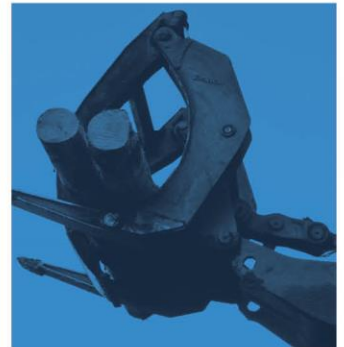

VEHICLE DIMENSIONS AND MASS PERMITTING MANUAL

2nd edition

Volume 1: Applying for and operating under an overweight, overdimension, HPMV or specialist vehicle permit



Vehicle dimensions and mass permitting manual (volume 1)

2nd edition, amendment 8
Current as at 1 August 2022

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More information

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Document management plan

1) Purpose

This management plan outlines the updating procedures and contact points for the document.

2) Document information

Document name	<i>Vehicle dimensions and mass permitting manual</i> (volume 1)
Document availability	This document is located in electronic form on the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's website at nzta.govt.nz .
Document owner	Senior Manager Safer Commercial Transport Regulatory Services Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
Document contact person	Manager Permitting Regulatory Services, Safer Commercial Transport Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
Document sponsor	General Manager of Regulatory Services and Director of Land Transport Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

3) Amendments and review strategy

All corrective action/improvement requests (CAIRs) suggesting changes will be acknowledged by the document owner.

Update type	Comments	Frequency
Amendment (minor revisions)	Updates are incorporated as soon as possible.	As required
Review (major revisions)	Amendments fundamentally changing the content or structure of the document will be incorporated as soon as practicable. They may require coordinating with the review team timetable.	At least annually
Notification	All users who have registered their interest by email to info@nzta.govt.nz will be advised by email of amendments and updates.	Immediately

4) Other information (at document owner's discretion)

There will be occasions, depending on the subject matter, when amendments will need to be worked through by the review team before the amendment is actioned. This may cause some variations to the timeframes above.

5) Distribution of this management plan

Copies of this document management plan are to be included in the Waka Kotahi intranet at the next opportunity and sent to: channels@nzta.govt.nz.

Record of amendments to this volume

Note: Amendments are numbered consecutively and may affect individual or multiple parts in one or both volumes of the *Vehicle dimensions and mass permitting manual*. For a complete record of all amendments to the manual, please also refer to the 'Record of amendments' at the start of volume 2.

Second edition, amendment 8

Description of changes	Effective date
<p>Part A: Introduction to vehicle dimensions and mass permits</p> <p><i>A2.4 Operator compliance checks:</i> Waka Kotahi reviews compliance records of the past 24 months during the permitting process. Previously, 12 months' worth of compliance information was considered when assessing an operator's permit eligibility.</p> <p><i>A3.2 Permit conditions:</i> HPMV permits may include safety-related additional conditions such as a requirement for a speed reporting system.</p>	1 August 2022
<p>Part B: Overweight permits</p> <p><i>B3.6 Towing disabled heavy vehicles:</i> The permit requirements for towing disabled heavy vehicles beyond the nearest safe area have been clarified and information about pro-forma recovery permits has been added.</p> <p><i>B5.3 Use of motorways:</i> Rear pilot requirement added for heavy vehicle recoveries on motorways and expressways if the speed of the recovery combination is slower than 30km/h below the posted speed limit.</p>	
<p>Part F: HPMV 50MAX permits</p> <p><i>F1.1 50MAX vehicle requirements:</i> Information added that tri-axle drive sets are prohibited in 50MAX combinations because of the pavement damage caused when turning.</p> <p><i>F2.6 Renewing a 50MAX permit:</i> Information updated that only one permit can be renewed at a time. Previously, when separate permits were issued for the North Island and the South Island, two permits could be renewed per renewal application.</p>	

