



Thank you to the following organisations for their invaluable assistance with production of this booklet:



Department of **Transport**  
**Main Roads** Western Australia  
**Primary Industries and Regional Development**



# A Handbook for Western Australian farmers

This handbook is a guide to the safe towing of agricultural implements and an interpretation of the law.

It is NOT the law, but a simplified version of the current requirements contained in the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012* and Regulations, in Western Australia. It is not intended to be used as a legal document.

More information can be obtained online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs).

## Available online

This handbook is correct at the time of printing.

The most current version of this handbook can be downloaded in PDF format online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs).

## Contacting us

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information.

# Foreword

The safety of all road users is of paramount importance. In order to improve road safety, the Department of Transport (DoT) is working with other state government agencies, local government authorities and industry organisations to promote the education of road users regarding traffic regulations and encourage safer driving practices.

Agriculture is an important industry for Western Australia and contributes greatly to the state economy. This updated and revised booklet, which has been prepared by the Agricultural Vehicles Advisory Committee, is produced as a practical guide focused on the needs of the primary producer and those who are involved in the movement of farm equipment. It outlines specific regulations that apply to the movement of agricultural machinery and agricultural implements.

If you are an employer you have a duty of care to ensure employees who drive your vehicles and farm machinery are well rested and are fit for duty. If you plan to move farm machinery on public roads the employees involved should be physically and mentally capable of remaining alert for the duration of the movement.

In Western Australia there are Occupational Safety and Health regulations for fatigue management that, depending on the hours being worked, may apply to your machinery movement. Further information on the regulations as well as general guidance on the management of driver fatigue is contained in the Code of Practice on Fatigue Management for Commercial Vehicle Drivers available from WorkSafe WA.

This publication and other information on driver fatigue can be found on the WorkSafe website at [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe) (search 'Driver Fatigue').

All road users, regardless of the type of vehicle being driven, have a responsibility to drive in safe, considerate and courteous manner.

DoT encourages you to read this guide and hopes that you find it informative.

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Transport Portfolio**

# Acknowledgements

This document has been prepared in consultation with the Agricultural Vehicles Advisory Committee (AVAC).

AVAC comprises representatives from:

- Department of Transport (DoT);
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (PIRD);
- Farm Machinery & Industry Association of WA (Inc) (FMIA);
- Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA);
- Motor Trade Association of WA (MTAWA);
- Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (PGA);
- Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF);
- Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA);
- Western Australia Police Force; and
- Western Power.

AVACs purpose is to identify regulatory and administrative impediments to primary industry and determine means to rectify them. AVAC was established by the Vehicle Safety and Standards section (VSS) of DoT.

This revised document is now aligned with the most current version of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

You can contact us online at [AVAC@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:AVAC@transport.wa.gov.au).

# Definitions

## **Agricultural combination**

A combination that includes at least one agricultural vehicle.

## **Agricultural implement**

A vehicle without its own motive power, built to perform agricultural tasks.

## **Agricultural machine**

A machine with its own motive power, built to perform agricultural tasks.

## **Agricultural Pilot**

A person who does not hold a heavy vehicle pilot licence who may drive a pilot vehicle for the purpose of facilitating the movement of an oversize agricultural vehicle subject to the conditions of the *Heavy Vehicle Agricultural Pilot Authorisation 2018*.

## **Agricultural vehicle**

An agricultural implement or agricultural machine.

## **Escort vehicle**

A motor vehicle that is being used —

- A) to transport a police officer, or other person authorised to direct traffic; and
- B) to warn other road users of the presence of an oversize vehicle.

## **Flashing Amber Light**

A warning light that complies with Regulation 433 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

## **Gate to gate**

Two gates facing each other, one on each side of a road, where the distance between the 2 centrelines, drawn at right angles to the road, of each gate is 20 metres or less.

## **Lighting equipment**

Lights, reflectors and ancillary equipment.

## **Night-time**

The hours between sunset and sunrise.

## **Peak hours**

7:30am to 9:00am and 4:30pm to 6:00pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, other than a public holiday.

## **Pilot**

A person who is the holder of a heavy vehicle pilot licence granted under Part 13A of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

## **Pilot/Escort Vehicle Warning Sign**

A warning sign as detailed in Regulation 444 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

## **Pilot vehicle**

A motor vehicle, other than an escort vehicle, being used to warn other road users of the presence of an oversize vehicle.

## **Portable Warning Sign**

A portable warning sign complying with AS3790-1992 (Portable Warning Triangles for Motor Vehicles) as detailed in Regulation 191 of the *Road Traffic Code 2000*.

## **RAV Network 2**

The Restricted Access Vehicle Network 2 of Permitted Roads, published on Main Roads (MR) website or available from MR Heavy Vehicle Operations.

## **Safe Locking Device**

A safe locking device as detailed in Regulation 435(2) of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

## **Safety chain**

A safety chain as detailed in Regulation 435(3) and (4) of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

## **Unloaded mass**

The mass of the vehicle in running order, equipped with all standard equipment and with all fuel and other fluid reservoirs filled to nominal capacity, but unoccupied and without any other load.

## **Vehicle**

A motor vehicle, trailer or combination (including the equipment fitted to, or forming part of, the vehicle).

## **Warning Flag**

A brightly coloured flag or piece of material as detailed in Regulation 442 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

## **Warning sign**

A sign that complies with the specifications in Regulation 444 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

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Once you enter your licence details or your unique registration code, your personal details and username, you will receive a temporary password via email.





# PART 1

## Agricultural Implements

## 1.1 What is an agricultural implement?

An agricultural implement is a specific piece of equipment that is constructed to perform an agricultural task. It does not have its own motive power and so requires towing to be moved.

A towed agricultural implement does not have to be licensed providing it is towed by a vehicle that is either licensed or operating under a valid permit issued by DoT.

The following items shown in the list below are generally classified as towed agricultural implements; however this list is not exhaustive:

Please note that the below list does not include welders, cement mixers, farm trailers, fuel and water tankers and other items that may not be used specifically for agricultural purposes.

As a guide, unless a vehicle can only be used as an agricultural implement, it must be licensed by DoT before it is used on public roads.

