

# Information for customs brokers and freight-forwarders

## Changes to heavy vehicle law

In February 2014, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory adopted the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) and Regulations for heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass.

### Road access for oversize/overmass (OSOM) vehicles

The national law defines the following mass and dimension limits for general access to the Australian road network.

Vehicle or vehicle combination parameter	General access limit
Width	2.5 meters
Length	19.0 meters
Height	4.3 metres
Gross combination mass (mass of vehicle and load)	42.5 tonnes

Vehicles (including loading) exceeding any of these limits are referred to as oversize/overmass (OSOM) vehicles. Access for OSOM vehicles to the road network may be restricted and approval to access the road network (via permit) is required from all affected road managers.

Under the national law, once an application has been processed by the NHVR, road managers (local government and State government agencies) have up to 28 days to assess applications for OSOM vehicle road access.

Generally, as the load size and the journey length increase, the number of affected road managers and the time required to assess OSOM vehicle applications will increase.

### Movement from ports of OSOM vehicles

Road transport operators cannot legally move an OSOM vehicle from a port without approval from relevant road managers. In this case, goods and loads may attract storage charges and other penalties, while waiting for the permit.

### Action required

To reduce the risk of delays, customs brokers and freight-forwarders, facilitating the movement of large items<sup>1</sup> to Australia, should advise prospective road transport operators of the item details as soon as possible and well before the item arrives in Australia.

The provision of item details such as item width, length, height and item mass (including packaging) will allow road transport operators to determine the appropriate vehicle and gain earlier road manager approvals and permits, ideally before the item arrives in port.

### For more information

Contact the NHVR on MYNHVR (1300 696 487) or [info@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:info@nhvr.gov.au). Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.

<sup>1</sup> A large item can be considered as one that when loaded onto a road transport vehicle will exceed any of the mass or dimension limits in the table above.