Tasmanian Livestock Loading Scheme provided that:

- ◆ the vehicles meet the required vehicle manufacturer's ratings;
- ◆ the tare weight of the vehicles is within the Tasmanian limits; and

- ◆ a copy of relevant documents relating to the Livestock Loading Scheme in the other State or territory is carried, including individual weighbridge dockets showing the tare mass of the prime mover and semi-trailer/s.

There is no need for vehicles participating in another livestock loading scheme to display the Tasmanian LLS plates.

#### 14. FEES AND CHARGES

At this stage it is proposed that there not be any charge related to membership of the LLS. DIER will bear the costs of maintaining scheme records. Members will bear their own costs in substantiating vehicle eligibility where this is found to be necessary.

#### 15. LOADING AND OPERATING

The number of decks used to transport livestock shall not exceed:

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

Freight other than livestock must not be carried on a vehicle operating under the scheme.

Owners, operators and drivers must ensure that they comply with provisions of Tasmanian law and codes of practice relating to animal welfare during road transport.

#### 16. WEIGHBRIDGE CHECKS

All drivers, including drivers of livestock vehicles, must pull into weighbridges when directed by an authorised Officer of DIER, Police Officer, or if a sign is displayed at the approach to a weighbridge.

Vehicles which comply in all respects with the livestock loading scheme may be exempted from complying with normal vehicle mass limits.

It will be an offence, however, if any manufacturer's ratings are exceeded. Also enforcement officers may check road safety related matters.

#### 17. SAFE TRAVEL

The vehicle's registered operator and driver are responsible for planning each journey to ensure that:

- (a) the vehicle crosses bridges and negotiates curves in a safe manner, bearing in mind that some roads and intersections may not be capable of accommodating vehicles at the allowable dimensions;
- (b) the vehicle is not driven under a bridge or structure if the vehicle's height is the same as or exceeds the height limit on any sign;
- (c) that the clearance to other overhead structures, cables, wires and trees is at least 200mm greater than the height of the vehicle and sufficient to ensure safe passage; and
- (d) the vehicle is not driven on a road, bridge or structure if it would exceed any posted mass or dimension limit.

#### 18. ROADS

Prime mover and semi-trailer combinations carrying livestock may travel throughout Tasmania.

B-doubles carrying livestock may only travel on approved routes that are specified in Schedule 1 of the Vehicle Operations Notice or under a special permit. Permits must be carried in the vehicle at all times and produced for checking by an authorised Officer of DIER or a Police Officer.

#### 19. COMPLIANCE

The livestock vehicle's operator and driver are responsible for complying with all of the requirements for operating in the livestock loading scheme. If any requirement is not adhered to, the operator and driver may be liable to prosecution for exceeding vehicle mass limits.

**20. HOW TO JOIN THE SCHEME**

Operators applying to participate in the scheme must supply the following items to DIER:

- ◆ A completed Tasmanian Livestock Loading Scheme Application Form (attached);
- ◆ A completed Livestock Loading Scheme Certificate for each prime mover and semi-trailer;
- ◆ Documentary evidence from the manufacturer of the prime mover stating the ratings for:
  - steer axle;
  - drive axle group;
  - GVM; and
  - GCM
- ◆ Documentary evidence from the manufacturer of each semi-trailer stating the rating for the tri-axle group and the maximum loading space;
- ◆ Separate weighbridge docket(s) showing the tare weight of the prime mover and the trailer (s) ready for operation.

Documentation should be forwarded to:

Manager, Vehicle Standards,  
Department of Infrastructure, Energy  
and Resources  
GPO Box 936  
HOBART TAS 7001

Upon approval, a LLS plate and certificate will be mailed to the applicant.

If it not possible to readily obtain a letter from the vehicle manufacturer, the vehicle may be rated by an engineer recognised by DIER, competent in heavy vehicles.

**21. FURTHER ENQUIRES**

For detailed information, please contact the Department's Technical Officer on 6233 5314.

# TASMANIAN LIVESTOCK LOADING SCHEME

## VEHICLE CERTIFICATE

### Vehicle

Prime Mover                       Semi Trailer                      *or*                       Lead trailer of a B-Double

Registration No: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Tare mass: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please supply weigh bridge docket's of Tare)

Suspension type: \_\_\_\_\_ RFS certification number: \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Mover                      *or*                      Trailer

Steer \_\_\_\_\_                      GTM: (tri axle) \_\_\_\_\_

Drive \_\_\_\_\_                      ATM: \_\_\_\_\_

GVM \_\_\_\_\_                      Maximum loading space \_\_\_\_\_

GCM \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above information is correct.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Owner / Agent)

### Office use only

Tasmanian Authorised Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# TASMANIAN LIVESTOCK LOADING SCHEME

## APPLICATION FOR LLS PLATE

Registered owner of vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply to operate in the Tasmanian Livestock Loading Scheme in accordance with the conditions of Information Bulletin for the Livestock Loading Scheme.

Attached are applications for the following prime movers: (insert registration numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

and the following trailers: (insert registration numbers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Owner / Agent)