However, some dual or multi use vehicles may be licensed and receive an agricultural machinery or agricultural special purpose concession (see Part 3 - Vehicle Licence Concessions).

- |                          |                                   |                              |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Air seeders            | ■ Feed out trailers               | ■ Portable crutching cradles |
| ■ Animal weighing scales | ■ Field bins                      | ■ Root rakes                 |
| ■ Augers                 | ■ Harrows                         | ■ Rotary hoes                |
| ■ Blade ploughs          | ■ Harvesters (not self-propelled) | ■ Scarifiers                 |
| ■ Boom sprayers          | ■ Hay balers                      | ■ Seed graders               |
| ■ Clover harvesters      | ■ Hay mowers                      | ■ Sheep showers              |
| ■ Combines               | ■ Hay rakes                       | ■ Stack hand hay balers      |
| ■ Comb trailers          | ■ Hay stackers & elevators        | ■ Stone pickers              |
| ■ Cultivators            | ■ Irrigation rain guns            | ■ Super spreaders            |
| ■ Disc harrows           | ■ Mobile sheep yards              | ■ Twin implement hitches     |
| ■ Disc ploughs           | ■ Pasture toppers                 | ■ Tedders                    |
| ■ Dump rakes             | ■ Portable stockyards             |                              |
| ■ Feed mixers            |                                   |                              |



# **PART 2**

## **Vehicle Licence Conditions and Permits**

In Western Australia there are three categories of farm machinery use that are covered by the road traffic regulations.

- Towing of Agricultural Implements.
- Driving Self-Propelled Machinery.
- Transport of Oversize Loads on vehicles.

## 2.1 Towing of agricultural implements

Towed Agricultural Implements do not have to be licensed providing they are towed by a vehicle that is either licensed or operating under a valid permit issued by DoT.

An agricultural vehicle or combination exceeding 2.5 metres wide, 4.3 metres high, 12.5 metres vehicle length or 19 metres combination length and/or exceeds a statutory mass limit is required to operate under a Main Roads permit or order and comply with the relevant operating conditions.

Once an agricultural combination exceeds 7.5 metres wide or 30 metres long it cannot be moved on a road unless a permit has been issued by WA Police to ensure the combination can be moved safely. This permit is in addition to a Main Roads permit which will still be required.

Where a vehicle or any part of an agricultural combination is over 4.3 metres\* high, or may come into contact with a power line, written permission must be obtained from Western Power or Horizon Power before the combination is moved.

\*4.6 metres when travelling on Main Roads RAV network 2.



## 2.2 Driving Self-Propelled Machinery

There are special vehicle licence conditions that govern the use and movement of self-propelled machinery such as headers, tractors, etc. These conditions are detailed on the vehicle licence papers and must be complied with at all times.

Examples of Condition codes include:

- 001 – Licence to be carried in vehicle at all times
- 003 – Daylight Use Only
- 012 – To be preceded and followed by pilot vehicles bearing signs
- 024 – Movement in accordance with Main Roads WA permit or notice

### 2.2.1 Class A vehicles

Are fully compliant road going vehicles which have unconditional access to the road network.

Temporary Movement Permits may be issued by DoT to allow the movement of unlicensed Class A farm vehicles or machinery to and from a place of examination for licensing or repairs prior to licensing. To obtain a temporary permit you will need to provide the following:

- details of the journey;
- driver's details; and
- the engine or chassis number or details of the towing vehicle where the towed vehicle is a trailer or other vehicle capable of being licensed.

Please remember that temporary movement permits are generally only valid for 48 hours from the nominated start time. Any conditions or limitations of use that have been endorsed on the permit by the issuing officer must be complied with. They are not intended for continued use of the vehicle. Temporary Movement Permits, for light vehicles with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of 4,500kg or under, are available online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au).

### 2.2.2 Class B or C vehicles

Are non-compliant vehicles which have condition codes attached to the vehicle licence, which may restrict the vehicle operation, road access or both. The use of B and C class vehicles on roads are still subject to mass and dimension requirements of the Regulations and may require a Main Roads permit.

Special Permits for over-dimensional vehicles may be issued by DoT to move unlicensed Class B and C farm vehicles and machinery. To obtain a permit you will need to provide the following details:

- details of the journey;
- driver's details; and
- details of the vehicle.

## 2.3 Tracked Vehicles

Conditionally licensed rubber tracked agricultural machines may operate on a road. The rubber tracked agricultural machine must travel on continuous tracks which are made of rubber, or are rubber tipped.

Drivers of a conditionally licensed rubber tracked agricultural machine must carry a copy of the 'Ministerial Declaration of Exemption: Tracked agricultural machines' when operating a rubber tracked agricultural machine on a road. This declaration is available for download online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au).

## 2.4 Transport of Oversize Loads on vehicles

Where any 'indivisible' load (that is a load that cannot be divided without undue effort and/or expense, including farm machinery carried on a vehicle) is carried on a vehicle and the resulting dimensions exceed 2.5 metres wide; 4.3 metres in height or 19 metres in length an 'Oversize' movement permit is required from Main Roads WA.

**Please note: Over-length loads are not permitted on a rigid vehicle.**

For any load carried on a vehicle with total dimensions exceeding 4.3 metres\* high, written permission must be obtained from Western Power or Horizon Power before the combination is moved.

\*4.6 metres high when travelling on Main Roads RAV network 2.



## 2.5 Permits

### 2.5.1 Department of Transport - Temporary Movement Permit

Temporary Movement Permits can be obtained from DoT. A fee is payable.

**Phone:** 13 11 56

**Website:** [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au) (search 'Movement Permit')

**Visit:** Driver and Vehicle Services Centre or regional agent

Please note temporary movement permits are only available to purchase online for light vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) not exceeding 4,500kgs.

### 2.5.2 Special Permit for Over-Dimensional Vehicles

Special Permits for over-dimensional vehicles can be obtained from DoT. Up to 14 days' notice may be required. A fee is payable.

