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Tow Truck Licensing and Permit Requirements Guidelines

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Amendments

Revision Number	Revision Date	Description of Key Changes	Section / Page No.
1	30/06/2023	Updated document to align with revised HLTT Period Permit Operating Conditions.	All
2	12/09/2024	Updated entire document to reflect current permit products.	All

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Document Name	Location
Heavy Lift Tow Truck Period Permit Operating Conditions	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/499b9a/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/heavy-lift-tow-truck/heavy-lift-tow-truck-period-permit-operating-conditions-as-at-3-july-2023.pdf
Procedure for Heavy Lift Tow Truck Single Movement Approvals	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/49ed81/globalassets/heavy-vehicles/getting-a-permit/heavy-lift-tow-truck/procedure-for-heavy-lift-tow-truck-single-movement-approvals.pdf?v=49ed70

DEFINITIONS

The following are definitions for terms used in these Guidelines. Refer to the definitions in the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008* and the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012* and any subsidiary legislation to these Acts for the meanings of any terms not defined in this section. If a definition in the relevant Acts or the subsidiary legislation conflicts with a definition in this section, the definition in this section prevails for the purpose of these Guidelines.

Term	Definition
Commissioner of Main Roads	A reference to the Commissioner of Main Roads in these Guidelines is a reference to Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services who have the delegated authority to act on behalf of the Commissioner.
Disabled Vehicle	A vehicle that is disabled due to a mechanical or electrical fault, or due to being involved in an accident, preventing it from operating under its own motive power.
Heavy Lift Tow Truck	A tow truck equipped with a crane used or intended to be used for the lifting, salvaging, or towing of heavy vehicles.
HLTT	Heavy Lift Tow Truck
HVS	Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services
Main Roads Website	www.mainroads.wa.gov.au
Motor Vehicle	A vehicle propelled by a motor that forms part of the vehicle.
Permit	A permit issued by HVS under the provisions of Part 4 of the <i>Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012</i> .
Heavy Lift Tow Truck - Single Movement Permit	A single use permit issued to a specific HLTT on a specific route.
Tow Truck	A motor vehicle that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) equipped with a crane, winch, ramp, or other lifting or loading device; and b) used or intended to be used for the towing or salvaging of a motor vehicle.

1 PURPOSE

These guidelines have been developed to ensure there is a consistent understanding of the requirements associated with a HLTT towing a disabled heavy vehicle or vehicle combination.

2 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Tow Trucks

- 2.1.1 A HLTT must be licensed as a tow truck.
- 2.1.2 A person must not use or drive a HLTT as a tow truck, unless the vehicle licence for the HLTT allows it to be used as a tow truck.
- 2.1.3 Despite being licensed as a tow truck, the HLTT must be maintained in a manner that conforms with the definition of a tow truck.

2.2 Towed Vehicles

A vehicle licence is not required for an unlicensed motor vehicle being towed by a tow truck.

3 WA HEAVY VEHICLE ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT

- 3.1.1 To obtain a *Heavy Lift Tow Truck - Single Movement Permit* from HVS, the operator of a HLTT must be accredited under the WA Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (WAHVAS), if they have applied for more than 4 Single Trip Permits in a calendar year.
- 3.1.2 To obtain a *Heavy Lift Tow Truck Period Permit* from HVS, the operator of a HLTT must be accredited under the WA Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (WAHVAS).

