

Questions of Transport SA

1. PLEASE CLARIFY THE USE OF CHAINS

If the trailer or agricultural implement is not fitted with breakaway brakes it must be connected to the towing vehicle by at least one chain, cable or other flexible device such that: -

- the trailer is kept in tow if the coupling breaks or accidentally detaches and
- normal angular movement of the coupling is permitted without unnecessary slack and
- if practicable, the connection must be built and fitted so the drawbar of the trailer is prevented from hitting the ground if the coupling accidentally detaches

1.1 HOW DO YOU CONNECT THEM?

It is the operator's responsibility to ensure that the chain or cables are of adequate strength to meet the requirement details above.

It is generally recommended that advice be sought from a qualified engineer regarding suitability and capacity of couplings.

2. DO PORTABLE TOILETS NEED TO BE REGISTERED?

Assuming the portable toilet is a trailer - it can be towed with a conditionally registered tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine, without the need for registration, as long as the vehicle combination does not exceed 19m in length.

If you wish to tow the portable toilet with any other type of registered vehicle, you would need to register it.

3. IF YOU REGISTER A VEHICLE THEN WHY DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

There is no relationship between vehicle registration and oversize and/or overmass operating permits.

The registration of motor vehicles is applied under the Motor Vehicles Act. The Motor Vehicles Act includes the administrative provisions relating to road use, such as types of registration, third party insurance, and driver licensing.

Permits are exemptions for the operation of oversize and/or overmass vehicles on the roads and are issued under the Road Traffic Act. The Road Traffic Act covers all vehicle operating requirements, including the maximum mass and loading of vehicles, oversize or overmass vehicle exemptions, vehicle standards, driving hours, miscellaneous regulations, and road rules.

4. CAN WE OBTAIN A PERMIT TO COVER THE VINTAGE PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS?

Yes we can issue permits to cover vintage periods. There are two types of permit we can issue. The first is a Period Permit which can be issued to cover frequent trips of a specific vehicle using a specific route over a period of time. The minimum duration is two months and the maximum usually 12 months.

The second is a Zone Permit which is issued to cover frequent trips by a specific vehicle carrying the same load or type of load within a defined zone, such as the cartage of grapes in the Riverland. Zone Permits are generally issued for one zone only or one zone plus zones immediately next to that zone. The usual duration is 12 months but, subject to special conditions, a Zone Permit can be arranged for longer periods. A Zone Permit is issued only if all routes within the zone are suitable for the operation proposed.

Please note that either type of permit is still dependant on an assessment of the mass and dimensions of the vehicle and/or load.

5. WHILE A PERMIT TO TRANSPORT A PIECE OF MACHINERY LIKE A MACHINE HARVESTER ON A TRUCK MAY REQUIRE A PERMIT FOR THE JOURNEY, CAN WE GET A PERMIT THAT MAY COVER MULTIPLE JOURNEYS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME?

Please refer to above comments regarding Period and Zone Permits.

6. CAN A TRACTOR BE USED AS A PILOT VEHICLE?

Tractors may be used as pilot vehicles. However this exemption is granted on individual assessment basis and only for certain specialised agricultural operations under a permit:-

- Depending on the area of operation.
- The exemption at present is only for grape harvesters travelling at night under a permit and the tractor trailer combination forms part of the harvesting process.
- The tractor used as a pilot vehicle must comply with all other requirements as set out in the "Escorting Guidelines for oversize and overmass vehicles and loads" booklet with regards to signs and warning lights.
- The tractor trailer combination used as pilot vehicle must be statutory dimensions.

7. IF THREE HARVESTERS ARE TRAVELLING IN CONVOY, WHEN AND HOW MANY ESCORT VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED?

Three harvesters should not be travelling in convoy.

Convoy travel is only permitted while police escorts are in attendance. A minimum of two police escorts must accompany this type of operation, one at the front and one at the rear to control the traffic. In addition to police escorts two pilots would also be required. In some circumstances where exceptionally large loads or difficult manoeuvring is necessary, additional police escorts may be required.

Only two oversize vehicles of similar dimensions are permitted to travel in convoy on routes with low traffic volumes and good sight distances. Convoy travel in urban areas is restricted to times when traffic density is very low. The careful management of convoy travel is necessary to ensure the safety of all road users.

8. DO WE NEED ESCORT VEHICLES FOR VEHICLES?

A Pilot vehicle is used as a 'mobile warning sign' to notify road users of the approach of an oversize/overmass vehicle or load using the road. A pilot vehicle is not necessary if an oversize agricultural vehicle crosses over Riddoch Highway directly from one paddock to another.

In the instances where oversize agricultural vehicles travel sections of the Riddoch Highway, pilot vehicle/s may not be necessary depending on the width of the vehicle and the availability of clear view of the road for 500 metres ahead and/or behind an agricultural vehicle.

For your information, temporary roadside warning signs depicting the words "Oversize Vehicle Ahead" can be used as an alternative to the use of pilot vehicles on minor road only for vehicles less than 7.5m wide and where the distance travelled along the road is not more than 5km.

9. PLEASE DEFINE A TRAILER?

- A trailer means any vehicle which is not self propelled, including agricultural implements, that are built to be towed or is towed by a motor vehicle or an agricultural machine or tractor.
- For example, a general trailer that has been constructed to carry a load, remains classed as a trailer, even when it is temporarily fitted with equipment used in the business of primary production.
- An agricultural implement, which does not carry a load, is still defined as a trailer although registration requirements may vary from that of a load-carrying trailer.
- Refer to the booklet "The Guide Don't Risk It Register It" Revised Edition for details of registration requirements when towed various types of motor vehicles.