**Phone:** 13 11 56

### 2.5.3 Main Roads WA - Oversize and/or Over-Mass Vehicle Permit

If agricultural machine exceeds the mass or dimensions limits in the Main Roads 'Restricted Access Vehicle Agricultural Machine Operating Conditions' or 'Restricted Access Vehicle Rubber Tracked Agricultural Machine Operating Conditions' a permit will be required to move the agricultural machine on public roads. An oversize or over-mass agricultural combination must not be driven on a road unless a permit has been issued by Main Roads.

The conditions of movement are endorsed on the permit and a fee is payable. The driver must be aware of the conditions and drive accordingly.

Permits can be obtained from the Heavy Vehicle Services branch of Main Roads WA.

**Phone:** 138 HVO (138 486)

**Fax:** (08) 9475 8455

**Email:** [hvs@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:hvs@mainroads.wa.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) (search 'Heavy Vehicles')

### 2.5.4 Horizon Power / Western Power - High Load Authorisation Permit

Operators of vehicles or loads higher than 4.3 metres\* must apply for a high load authorisation as per the Main Roads WA Heavy Haulage conditions.

\*4.6 metres high when travelling on Main Roads RAV network 2.

### 2.5.5 Horizon Power

Horizon Power High Loads Team can be contacted by: Phone: 1800 772 501

**E-mail:** [highwide.loads@horizonpower.com.au](mailto:highwide.loads@horizonpower.com.au)

**Website:** [www.horizonpower.com.au](http://www.horizonpower.com.au) (search 'High Wide Load')

A map showing the areas serviced by Horizon Power is available to download from the high and wide vehicles permit page on the Horizon Power website.

### 2.5.6 WA Police - Excessively Wide or Long Combination Permit (MR19)

These permits can be obtained from country police stations and are free of charge and valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

A police officer may refuse to issue a permit if the movement of the agricultural combination on all or any part of the route to be followed would endanger safety. The issuing officer may also apply specific conditions to the permit including, but not limited to:

- any speed limit to be observed while moving the combination;
- the route to be followed;
- the times when the combination can be used on a road; and
- any requirement for a police escort.

### 2.5.7 Western Power

Western Power may specify the requirement that the vehicle be escorted by a Western Power officer. Refer to the Western Power website for cost and authorisation validity. Western Power Oversize Loads Team can be contacted by:

**Phone:** 13 10 87

**Facsimile:** (08) 9225 2004

**E-mail:** [oversize.loads@westernpower.com.au](mailto:oversize.loads@westernpower.com.au)

**Website:** [www.westernpower.com.au](http://www.westernpower.com.au) (select Online Services/Your Business/Oversize load movement application)

The following information is also available to download from the oversize vehicles page of the Western Power website:

- Map showing towns and locations in the South West Interconnected System ('SWIS' - the vast majority of which is formed by the Western Power Network).
- A list of Power lines in the Metro area that are less than 4.6m high.
- A list of Power lines in the Country that are less than 4.6m high.

### 2.5.8 Load Movements Between Western Power and Horizon Power Networks (inter-district)

All applications to transport oversize loads that will require travel between Western Power's network and Horizon Power's network can be lodged as a single application for the inter-district travel no matter where the origin of movement. See either website for further details.



# PART 3

## Vehicle Licence Concessions

DoT provides three different 'farm' vehicle concessions. An application for a farm vehicle concession can be made at any Driver and Vehicle Services centre, DoT regional office or agent.

Application forms are available from the DoT website [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au).

### **3.1 Agricultural Machinery / Special Purpose Vehicles Concession**

#### **(Application Form - VL18)**

Concessions are available for agricultural machines or agricultural special purpose vehicles if the vehicle is only used for one of the following:

- to pass from one portion of the farm to another; or
- to travel between a farm and some other place for farming activities; or
- to carry out firefighting or fire prevention operations; or
- to take part in fire control exercises previously authorised by a bush fire control officer appointed under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*; or
- if the farm is in an area that is declared by the Minister administering the *Agriculture Act 1988* to be drought affected or water deficient, to travel between the farm and a water supply for the purpose of carting water for stock or for domestic purposes.

This concession can be applied to any Agricultural Machinery / Agricultural Special Purpose Vehicle owned by a farmer. There are no restrictions on the amount of vehicles owned by a farmer for this concession type.

### **3.2 Farm Haulage Concession**

#### **(Application Form - E127)**

A vehicle owner may apply for a concession for any farm vehicle with a tare weight not less than 1524 kg (excluding Agricultural Machinery or Agricultural Special Purpose Vehicles) if the vehicle is used exclusively or principally to carry the products of, or requisites for, the vehicle owner's farming business.

Farm haulage concessions are restricted to one vehicle used in connection with the same farming business, unless the vehicle is a combination of a prime mover towing a semi-trailer, or a rigid vehicle towing a dog or pig trailer.

## 3.3 Farm Vehicle Concession

### (Application Form - VL39)

Concessions are available for vehicles owned by a farmer and are granted on the basis that they make limited use of gazetted roads.

Farm vehicles may be driven on public roads only in the following circumstances to travel between:

- one portion of land and another portion of land that are farmed by the vehicle owner, provided that those portions of land are located within the same or adjoining Shire boundary;
- the farm and some other place to carry out firefighting or fire prevention operations;
- to travel between the farm and some other place to take part in fire control exercises previously authorised by a bush fire control officer appointed under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*; or
- if the farm is in an area that is declared by the Minister for Agriculture and Food to be drought affected or water deficient, to travel between the farm and a water supply for the purpose of carting water for stock or domestic purposes.

Vehicles licensed with a 'farm vehicle' concession are issued with special number plates, embossed with the word 'FARM', and must be used only under the above conditions. There is no limit on the number of vehicles that may be licensed under these provisions.

Farm vehicle owners that use their vehicle contrary to the above conditions may be prosecuted for driving an unlicensed vehicle, and their vehicle may not be covered by motor injury insurance in the event of a crash.

#### 3.3.1 Farm Fire Fighting Vehicles and Trailers

Vehicles owned by farmers that are fitted or adapted for fire prevention may be licensed at concessional rates if:

- their use on a road is restricted to firefighting or fire prevention; or
- they are driven to the nearest practicable place for repairs.