Second edition, amendment 7

Description of changes	Effective date
<p>Part B: Overweight permits</p> <p><i>B3.9 ISO containers:</i> Information added that operators may need to purchase an additional RUC licence if carrying a load under an overweight permit that exceeds the vehicle's permanent RUC licence.</p>	1 October 2021
<p>Part G: Specialist vehicle permits</p> <p><i>G1.2 Specialist vehicle diagrams:</i> Notes added to clarify permit eligibility. For example, only ground-spreader trucks for agricultural use are eligible for specialist vehicle permits.</p>	

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Second edition, amendment 7 continued

Description of changes	Effective date
<p><i>G2.3 Before you apply:</i> Information added about checking or applying for correct road user charges (RUC) for specialist vehicles.</p> <p><i>G2.5 Preparing prerequisite documentation</i> for permit applications: For route descriptions, applicants should list all required roads and state highways, including start and end points. Maps may no longer be accepted.</p>	1 October 2021

Second edition, amendment 5

Description of changes	Effective date
<p>Revisions reflect changes from the Land Transport (NZTA) Legislation Amendment Act 2020 and the Land Transport Rule: Regulatory Stewardship (Omnibus) Amendment 2020. Updates also include policy changes as outlined below.</p> <p>Updated parts:</p>	1 May 2021
<p>Part A: Introduction to VDAM permits</p> <p><i>A1.1 Enabling legislation:</i> Information added about Director of Land Transport role.</p>	
<p>Part B: Overweight permits</p> <p><i>B1.4 Individual axle mass limits</i> and <i>B1.5 Axle set mass limits:</i> New mass limits for standard-tyred tri-axle sets have been added to the general access mass limit tables in the VDAM Rule and the definition of 'tri-axle set' has been amended.</p>	
<p>Part C: Overdimension permits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>C3.3 Travel time restrictions:</i> Exemptions from travel time restrictions now also apply to overdimension snow ploughs. <i>C4.2 Piloting requirements:</i> The piloting requirements for overheight permits have been revised. A Class 2 load pilot must be used within city limits or anywhere in New Zealand, depending on the height of the vehicle or load. 	
<p>Part D: HPMV higher mass permits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>D1.3 General access mass limits:</i> Mass limits for standard-tyred tri-axle sets added and definition of 'tri-axle set' amended. <i>D2.2 Eligible vehicle designs:</i> Diagram and RUC information for a 10-axle B-train (B1243) added to the list of designs eligible for an HPMV permit. 	
<p>Part E: HPMV overlength permits</p> <p><i>E2.3 Entry certification requirements:</i> New and current pro-forma design diagrams may be used for certification of vehicle design limits at entry certification. Previously, a temporary overlength permit issued with vehicle identification numbers (VINs) was required.</p>	
<p>Part I: Definitions and glossary</p> <p>Definitions updated.</p>	

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Second edition, amendment 4

Description of changes	Effective date
<p>Part A, section A2.6 Permit processing times</p> <p>Due to increased volumes and the requirement for more in-depth operator compliance checks, the target times for processing HPMV permits have been extended.</p> <p>The processing times have also been updated in parts D, E and F.</p>	1 February 2021

Second edition, amendment 3

Description of changes	Effective date
<p>Part B: Overweight permits</p> <p>Section <i>B9.4 Calculating the VAI</i>: Tyre size ('specified standard other than single-tired spaced') and cross-reference corrected in procedure.</p>	21 September 2020