10. DOES A DIESEL FUEL TANK THAT IS TRAILED NEED TO BE REGISTERED?

A fuel tank can be unregistered if towed with:

- Conditionally registered tractor
- Conditionally registered self-propelled agricultural machine

In all other cases it must be registered.

PLEASE CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ATV'S, MULES AND GATORS, INCLUDING LIGHTING REQUIRED, ROLL-BARS, STOCK HATS, MIRRORS, REGISTRATIONS, THE TRAVELLING RADIUS AND TRAVELLING ON ROADS.

Four-wheeled motorcycles, ATV's, "Mules", "Gators" and the like are not eligible for full registration as no manufacturer has sought or obtained Australian Design Rule compliance approval under the Federal *Motor Vehicles Standards Act 1989*. These vehicles are therefore intended and sold for off road use only.

Special purpose vehicle registration can be granted for 3 and 4 wheel motorcycles to be used for agricultural purposes if owned by a primary producer under the *Motor Vehicles Act* or by an appropriate State or Local Government body. In all cases the use of the vehicle is restricted to purposes connected with the operation of the agricultural property, or relevant government body, and is with the approval of the owner or caretaker of the land.

These vehicles are covered by a Gazette notice titled *Exemption from the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 1999, for Three and Four Wheel Motor Bikes which are being used for Work Related Activities by Primary Producers and Nominated Government Departments and Authorities* dated 12 October 2000.

Vehicles that are not covered by the Gazette notice, (ie not a 3 or 4 wheeled motor bike), such as the John Deere Gator, Kawasaki Mule, or vehicles with 6 wheels, require an individual Exemption to be issued by Vehicle Standards. The eligibility requirements are the same as for vehicles to which the Gazette applies.

Individual Exemptions may be granted where the vehicle is owned and operated by a private business that is contracted to carry out the duties of one of the above organisations. An example of this would be the caretakers of a Council owned caravan park, or weed-spraying contractors employed by a council.

Where an individual Exemption is granted to an organisation it is subject to the following conditions:

- a) That the vehicle is only used by employees of the organisation.
- b) That the vehicle is only driven on roads for the purposes of work associated with the organisation.

- c) The driver of the vehicle and any passenger must wear a safety helmet approved under the Regulations while operating such vehicles on public roads.
- d) That the vehicle may **not** tow a trailer that has a laden mass exceeding the unladen mass of the towing vehicle.
- e) That travel is not permitted within the boundaries of a municipality or township.
- f) That mudguards are fitted to the front and rear wheels.
- g) That two rear vision mirrors are fitted which are symmetrically positioned, equal distance from the longitudinal centreline which give a clear view to the rear of the vehicle.
- h) That the vehicle is fitted with a headlamp, rear lamp, stop lamp and rear reflector.
- i) That a warning device is fitted.
- j) That the headlamp is lighted whilst the vehicle is being operated on public roads.
- k) That the vehicle is fitted with brakes to two or more wheels complying with the requirements of Section 128 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 1999.
- l) That the vehicle may not travel at a speed exceeding 40 kilometres per hour unless brakes are fitted to all road wheels.
- m) That the actuating mechanism of the brake system shall have a device which prevents accidental release of that mechanism and holds the brake in the applied position.
- n) That footrests shall be fitted for the driver.
- o) That conditional Registration pursuant to the requirements of Section 25 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1959, is obtained from the South Australian Registration and Licensing Section of Transport SA.
- p) That a copy of the Certificate of Exemption is carried by the operator of the vehicle and produced upon request to a Police Officer or Inspector.
- q) That the owner and driver of the vehicle ensure that the requirements of the South Australian Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986, as they may apply, are met.

13. WHAT ARE THE APPROVED HITCHES?

The Regulations under the Road Traffic Act require that; -

- the coupling is equipped with a positive locking mechanism; and
- the positive locking mechanism can be released regardless of the angle of the trailer to the towing vehicle

14. WHAT IMPLEMENTS ARE ALLOWED TO BE TOWED BEHIND REGISTERED PRIMARY PRODUCER'S UTILITIES EG? PICKING TRAILERS (OR BIN TRAILERS), WIRE REEL TRAILERS FOR FENCING AND TRELLISING, ETC?

- All registered trailers can be towed behind a primary producer utility provided the utilities and trailers are registered in accordance with the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 and comply with the towing and braking requirements in accordance with the Road Traffic Act and Regulations.
- Included are copies of the Road Traffic Act relating to braking and towing requirements plus two exemptions from braking requirements.
- Refer to the booklet "The Guide Don't Risk It Register It" Revised Edition for details of registration requirements when towed behind, by various types of motor vehicles

15. DO GRAPE HARVESTING OPERATORS NEED A MEDIUM RIGID VEHICLE LICENSE?

If the vehicle does not exceed 4.5 tonnes Unladen Mass, then a class C licence is appropriate.

If grape harvester is over 4.5 tonnes UL, but not exceeding 8 tonnes, then the driver must hold a class LR. A restricted class LR can be obtained for driving agricultural machinery, on application to a Customer Service Centre.

If the vehicle is over 8 tonnes UL, then the driver must hold a class MR. A restricted class MR can be obtained for driving agricultural machinery, on application to a Customer Service Centre.

In either case above, a replacement licence will be issued at a cost of a Level 2 Administrative fee for the new licence.