Such vehicles must be inspected so the body type may be reassessed to 'Fire Tender'.

#### 3.3.2 Trailers (Tanker – Water/Fuel)

These trailers are not exempt from licensing; however a vehicle licence concession may be available for these types of vehicles.

Vehicle licence concessions will include conditions on the use of the vehicle or the load that may be carried. You should read the vehicle licence papers or consult your nearest DVS centre, DoT regional office or agent to ensure you comply with the applicable conditions.

Fuel and firefighting trailers must be inspected to ensure their roadworthiness before a number plate is issued.

Fuel and firefighting trailers can be licensed at concessional rates for a small fee and are not required to comply fully with all lighting and braking requirements; however licensing conditions restrict their use to the proximity of the farm/farms.

### **3.4 Farmers Rebate – Class 2(F)**

#### **(Application Form - E10)**

Certain vehicles with a tare weight of 2,500kg or more, owned by a farmer, may be eligible for a 50% rebate on the motor injury insurance premium.

To claim a reduction in motor injury insurance an Application for Motor Vehicle Insurance Class 2(f) (E10) form must be completed and submitted at the same time a concession application is made.





## PART 4

### General Requirements Towed Agricultural Implements

## **4.1 Safety of Components**

Every component of a towed vehicle being towed on a road must be maintained in such a condition as to ensure the safe use of that towed vehicle.

Folding arms, mechanisms or structures fitted to a towed agricultural implement must be secured by chains, pins or other mechanical means to prevent them moving from the retracted or folded position during on-road movements.

Any component part of, or attachment to, the towed vehicle which is capable of becoming loose or detached from the towed vehicle must be firmly secured.

## **4.2 Towed Mass Ratios**

Agricultural implements being towed behind vehicles such as cars and utilities must comply with towed mass ratio limits. When such a vehicle is used for towing, the towed implement mass must not exceed the Manufacturer's maximum towed mass rating for the towing vehicle or, if no Manufacturer's rating exists, twice the unloaded mass of the towing vehicle.

This ratio does not apply if the towing vehicle is an agricultural machine but the agricultural machine is still subject to all other mass limits e.g. GCM ratings and combination mass.

It must be noted, however, that the above towed mass ratio limit may be reduced if the agricultural combination is unable to meet the minimum braking distances specified in the following section titled Brakes.

## **4.3 Brakes**

A combination being used on a road must be capable of stopping from a speed of 30 kilometres per hour (or the maximum speed of which it is capable if less than 30 kph) within 15 metres.

Any braking system on a towed vehicle that is compatible with the towing vehicle must be connected and the brakes checked to ensure they are operating, before towing commences.

## **4.4 Mirrors**

If the towing vehicle is not mandated to be fitted with mirrors, or the mirrors fitted to the towing vehicle are not adequate to enable the driver to see vehicles approaching from the rear, a flashing amber light must be fitted to, and operated on, an agricultural combination.

## 4.5 Safety Chains and Couplings

Each implement forming part of an agricultural combination being towed on a road must be connected to the towing vehicle or, in the case of a combination consisting of more than one towed implement, to the implement in front of it by a coupling. This coupling must also be used in conjunction with either a safe locking device, safety chains or other safety device compliant with the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*.

### 4.5.1 Specifications

Safety chains must:

- consist of 2 rated chains (eg AS 4177 or AS 2321, as applicable);
- be capable of keeping the agricultural implement in tow in the event of the failure or accidental disconnection of the coupling between the implement and towing vehicle or the implement in front;
- be fitted to the frame or other substantial portion of the agricultural implement and to a substantial portion of the towing vehicle or the implement in front;
- not be liable to accidental disconnection;
- permit all normal turning movements and be as short as possible;
- be fitted in a crossed over position to prevent the forward end of the draw-bar of the towed implement from striking the ground in the event of accidental disconnection;
- have their forward ends fitted to the towing vehicle or another implement as close to the pivot of the coupling as practicable;
- have links of at least 10mm diameter cross-section; and
- be attached to each end by a steel ring or shackle of at least 10mm in diameter.

## 4.6 Safe Locking Device

A safe locking device must consist of a spring clip, split pin or similar device which is designed to mechanically retain the coupling and prevent accidental disconnection, or to stop the draw bar pin from dropping out. The pin used should be steel or some other robust material.

## 4.7 Limit on Individual Agricultural Combinations

The maximum number of agricultural implements that may be towed in an agricultural combination is:

- 3 agricultural implements - if only agricultural implements are being towed in the agricultural combination; or
- 2 agricultural implements - if one vehicle that is not an agricultural implement is also being towed in the agricultural combination.

Only one vehicle that is not an agricultural implement may be towed in an agricultural combination.

## 4.8 Vehicles other than Agricultural Implements

A vehicle, other than an agricultural implement, must not be towed in an agricultural combination if:

- it has a GVM exceeding 4.5 tonnes; or
- it exceeds 2.5 metres in width.

A motor vehicle or pig trailer must not be towed in an agricultural combination if the towing apparatus of another vehicle in the agricultural combination does not have the towing capacity to tow the motor vehicle or pig trailer.

If a motor vehicle or pig trailer (other than an agricultural implement) is being towed in an agricultural combination, the motor vehicle or pig trailer must be the rearmost vehicle in the agricultural combination.

A vehicle, other than an agricultural implement, that is being towed in an agricultural combination must be attached to the vehicle in front of it by:

- a coupling which complies with the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014*; or
- if the towed vehicle is a motor vehicle — an approved towing apparatus (eg. an 'A' frame), provided a competent and qualified person is in charge of the towed vehicle, to control it, while on tow, and that person can, in fact, control it.

The 'A-Frame towing' guide can be found online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au).





## PART 5

### Lighting for Towed Agricultural Implements

## 5.1 Daylight Towing

Towed vehicles must be fitted with two stop lights (brake lights) located at the rear which illuminate when the foot brake of the towing vehicle is applied.

These stop lights can be dispensed with if the combination is fitted with a flashing amber light - which must be operating whilst the combination is on the road.

