



CI-111D

Vehicle Safety and Standards Circular to Industry

14.63m Long Semi-Trailers

The Department of Transport (DoT), in conjunction with Main Roads WA, has allowed the conditional licensing (registration) and use of 14.63m long semi-trailers in this state for a number of years. **Recently, national dimensional limits for semi-trailer length have changed and this updated document reflects these changes.**

Compliance with nationally accepted dimensions

The following dimensional limits have not changed and apply irrespective of the trailer length:

- Maximum overall length of the prime mover and semi-trailer combination of 19m
- Maximum width of 2.5m
- Maximum S Dimension of 9.5m (where “S Dimension” is the distance between the centreline of the king pin and the centreline of the rear axle group of the semi-trailer)
- Forward projection of the semi-trailer must be contained within a radius of 1.9m
- Maximum rear overhang of 3.7m or 60% of the “S Dimension”, whichever is the lesser

Length requirements for general access combinations

The overall length of a general access semi-trailer combination must not exceed 19m and the length of the trailer must not exceed 14.63m. (See Fig. 1). It is essential that operators and drivers pay careful attention to the overall dimension of their combination. This is particularly important in WA due to the 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.

14.63m Trailers

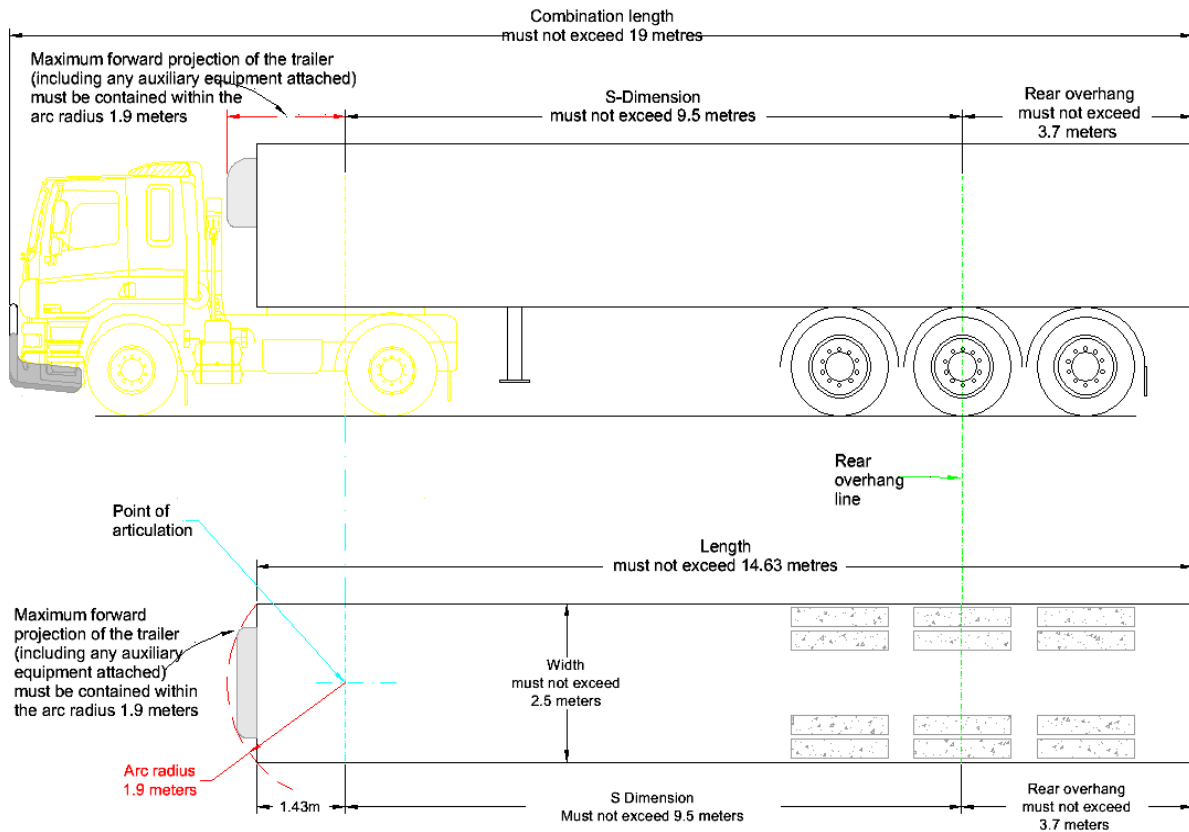


Fig.1

Requirements for approval and registration

1. Semi-trailers up to 14.63m long **without a rear tow hitch** are now allowed by the Australia Design Rules (ADRs) and will be registered as Class A without any conditions.
2. However, the ADRs do not allow a semi-trailer with a rear tow hitch to be more than 13.73m long and therefore semi-trailers more than 13.73m long and up to 14.63m long **with a rear tow hitch** can only be registered under the following conditions:
 - These semi-trailers must receive approval from the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development 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 by WA Department of Transport as required by the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014. Each application requires the payment of a fee of \$50 for the exemption. The Regulations allow for more than one vehicle to be included in application.
 - Newly constructed trailers must display a compliance plate that indicates the vehicle is non-standard. This is required by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development for the certification of non-standard vehicles.

- Trailers for use in Road Trains must be constructed to relevant ADRs, including but not limited to ADR 43 and ADR 63 specifications.
- Semi-trailers approved under this policy will be registered as Class B with the following conditions:
 - 001 – Licence to be carried in vehicle at all times
 - 167 – When coupled to a prime mover, in a semi-trailer configuration, the overall length of the resultant combination must not exceed 19 metres
- Provided the vehicle combination does not exceed 19m in overall length and contains no trailers other than the semi-trailer, no Main Roads WA approval or permit will be required.

B-Double and road train use

Under the present national standards the use of semi-trailers longer than 13.73m is not permitted in B-double or road train combinations. The use of these trailers in certain 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 road train.
- Road train combinations must not exceed the currently allowed overall combination lengths in the respective Main Roads WA permits.
- The trailers must track in a safe manner. Road trains that have excessive sway or similar unsafe characteristics will be issued with a compliance notice.

Related documents and links

- Main Roads WA can be accessed online (www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)
- *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* can be accessed on State Law Publisher website (www.slp.wa.gov.au)
- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development can be accessed online (www.infrastructure.gov.au)
- Australian Design Rules are available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website (www.infrastructure.gov.au)

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