Second edition, amendment 2

Description of changes	Effective date
In this amendment	
<p>Revisions reflect the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to various land transport rules from the Land Transport Rule: Regulatory Stewardship (Omnibus) Amendment 2018, which took effect on 1 June 2019, and • New performance based standards (PBS) introduced by the Transport Agency in May 2019. <p>Updates also include some policy changes and clarifications.</p> <p>The main changes in each part are outlined below.</p>	1 June 2020
Part A: Introduction to VDAM permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operator compliance checks: Assessment criteria clarified and note added that permit processing time could take longer if compliance issues need to be investigated. • New performance based standards (PBS): Information updated about how overlength HPMV designs are assessed for permit eligibility. • Permit conditions: Information on additional permit conditions and permit type specific conditions expanded. Clarification added that HPMV permits cannot specify travel time, speed or bridge crossing restrictions. • Off-route: Information added about the treatment of vehicles that deviate from a permitted route, and enforcement officers' powers to divert vehicles from a permitted route clarified. • Permit revocation: Process and timeframe for reviews of revocation decisions clarified. 	1 June 2020

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Second edition, amendment 2 continued

Description of changes	Effective date
Part B: Overweight permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum axle requirements for rigid vehicles transporting a load clarified. • Maximum speed limits and maximum tyre pressures updated. • Towing disabled vehicles: Requirement to tow to the nearest safe area clarified. 	1 June 2020
Part C: Overdimension permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 4B engineering assessment: New load type distinction ('long and low' or 'general') introduced to determine whether a written statement by the operator or an engineer's assessment is needed to satisfy a category 4B engineering assessment requirement. • Notes added that overdimension vehicles or loads may exceed 35m in length (and come within category 3 limits) if they use a manned steering jinker. 	1 June 2020
Part D: HPMV higher mass permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum RUC weights and R12T23 diagram added to list of vehicle types eligible for an HPMV higher mass permit. • Mass limits tables reformatted to enable easier comparison of general access and HPMV permit mass limits. • Vehicle attributes checks: Two types of attributes check sheets explained. 	1 June 2020
Part E: HPMV overlength permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New performance based standards (PBS): Information updated for new PBS and three types of pro-forma designs explained (new, current and superseded). • Transition arrangement for superseded pro-forma designs explained. • Non pro-forma/one-off designs: Permit eligibility criteria and application process explained. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. 	1 June 2020
Part F: HPMV 50MAX permits	
Variations from 50MAX pro-forma designs ('non pro-formas'): No longer eligible for 50MAX permits following the introduction of new PBS.	1 June 2020
Part G: Specialist vehicle permits	
How to apply: Acceptable evidence of load share now includes a letter from the vehicle manufacturer.	1 June 2020
Part I: Definitions and glossary	
Definitions amended by recent legislation changes have been updated.	1 June 2020

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Second edition, amendment 1

Description of changes	Effective date
<p>Part E: HPMV overlength permits</p> <p>Notes were added that the Transport Agency was unlikely to issue overlength permits for non pro-forma vehicles, or approve new vehicle designs as pro-forma designs, while new performance based standards (PBS) were being developed.</p> <p>These notes were removed and the manual was revised in amendment 2 following the introduction of the new PBS (see <i>Second edition, amendment 2</i> above).</p>	8 February 2018

Second edition, amendment 0

Description of changes in volume 1	Effective date
In this edition	
<p>The 2nd edition of this volume incorporated changes from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016 (the VDAM Rule), which took effect on 1 February 2017, and the Land Transport Amendment Act 2017, which took effect on 11 August 2017. <p>The manual was also updated to reflect policy and process changes since the publication of the 1st edition in 2015.</p> <p>The main changes to volume 1 are outlined below.</p>	11 August 2017
Part A: Introduction to VDAM permits	
<p>Information added about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist vehicle permits Restricted higher mass limits (45/46t) without a permit for 7- or 8-axle vehicles Critical conditions for overdimension permits. <p>Enforcement: Overloading offences now include exceeding gross vehicle mass and mass limits on posted bridges.</p>	11 August 2017
Part B: Overweight permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General access mass limit tables updated. Vehicle axle index (VAI) and pavement loading ratio (PLR) limits increased and standardised across most vehicle types. Area permit type merged with continuous permit: References to area permits deleted. Construction equipment and minor items: 40,000kg gross mass limit for continuous permits removed. Section on towing and transporting disabled vehicles updated. Bridge engineering self supervision (BESS) registration requirements updated. ISO containers: Gross mass limit increased from 44,000kg to 46,000kg. Reference axle weight tables and examples of VAI calculations updated for new mega tyre classification. 	11 August 2017

