



Vehicle Safety Branch Circular to Industry

14.63m Long Semi-Trailers

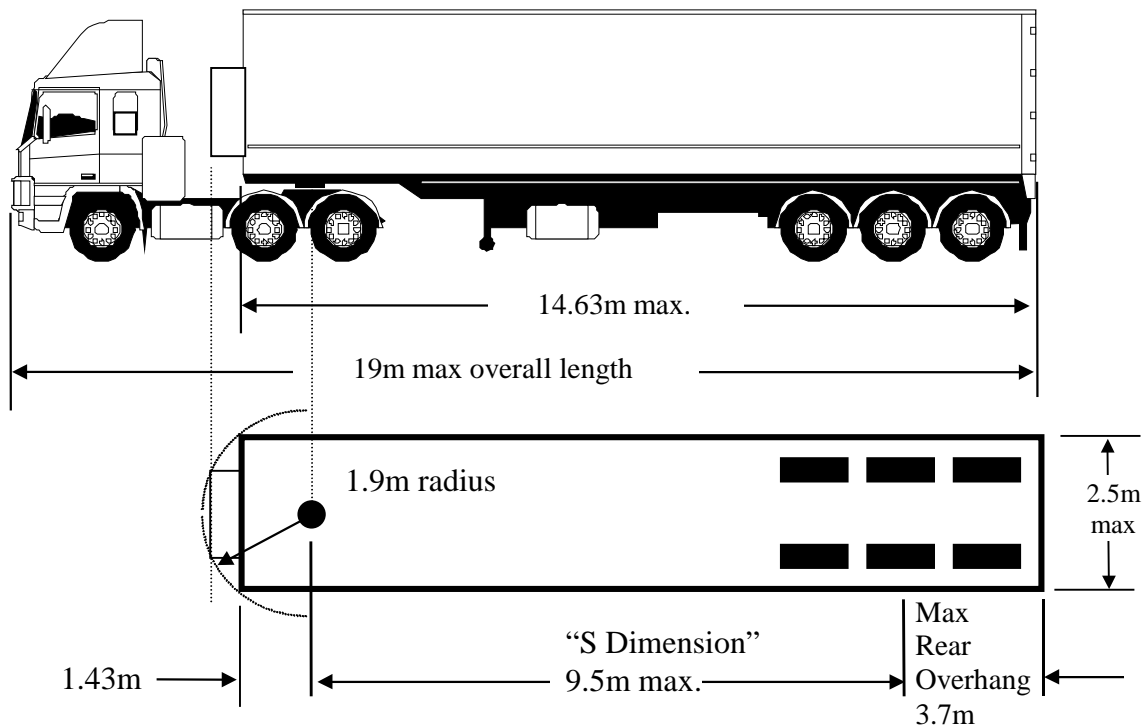
The Department of Transport (DoT) in conjunction with Main Roads WA have agreed to allow the conditional registration and use of these long semi-trailers in this state subject to the following conditions:

General Operating Conditions

Nationally Accepted Dimensions: The dimension of the prime mover and trailer remain within national limits for:

- The maximum overall length of the prime mover and semi-trailer combination of 19m.
- The maximum width of the prime mover and semi-trailer of 2.5m
- The maximum “S Dimension” of 9.5m (the distance between the centreline of the king pin and the centreline of the rear axle group)
- The maximum forward projection which is to be contained within a radius of 1.9m.

Overall Length of Trailer: The overall length of the semi-trailer combination should not exceed 19m and the full-width length of the trailer should not exceed 14.63m. A projection contained within a 1.9m radius, measured from the kingpin, is allowed as in the case of a standard semi-trailer.





Mass Limits not to be Exceeded

Total mass and load distribution must not exceed the current mass and loading requirements for total mass and individual axle loads.

Approval Process

Semi-trailers built to the above dimensions are not in conformity with nationally accepted dimensions and therefore:

- These semi-trailers must receive DoT approval prior to construction in keeping with the present requirement for the construction of over dimensional vehicles. Vehicles approved for construction will be issued with an exemption as required by the newly implemented Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002. Each application requires the payment of a \$50 fee for the exemption. The Regulations allow for more than one vehicle to be included in each application.
- Newly constructed trailers must display a compliance plate that indicates the vehicle is non-standard as required by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) for the certification of non-standard vehicles.
- Trailers for use in Road Trains must be constructed to ADR 63 specification.
- Relevant underrun protection must be installed on these trailers.

Conditions of Registration

Semi-trailers approved under this policy will be registered Class B with the following conditions:

- Licence to be carried in vehicle at all times
- When coupled to a prime mover, in a semi-trailer configuration, the overall length of the resultant combination must not exceed 19m.

Since the vehicle combination will be within 19m, no special Main Roads WA approval or permit will be required.

General Information

This policy is designed to assist industry in remaining competitive in the national market.

It is essential that operators and drivers pay careful attention to the overall dimension of their combination. This is particularly important in this state that has a high proportion of long wheelbase bonneted prime movers.



Depending on the wheelbase of the prime mover and the location of its fifth wheel, it is possible for many bonneted prime movers to tow the 14.63m trailer and remain within the maximum legal dimension of 19m.

The use of the 14.63m trailer will allow operators who haul relatively light loads, an additional two standard pallets of floor space and a more flexible method of carrying *48-foot* rail containers.

B-double and Road Train Use

Under present national standards the use of these trailers is not permitted in B-double or road train configurations. As an interim measure, and until a clearer policy is developed at a national level, the use of these trailers in multi-combinations will be allowed in WA but will be restricted as follows:

- not to be used in B-double configuration,
- only one 14.63m trailer in a combination as the last trailer in a double road train or the middle or last trailer of a triple road train,
- road train combination must not exceed the current combination overall lengths.

Trailers up to 14.63m used in a road train configuration must tow in a safe manner. Road trains that have excessive sway or similar unsafe characteristics will be issued with a compliance notice.

Vehicle Safety Branch

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