The vehicle towing an agricultural combination on a road during daylight hours must have its headlights or daytime running lights on and dipped.

## 5.2 Night-Time Towing

A combination that is over 3.5 metres wide or 25 metres long must not be used on a road during night-time. A combination of lesser dimensions may be used on a road at night if the towing vehicle is licensed or is an agricultural machine licensed for night use.

The headlamps of the towing vehicle must be dipped for on-coming or overtaking vehicles.

The towed vehicle or rear-most vehicle in a combination must be fitted with:

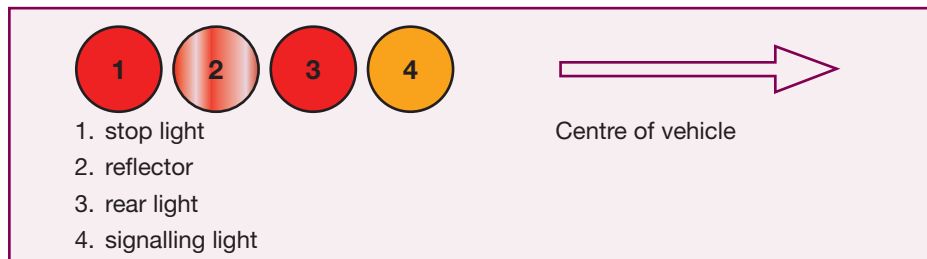
- 2 stop lights (brake lights);
- 2 reflectors;
- 2 rear lights (tail lights);
- 2 signalling lights (indicator lights);
- clearance or side marker lights (for implements over 2.5m wide); and
- a flashing amber light (see Section 9 - Warning Signs and Signals).

**Stop lights are not required if a flashing amber light is fitted and used.**

## 5.3 Positioning of Lights

Lights and reflectors may be installed on a light board but must be securely fixed by straps or other means to prevent the light board from moving.

Lights and reflectors must be fitted symmetrically, to each side of the vehicle, and where possible, horizontally and in the following sequence from the outer edge inwards:



Where it is not possible to fit the lights horizontally, they must be fitted vertically, with the stop light on the top and the signalling light on the bottom.

Lights and reflectors must be fitted between 400mm and 1500mm above ground level. Where it is not practical to comply with the 1500 mm requirement, then the lights may be fitted higher but must be as near as possible to 1500 mm from the ground.

The outer edge of the reflective or illuminated area must be no more than 400mm from the edges of the towed vehicle.

Reflectors must be fitted on the rear of all implements left standing on a road at night.

## **5.4 Specifications**

### **5.4.1 Stop Light**

A stop light is lit when the foot brake of the towing vehicle is applied. When lit, a stop light must display a red light that is clearly visible in sunlight up to 60m to the rear of the vehicle.

### **5.4.2 Rear Light**

A rear light has a power not exceeding 7 watts.

When lit, a rear light must display a red light that is clearly visible at night up to 200m to the rear of the vehicle.

### **5.4.3 Signalling Light**

A signalling light is operated by the driver of the towing vehicle from the proper driving position.

When lit, a signalling light must display an amber light that is clearly visible in sunlight up to 60m to the rear of the vehicle.

When switched on, a signalling light must display its light within a maximum of one second then flash at a rate of between 60 to 120 times per minute.

### **5.4.4 Clearance Light**

When lit, a clearance light gives an indication of the width of a towed vehicle when viewed from the front or rear of that vehicle.

### **5.4.5 Reflector**

When illuminated at night by the light from a compliant headlight, a reflector emits a red reflection of the light that is clearly visible at a distance of 100m to the driver of the vehicle from which that light is projected.

A reflector may consist of either of the following:

- Red reflective tape of minimum dimensions 25mm wide by 100mm long; or
- A reflecting lens of minimum 25mm diameter.

However it is recommended that a larger reflector is used wherever possible.



# PART 6

## Warning Signs and Signals

## 6.1 Flashing Amber Lights

A towing vehicle may be fitted with a flashing amber light which may only be operated when:

- The towing vehicle is towing an agricultural combination on a road at night-time.
- The towed vehicle exceeds 2.5 metres in width and 25 metres in length on a road.
- The shape and dimensions of the towed vehicle are such as to obscure the driver's rearward view.

A pilot vehicle may be fitted with a flashing amber light which may only be operated when it is piloting an agricultural combination on a road; or

An escort vehicle may be fitted with a flashing amber light which may only be operated when it is escorting an agricultural combination on a road.

## 6.2 Positioning of Flashing Amber Lights

A flashing amber light on any vehicle (other than a police vehicle) must be:

- clearly visible at a distance of 500 metres in all directions;
- supplemented by one or more additional flashing amber lights so that the light emanating from at least one of them is clearly visible at a distance of 500 metres in any direction; and
- fitted to the highest position practicable on the combination.

### 6.2.1 Specifications

When switched on, a flashing amber light on an oversize vehicle or pilot vehicle must:

- emit a rotating, flashing, yellow or amber coloured light;
- flash between 120 and 200 times a minute;
- have a power of at least 55 watts for a filament globe light;
- have a power of at least 24 watts for an LED light; and

**Hazard warning lights normally in the configuration of indicator lights (which illuminate on both sides together when switched on) do not constitute a flashing amber light.**



On pilot vehicles, the warning lights must be positioned as shown in the photograph in 6.2.1, or where one light is used it must be central on the roof of the vehicle.

### 6.3 Portable Warning Signs

All combinations must carry three portable warning signs that comply with Australian Standard AS3790 (Portable Warning Triangles for Motor Vehicles).

If the combination is disabled or stationary, occupying a hazardous position on a road where the speed limit is lower than 80km/h, the signs are to be placed as follows:

- one between 50 and 150 metres in front of the vehicle;
- one between 50 and 150 metres behind the vehicle; and
- one beside the vehicle on the side nearer to the centre of the carriageway.

At least one sign is to be visible to an approaching driver at a distance of not less than 200m from the sign. All signs must be in good order.