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Second edition, amendment 0 continued

Description of changes in volume 1	Effective date
Part C: Overdimension permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdimension categories clarified (previous category 5 now codified as category 4B in the VDAM Rule). • Operating requirements by category updated. • Conditions on overdimension permits now distinguish between critical and additional conditions. • Operator responsibilities revised, including the requirement to designate an on-road supervisor and provide an adequate number of pilots. • Hazard warning equipment requirements updated. • Travel time and zone restrictions updated. • Operator compliance check introduced for overdimension permit applications. 	11 August 2017
Part D: HPMV higher mass permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General access mass limit and HPMV permit mass limit tables updated. • Axle weight flexibility (AWF): 'User defined' option abolished. AWF options when applying for a permit are either 'general access' or 'HPMV permit'. AWF examples added. • Roll stability control requirements clarified. • Section added about renewing an HPMV higher mass permit. 	11 August 2017
Part E: HPMV overlength permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineer's route assessment no longer required with non pro-forma overlength permit applications. • Roll stability requirements clarified. • 50MAX combination attributes check sheet acceptable with an overlength permit application. 	11 August 2017
Part F: HPMV 50MAX permits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50MAX permits now issued for country-wide 50MAX network (previously separate permits were issued for the North Island and the South Island). • Section added about renewing a 50MAX permit. 	11 August 2017
Part G: Specialist vehicle permits	
New part added: Information about applying for and operating under a specialist vehicle permit (new permit category introduced by the VDAM Rule 2016).	11 August 2017

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About this manual

Purpose, background and audience

Purpose

The purpose of this *Vehicle dimensions and mass permitting manual* is to:

- state Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's current policies, standards, processes and procedures for the permitting of vehicles exceeding standard dimension and mass limits
- give comprehensive guidance to transport operators about the requirements for applying for and operating under a permit for a vehicle exceeding standard dimension and mass limits
- be a transparent body of knowledge of how Waka Kotahi assesses and issues such permits
- share this knowledge with local road controlling authorities and provide a reference tool for issuing overweight, HPMV higher mass or specialist vehicle permits for local roads, and
- give guidance to designers and manufacturers of heavy commercial vehicles.

Background to the first edition

The permitting of heavy commercial vehicles has evolved over time. The Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2002 (the VDAM Rule), when first introduced, rationalised the existing special permit regimes for overweight and overdimension vehicles carrying indivisible loads and removed anomalies in how such permits were administered.

In 2010, the 2002 VDAM Rule was amended to allow for permits to be granted for high-productivity motor vehicles (HPMV) carrying divisible loads to exceed standard dimension and mass limits and operate on specified routes.

The documentation on dimension and mass permits had evolved similarly over time. Anyone needing information about such permits had to consult several different manuals, the Waka Kotahi website or factsheets, or call the customer service centre for help.

Continued on next page

Purpose, background and audience continued

Background to the first edition (continued)

The first edition of this manual combined the various information sources about vehicle dimension and mass permits for the first time in a single publication. Specifically, the manual brought together the following Waka Kotahi reference sources:

- Overweight Permit Manual
 - HPMV Manual
 - material from various factsheets from the Waka Kotahi website, and
 - information about overdimension permitting, which had not previously been documented outside of the VDAM Rule.
-

Background to the second edition

The VDAM Rule 2002 was replaced by the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016 with effect from 1 February 2017.

The 2016 VDAM Rule was intended to deliver productivity improvements, greater regulatory efficiency and reduced compliance costs without compromising the road network or the safety of road users.

The legislative reform also provided an opportunity for Waka Kotahi to review its heavy vehicle permitting policies and processes and update or clarify them where necessary.

