

This bulletin provides key regulatory information for carrying loads on vehicles and trailers, it applies to all light vehicles including sedans, vans and utes and all types of light trailers.

There are regulatory limitations on the loaded mass and how far a load can project forwards, rearwards or to the side of a vehicle in addition to width and height.

As the operator of the vehicle it is your legal obligation to ensure any load is positioned and secured appropriately.

## Total Mass of the Load and Vehicle

The mass (weight) of a vehicle and its load must not exceed:

- For a light motor vehicle, the Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) specified by the vehicle manufacturer, or if modified the rating specified on the modification plate; or
- When towing a trailer, the lesser of:
  - The Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) of the trailer (total weight of trailer and its load);
  - The maximum towing capacity of the tow vehicle as set by the manufacturer; and
  - The rated capacity of the towbar and tow coupling.

Where the towing capacity of the tow vehicle is unable to be identified the following trailer weights must NOT be exceeded. For a trailer that has:

- No brakes fitted or the brakes are not working correctly, then the trailers total weight must be less than the unloaded weight of the tow vehicle.
- If functioning brakes are fitted, the trailer's total weight must be less than 1.5 times the unloaded weight of the tow vehicle.

## Positioning of the Load

### Height

The maximum height of a vehicle including any load that is placed on it (measured from the ground) must not exceed 4.3 metres.

### Width

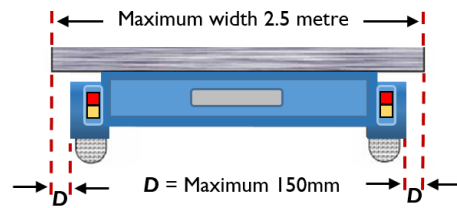
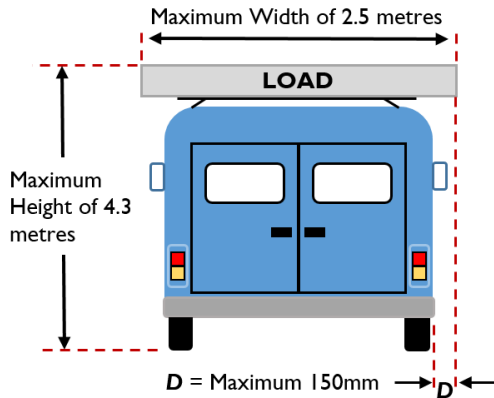
The maximum width of a vehicle or trailer including its load must not exceed 2.5 metres (excluding rear vision mirrors).

### Total combination length

The overall length of a motor vehicle and trailer combination including any projecting load must not exceed 19 metres.

### Side Projections

In addition, a load must not project more than 150mm from the side of the vehicle (excluding rear vision mirrors).



## Front and Rear Projections

### Forward projection

A load that is being carried on any vehicle must not project more than 1.2 metres forward of the vehicle.

### Rear projection

The rear projection of a load on a vehicle must not project rearward further than the maximum allowable rear overhang dimension specific to that vehicle (*rear overhang and how to calculate this is described below*).

## Rear Overhang

Rear overhang is the distance measured at right angles between the rear overhang line to the rear of the vehicle including any rearward projecting load being carried.

### Where is the rear overhang line?

For a motor vehicle that only has a single front and rear axle (standard configuration of a light vehicle), the rear overhang line is taken from a vertical line through the centre of the rear axle.

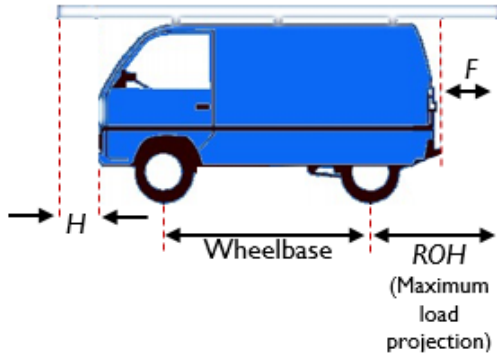
For a vehicle that has a single front axle and multiple rear axles, the rear overhang line is a vertical line through the centre of the rear axle group.

### What are the rear overhang requirements?

The table below identifies the calculation for maximum allowable rear overhang.