If the combination is disabled or stationary, occupying a hazardous position on a road where the speed limit is 80km/h or higher, the signs are to be placed as follows:

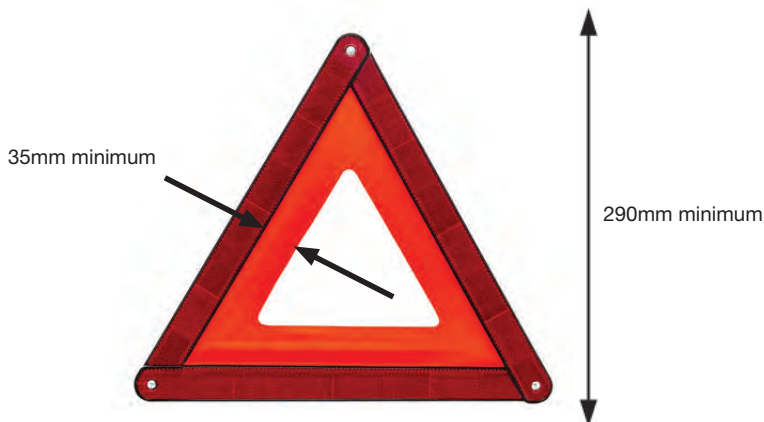
- one between 200 and 250 metres in front of the vehicle;
- one between 200 and 250 metres behind the vehicle; and
- one beside the vehicle on the side nearer to the centre of the carriageway.

#### 6.3.1 Specifications

A portable warning sign is an equilateral triangle with a minimum height from base to apex of 290mm, constructed of either metal or high impact resistant plastic.

It must be of robust and durable construction and suitable for use in all weathers. The triangular sign must have red reflective surfaces on both sides. The triangular sign must be fitted with a device that allows it to stand upright on the road.

### 6.4 'OVERSIZE' Warning Signs



Agricultural combinations over 2.5 metres wide or 25 metres long must not be used on a road unless they are fitted with signs displaying the word 'OVERSIZE' affixed to the front of the towing vehicle and the rear of the towed vehicle or, in the case of a combination consisting of more than one towed vehicle, the rear towed vehicle, in accordance with Main Roads 'Oversize Vehicle & Pilot Vehicle General Requirements'.

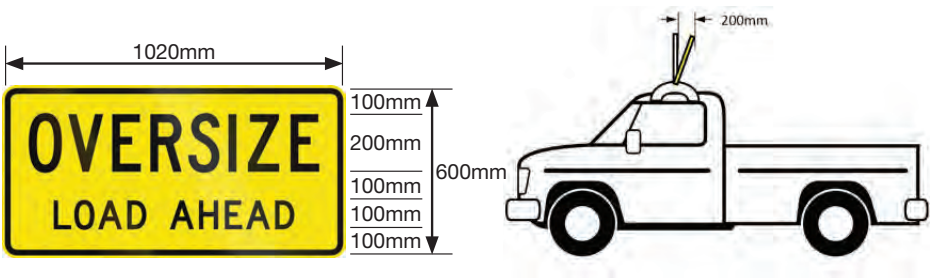
**\*Please note that homemade signs are not acceptable**



**6.5 Warning Signs for Pilot Vehicles**

Pilot vehicles must be fitted with a sign displaying the words 'OVERSIZE LOAD AHEAD' in accordance with Main Roads 'Oversize Vehicle & Pilot Vehicle General Requirements', or 'Agricultural Pilot Operational Requirements'.

**\*Please note that homemade signs are not acceptable**





# **PART 7**

Pilot Vehicles -  
Operating Conditions

## 7.1 Heavy Vehicle Pilot Licence

Heavy vehicle pilots play a key role in maintaining road safety and property protection in the movement of oversize and/or over-mass (OSOM) loads throughout Western Australia (WA). As of the 28 November 2016, all pilots operating in WA are required to obtain a Heavy Vehicle Pilot Licence.

## 7.2 Agricultural Pilot

An agricultural pilot is a pilot authorised under the *Heavy Vehicle Agricultural Pilot Authorisation*. This authorisation allows oversize agricultural vehicles to be transported, without the need for a licensed heavy vehicle pilot, under certain circumstances.

An agricultural pilot does not hold a heavy vehicle pilot licence and as such is not authorised under the *Road Traffic Code 2000* to direct traffic. The primary objectives of an agricultural pilot are to:

- Provide a visual advance warning by means of signs and warning lights, to other road users of the approach of an oversize agricultural vehicle using the road,
- Inform the oversize agricultural vehicle driver, by an electronic device, of oncoming traffic, road conditions, bridge and clearance of load from trees and obstacles,
- Informing the driver of an oversize agricultural vehicle when the road is safe to cross when assisting with the movement of an oversize agricultural vehicle crossing a road; and
- Provide 'rear vision' when required due to the width of the oversize agricultural vehicle.

Please refer to the Agricultural Vehicles page on the Main Roads website at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au).

## 7.3 Requirement for Pilot Vehicles

Pilot vehicle requirements and guidelines for the operation of a pilot vehicle can be found in the Main Roads 'Agricultural Pilot Operational Requirements', available on the Main Roads website.

## 7.4 Allowing Traffic to Pass

To avoid unnecessary traffic build up, a towed agricultural implement accompanied by a pilot vehicle must pull over on a regular basis to allow traffic to pass. This includes stopping in all parking bays that are suitable and stopping wherever it is safe to do so.





# PART 8

## Movement of Agricultural Vehicles

## 8.1 Driving Licence Authorisation to Tow Agricultural Implements

Whilst agricultural implements are not required to be licensed, the drivers of vehicles (including tractors) towing these implements must hold a valid driver's licence with the authorisation to drive the appropriate class of vehicle.

Under the National Driver Licensing Scheme, the class of driver's licence is aligned to the gross vehicle mass (GVM) and number of axles of the vehicle (and trailer combination where applicable) being driven. As the vehicle combination increases in size and complexity, the class of licence required to drive the vehicle changes. Therefore whilst a small tractor can be driven on a C (car) class licence, if two or more agricultural implements need to be towed, the driver is required to hold an MC (Multi-Combination) licence. A fact sheet is available from the DoT website (see Appendix 3).

## 8.2 Speed Limits

An agricultural combination must not travel at a speed that is greater than the maximum speed specified as a licensing condition or as a permit or order condition.