4 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General Requirements

- 4.1.1 Part 8 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* prescribes the mass and dimension requirements for vehicles, hereinafter referred to as the statutory mass and dimension limits. Nothing in the Act or Regulations exempts a HLTT from the statutory mass and dimension limits.
- 4.1.2 A HLTT requires a permit if it and/or the vehicle it is towing, exceeds any statutory mass or dimension limit. The main statutory mass and dimension limits are as follows:
 - (a) 2.5 metres in width;
 - (b) 4.3 metres in height;
 - (c) 12.5 metres in length without the towed vehicle connected;
 - (d) 19 metres in length with the towed vehicle connected;
 - (e) 42.5 tonnes gross mass;
 - (f) 6.5 tonnes on the steer axle with tyres less than 375mm wide;
 - (g) 7.0 tonnes on the steer axle with tyres at least 375mm wide;
 - (h) 10 tonnes on a twin steer axle group with non-load sharing suspension;
 - (i) 11 tonnes on a twin steer axle group with load sharing suspension and tyres less than 375mm wide;

- (j) 12 tonnes on a twin steer axle group with load sharing suspension and tyres at least 375mm wide;
- (k) 9 tonnes on a single axle with dual tyres;
- (l) 16.5 tonnes on a tandem axle group with dual tyres;
- (m) 20 tonnes on a tri or quad axle group, with dual tyres.

- 4.1.3** A permit issued by HVS to a HLTT that exceeds a mass and/or dimension limit only applies if the towed vehicle is disabled, i.e. has a mechanical failure or has been involved in an accident, or to move the disabled vehicle between places of repair.
- 4.1.4** A HLTT that is within the statutory mass and dimension limits, with the towed vehicle connected, does not require a permit to operate.

5 ARTICULATED VEHICLES AND VEHICLE COMBINATIONS

5.1 Towing an Articulated Vehicle

- 5.1.1** The definition of an articulated vehicle in the *Road Traffic Code 2000* refers to a motor vehicle with a pivot point between the front and rear wheels, such as an articulated bus or articulated mobile crane.
- 5.1.2** Regulation 418 of the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014* stipulates that a WA police officer or the Commissioner of Main Roads may give permission to tow a disabled articulated vehicle to a place where it will not constitute a hazard, if it is considered unsafe to uncouple the vehicle to tow part of the vehicle only.

5.2 Towing a Vehicle Combination

- 5.2.1** Regulation 279 of the *Road Traffic Code 2000* stipulates a person must not drive any vehicle to which more than one other vehicle is directly or indirectly attached, without approval from the Commissioner of Main Roads.
- 5.2.2** In most cases, a HLTT towing a vehicle combination will exceed statutory mass and/or dimension limits, therefore will require a permit.

6 PERMIT OPTIONS

6.1 Period Permits

- 6.1.1** The following HLTT Period Permits are available:
- Heavy Lift Tow Truck – 23.5t Tri Drive Over Mass – Period Permit
 - Heavy Lift Tow Truck – 27t Tri Drive Over Mass – Period Permit
 - Heavy Lift Tow Truck – Tandem Drive Over Mass – Period Permit
 - Heavy Lift Tow Truck – Statutory Mass – Period Permit
- 6.1.2** A HLTT operating under a HLTT Period Permit must be operated in accordance with the [Heavy Lift Tow Truck Period Permit Operating Conditions](#).

6.2 Single Movement Permit

- 6.2.1** A HLTT or HLTT operator that is unable to comply with the HLTT Period Permit requirements, may operate under a *Heavy Lift Tow Truck - Single Trip Movement Permit*.

- 6.2.2** A *Heavy Lift Tow Truck - Single Trip Movement Permit* will be issued in accordance with the [Procedure for Heavy Lift Tow Truck Single Movement Approvals](#).

7 CONTACT DETAILS FOR SINGLE MOVEMENT PERMITS

- 7.1.1** To apply for a *Heavy Lift Tow Truck - Single Movement Permit* during the following business hours, contact HVS on 138 486 or by emailing hvs@mainroads.wa.gov.au :
- 7am - 6:00 pm Monday – Friday
 - 7am - 3:30pm Weekends and Public Holidays
- 7.1.2** To apply for a *Heavy Lift Tow Truck - Single Movement Permit* after-hours, contact the Main Roads Customer Information Centre on 138 138 who will make direct contact with the on-call after-hours HVS officer.