The manual was extensively updated to reflect the legislative as well as policy and process changes and remains the authoritative source of information about all heavy vehicle permitting.

Audience

The audience for this manual is:

- transport operators
 - Waka Kotahi staff and contractors involved in processing vehicle dimension and mass permit applications
 - local road controlling authorities
 - truck and trailer manufacturers
 - enforcement agents, for example the Commercial Vehicle Safety Team (CVST) of the New Zealand Police, and
 - anyone who wants to gain an understanding of permitting policies and procedures for vehicles exceeding standard dimension and mass limits.
-

How to use this manual

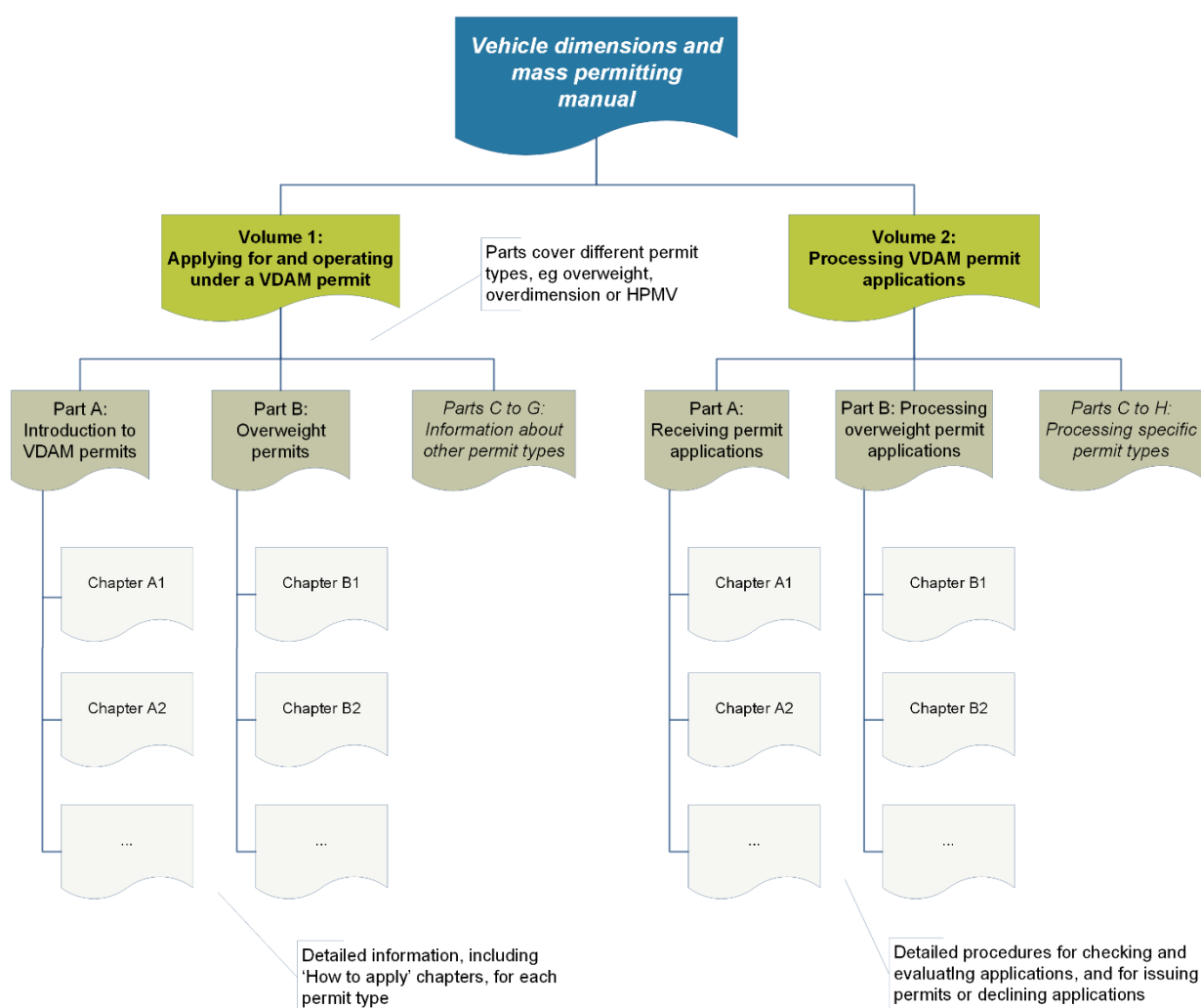
Manual structure

The manual is divided into two volumes:

- Volume 1: Applying for and operating under a vehicle dimension and mass permit, and
- Volume 2: Processing vehicle dimension and mass permit applications.

Each volume consists of separate parts that cover general information or a specific permit type. Parts are further divided into numbered chapters and sections for easy referencing and finding of information.

The diagram below gives a high-level overview of the structure of the manual.



Continued on next page

How to use this manual continued

Electronic access

You can access the manual on the Waka Kotahi website at nzta.govt.nz/resources/vehicle-dimension-and-mass-permitting-manual.

You have the option of either viewing a PDF file of a complete volume, or just an individual part of the manual.

If you are interested in a specific permit type, for example HPMV 50MAX permits, you may wish to access or download just the PDF file of the relevant part. The smaller file size means that it will load faster and will be easier to search and navigate.