## 8.3 Freeways

An agricultural combination is not permitted on the Kwinana, Mitchell and Graham Farmer freeways. This prohibition would also apply to any roads declared to be a Freeway in the future.

## 8.4 Parking

A combination over 2.5 metres wide cannot be parked on a road in a built-up area. Outside a built-up area, a combination cannot be parked on a road, except in a truck bay or in an area set aside for the parking of vehicles.

'Built-up area' means the territory adjacent to and including any road:

- on which there is provision for lighting by means of street lights;
- which is built-up with structures devoted to business, industry or dwelling at intervals of less than 500m; or
- beyond a sign indicating 'BUILT-UP AREA' erected at the roadside to face drivers approaching a development consisting of dwelling houses, business or industrial structures.

## 8.5 Convoys

Unless otherwise approved under a Main Roads permit or order, no more than two combinations may be moved in a convoy.

When travelling in a convoy, operators must be aware of traffic congestion and where practicable stop clear of the roadway to allow traffic to overtake.

## 8.6 What is an agricultural machine?

An agricultural machine is a machine with its own motive power, that is built to perform agricultural tasks e.g. harvester, tractor, sprayer. Agricultural machines must be licensed to access or cross public roads.

## 8.7 Movement of agricultural machines

An agricultural machine or combination that exceeds 2.5 metres wide, 4.3 metres high, 12.5 metres vehicle length or 19 metres combination length and/or exceeds a statutory mass limit prescribed in Part 8 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* is required to operate under a Main Roads permit or order.

The Main Roads *Agricultural Machine Order* allows applicable agricultural machines to operate on a road outside the Perth Metropolitan Area without the need to obtain a permit.

### 8.7.1 Wheeled agricultural machines

A wheeled agricultural machine must be operated in accordance with Main Roads WA 'Restricted Access Vehicle Agricultural Machine Operating Conditions'. These operating conditions are available for download online at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au).

### 8.7.2 Tracked agricultural machines

Any rubber tracked agricultural machine that is oversize or over mass must operate in accordance with Main Roads WA 'Restricted Access Vehicle Rubber Tracked Agricultural Machine Operating Conditions'. These operating conditions are available for download online at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au).





# PART 9

## Traffic Managed Crossings

## 9.1 Gate to gate towing

Agricultural implements can be towed across public roads during the day or night, providing the requirements of the Main Roads document 'Traffic Management Requirements - Towed Agricultural Implement Crossings' (Reference Number 07/2071 D07#103477) are put in place and followed. This document can be downloaded online at [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au).

Other than penalties, the other provisions of Part 13 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* do not apply. This means that wider and longer combinations than those allowed to be towed along a road can be towed across a road from adjacent gates.

Written approval for the establishment of an agricultural implements crossing point on a road that is under the responsibility of Main Roads WA must be sought and obtained from Main Roads WA. In general roads under this category are 'Highways' or 'Declared Main Roads'.

Written approval is not required for roads that fall under the responsibility of Local Government. However, it may be prudent for the farmer to approach their local government to ensure that the proposed crossing point road meets the conditions of the Traffic Management Requirements (TMR) document.

That means that, providing the conditions of the TMR are in place:

- lamps do not need to be fitted to the agricultural implements or combinations;
- there is no limit to the number of implements being towed; and
- the crossing manoeuvre can be carried out during either the day time or night time.

However, as advised within the TMR, these crossing points cannot be set up on roads that carry more than 500 vehicles per day or when the necessary warning lights cannot be seen from a distance of at least 300m from the crossing.

In all cases the farmer must have a copy of the TMR and ensure that all of the necessary conditions are fulfilled and subsequently followed. Failure to do so will result in an offence being committed.



# PART 10

## Penalties

## **10.1 Penalties**

### **10.1.1 Driving**

A driver of a pilot vehicle who does not hold a heavy vehicle pilot licence, or is driving a pilot vehicle for the purpose of facilitating the movement of an agricultural vehicle and does not comply with the conditions of the *Heavy Vehicle Agricultural Pilot Authorisation 2018*, is liable for a modified penalty of \$200, or where convicted by a Court, the penalty is \$1200 for a first offence and \$1600 for a subsequent offence.

### **10.1.2 Parking**

A person who leaves an agricultural implement on a road or any part of a road at night time without having reflectors fitted to the implement or fails to place red warning triangles on the road may be liable for a penalty.



# PART 11

## Restraint of Loads

## 11.1 Carrying a Load

The *Road Traffic Code 2000*, regulation 257 states:

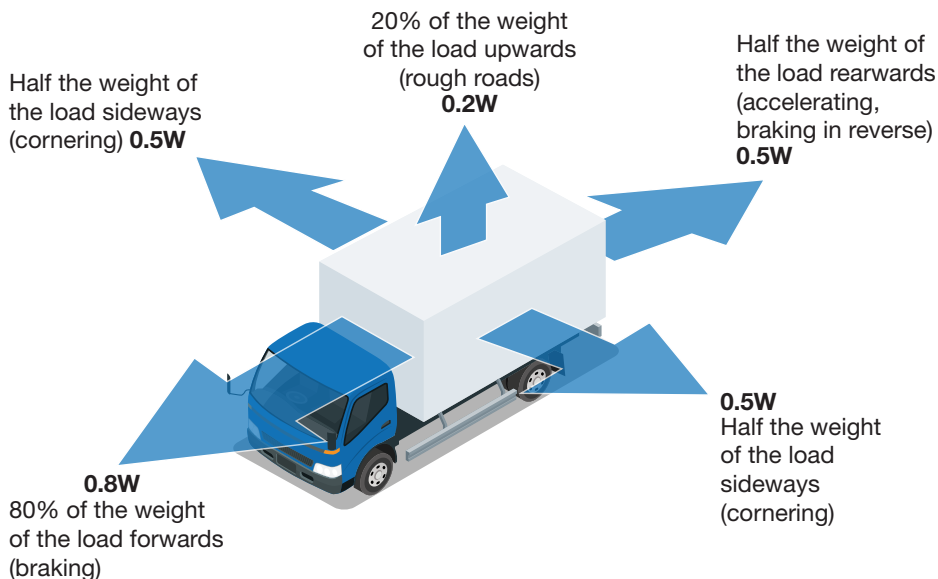
1. A person shall not drive a vehicle that is carrying a load, if the load is placed on the vehicle so that it:
  - makes the vehicle unstable or otherwise unsafe; or
  - projects from the vehicle in a way that is likely to injure a person, obstruct the path of other drivers or pedestrians, or damage a vehicle or anything else (for example, the road surface).
2. A person shall not drive a vehicle that is carrying a load, unless the load is restrained on the vehicle so that the load, or any portion of it, is unlikely to:
  - fall from the vehicle; or
  - become dislodged from the place on the vehicle where it is restrained.
3. A person shall not drive a vehicle that is carrying a load, unless the load is restrained on the vehicle by a system appropriate to the load.
4. A person shall not drive a vehicle that is carrying a load comprising grain, unless that grain is fully covered or enclosed.