LIGHT VEHICLES	LIGHT TRAILERS with an axle (wheels) located towards the centre of the trailer
Rear overhang for a motor vehicle must not exceed the lesser of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 60% of the vehicles wheelbase; or</li> <li>- 3.7 metres</li> </ul>	Rear overhang for a light trailer must not exceed the lesser of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The length of the load carrying area, or body, ahead of the rear overhang line; or</li> <li>- 3.7 metres.</li> </ul>

## Motor vehicle rear overhang dimension example



$H$  = Maximum 1.2 metre

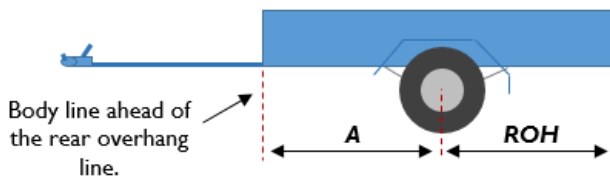
ROH = the lesser of:  
 - 60% of wheelbase, or  
 - 3.7 metres.

Where distance "F" is more than 1.2 metres, delineation on the rear most point must be used.

Example Rear Overhang Calculation for a Light Vehicle	
Wheelbase =	3.0 metres
ROH (Rear Overhang) =	60% of 3.0m (W/B or Wheelbase)
ROH (Rear Overhang) Distance =	1.8 metres

For this example the calculated rear overhang is 1.8 metres. As this is less than 3.7 metres, the rear overhang allowed for this vehicle is 1.8 metres.

## Trailer rear overhang dimension example



ROH = Distance "A"  
 OR  
 3.7 metres  
 (Whichever is the lesser value)

Example Rear Overhang Calculation for a Trailer	
Distance "A" =	1.35 metres
ROH (Rear Overhang) =	Lesser of distance "A" or 3.7m
ROH (Rear Overhang) Distance =	1.35 metres

For this example the calculated rear overhang is 1.35 metres. As this is less than 3.7 metres, the rear overhang allowed for this vehicle is 1.35 metres.

*Note: Attaching a trailer to a motor vehicle does not permit a greater rear projection on the towing vehicle. The rear projection on the towing vehicle is the same as if the trailer was not attached.*

## Delineation

If the rear overhang for the vehicle allows a load to be carried that projects rearwards more than 1.2 metres from the vehicle, the following delineation is required:

# Carrying Loads

- Where the vehicle is to be operated during daylight hours (between sunrise & sunset), a red, yellow or combined red and yellow flag that is at least 300mm x 300mm must be affixed to the rear extremity of the load, or



- Where the vehicle is to be operated at night (between sunset & sunrise), a red light that is visible for 200 metres must be affixed to and clearly displayed at the rear extremity of the load.



## Securing the load on your vehicle

As the owner/driver of a vehicle you are legally responsible for ensuring that any load being carried is securely restrained. Loads must be secured so as not become loose or detach from the vehicle and in accordance with the Load Restraint Guide (produced by the National Transport Commission). The load must be secured in a way that it does not present a danger to people or property.

*Note: A copy of the Load Restraint Guide can be obtained from Service Tasmania or available online at: <https://www.ntc.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/safety/load-restraint-guide>*

When loading your motor vehicle or trailer you must ensure that:

- The load will not move or become dislodged from the motor vehicle or trailer.
- The mass of the loaded vehicle is not greater than the GVM rating for the vehicle, or if relevant the ATM of the trailer.
- The positioning of the load will not adversely affect the handling or stability of the motor vehicle or trailer.
- The mass of the trailer and its load does not exceed the maximum towing capacity of the tow vehicle.

## Further Information

Further information relating to this information bulletin and conditions applicable when transporting large indivisible loads is available from;

Department of State Growth

Vehicle Standards Unit

Phone: (03) 03 6166 3263

Email: [vehicle\\_standards@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:vehicle_standards@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

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

### Disclaimer

The information contained in this bulletin is for guidance only. All effort has been taken to ensure the information contained in this bulletin is true and accurate at the time. Any changes in legislative requirements will take precedence over the information that is contained within this bulletin.

All diagrams are representations only and are not drawn to scale, they are for visual assistance only.