Finding information

To find information in the manual, refer to the diagram on the previous page to identify the right volume for your search.

If you are a transport operator and your query relates to applying for or operating under a vehicle dimension and mass permit, see volume 1 of the manual.

If you want to find information about how permit applications are evaluated and processed, see volume 2.

Tables of contents

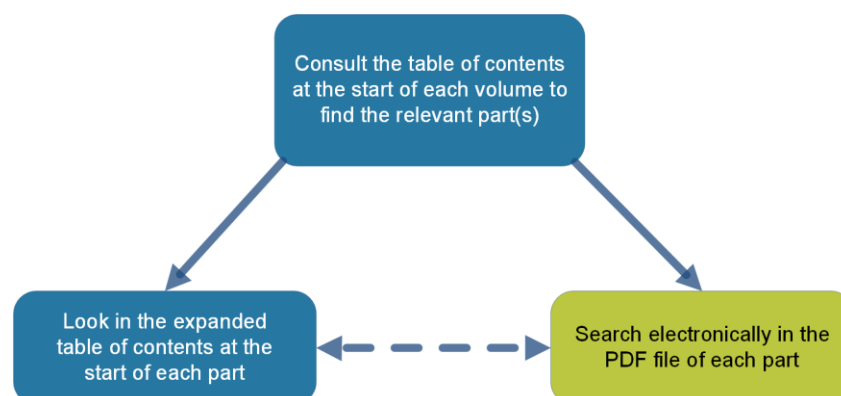
The manual has tables of contents at the start of each volume. The descriptive part, chapter and numbered section titles help you locate the information you are looking for.

Parts and chapters also have detailed tables of contents.

Electronic search

If you are viewing a PDF version of the manual electronically, you may wish to use the search function in your PDF viewer.

The diagram below illustrates the options for finding information in the manual.




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How to use this manual continued

Hyperlinks

In the electronic PDF version of the manual, tables of contents and cross-references are hyperlinked within each part.

To find these hyperlinks, hover your mouse over a cross-reference or table of contents entry until the cursor changes to the hand icon () and then click to activate the link.

Definitions and glossary

Specific terminology and abbreviations are used throughout this manual. For definitions and explanations, refer to *Part I: Definitions and glossary* in volume 1 of the manual.

Help

If you need further help or cannot find the information you are looking for, please call the Waka Kotahi contact centre on 0800 699 000, or email info@nzta.govt.nz.