## 11.2 Load Restraint Guide

Both the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* and the *Road Traffic Code 2000* require loads that are carried on vehicles using public roads to be restrained in a manner that satisfies the performance requirements of the Load Restraint Guide, 2004 second edition, produced by the National Transport Commission (NTC).

The load restraint system will meet the performance standards if the load does not shift if it is subjected to the forces shown in the figure below:



More comprehensive information about how to practically restrain a load is shown in the Load Restraint Guide (Second Edition 2004).

## 11.3 Vehicles Carting Grain

There continues to be widespread concern at the practice in some country areas of transporting uncovered bulk grain. It is rare for bulk grain to be completely free of contamination by foreign matter, usually seeds of another crop or weed species such as rye grass, dock or radish. Any action that will reduce the spread of weeds by effective covering of bulk loads will benefit the farming community and all primary producers. It is therefore in everyone's interest to ensure that bulk grain loads are fully covered or enclosed.



# PART 12

## Appendices

## 12.1 Appendix 1 - Towed Agricultural Implements Summary Reference Chart

Dimension	Warning Signs	Warning Flags	Portable Warning Signs (Triangles)	Flashing Amber Lights	Clearance Lights at Night	Main Roads Permit	WA Police Permit	Western or Horizon Power Permit	Night Use	Travel on Freeways	Travel in Metro Peak Hours	Travel in Metro without Permit	Number of Agricultural Combinations allowed in Convoy	Number of Agricultural Implements allowed in Combination
<b>Width</b>														
< 2.5m	N/A	N/A	YES	YES <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES <sup>4</sup>	NO	NO	YES	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 2.5m < 3.5m	N/A	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	N/A	N/A	YES <sup>4</sup>	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 3.5m < 4.5m	YES	YES	YES	YES	Daylight Use Only	YES	N/A	N/A	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 3.5m < 5.5m	YES	YES	YES	YES	Daylight Use Only	YES	N/A	N/A	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 5.5m < 7.5m	YES	YES	YES	YES	Daylight Use Only	YES	N/A	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 7.5m	YES	YES	YES	YES	Daylight Use Only	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
<b>Length</b>														
< 19m	N/A	N/A	YES	YES <sup>1</sup>	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A	YES <sup>4</sup>	NO	NO	YES	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 19m < 25m	N/A	N/A	YES	YES <sup>1</sup>	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A	YES <sup>4</sup>	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 25m < 30m	YES	N/A	YES	YES	N/A	YES	N/A	N/A	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 30m	YES	N/A	YES	YES	N/A	YES	YES	N/A	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'
<b>Height</b>														
< 4.3m	N/A	N/A	YES	YES <sup>1</sup>	N/A	YES	N/A	NO <sup>2</sup>	YES <sup>4</sup>	NO	NO	YES	Up to 2	Up to 3'
> 4.3m	N/A	N/A	YES	YES <sup>1</sup>	N/A	YES	N/A	YES <sup>3</sup>	NO	NO	NO	NO	Up to 2	Up to 3'

**YES** IS required

**NO** NOT permitted

**N/A** NOT applicable

<sup>1</sup>If stoplights are not installed on the rear of the implement or towing vehicle does not have adequate mirrors.

<sup>2</sup>Except where the combination may come into contact with an electrical supply line.

<sup>3</sup>Unless otherwise stipulated on a Main Roads permit or order.

<sup>4</sup>A combination must be fitted with flashing amber light, reflectors, rear lights signaling lights when towed at night.

<sup>1</sup>If a vehicle other than an agricultural implement is being towed in the agricultural combination, no more than two agricultural implements may be towed as part of the combination.

**Note: All agricultural vehicles that exceed a statutory mass limit MUST operate under a permit or order from Main Roads WA.**

A printable version of this reference chart is available on the DoT website.

## **12.2 Appendix 2 - Additional Information & Website Links**

### **12.2.1 Department of Transport**

[www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au)

Fact sheets that relate to the topics below are available from the DoT website:

- Licensing Quad Bikes - Farm Use Only
- Licensing Utility Vehicles - Farm Use Only
- Driving authorisation required - Towed Agricultural Implements
- Application for the authorisation to drive 'Towed Agricultural Implements' - HC-X or MC-X

### **12.2.2 Main Roads WA**

[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)

More information relating to the movement of oversize / over-mass agricultural vehicles can be found on the Agricultural Vehicles page on the Main Roads website.

RAV Network 2 Roads Tables can be found via the Heavy Vehicles homepage on the Main Roads website.

### **12.2.3 Western Power**

[www.westernpower.com.au](http://www.westernpower.com.au)

### **12.2.4 Horizon Power**

[www.horizonpower.com.au](http://www.horizonpower.com.au)

### **12.2.5 WorkSafe WA**

[www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe)

### 12.3 Appendix 3 - Conversion Table

Dimension	Metres	Feet
Length	19	62
	25	82
	30	99
Height	1.5	5
	4.3	14
Width	2.5	8.2
	3.5	11.5
	4.1	13.5
	5.5	18
	7.5	24.5
Distance	15	49.2
	60	196.8
	100	328.1

