



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*We're working for
Western Australia.*

Short Triple Road Train Period Permit **Operating Conditions**

Printed copies are uncontrolled unless marked otherwise.
Refer to the Main Roads Website for current version.

D16#141001
October 2025

Contents

DEFINITIONS	4
1 APPLICATION	5
1.1 Approved Vehicles	5
1.2 Operating in Conjunction with another Permit or Order	5
2 COMPULSORY WA HEAVY VEHICLE ACCREDITATION.....	5
2.1 Requirement for Accreditation.....	5
2.2 Effect on the Permit	5
2.3 Non-Application of this Section	5
3 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.....	5
3.1 Requirement for Appropriate Vehicle Licensing	5
3.2 Complying with Licence Conditions.....	5
4 COMMERCIAL GOODS VEHICLE LICENCE	5
4.1 Obtaining a CGVL.....	5
4.2 Complying with CGVL Conditions	6
4.3 Carrying a Copy of the CGVL	6
5 DIMENSION REQUIREMENTS.....	6
5.1 Axle Spacings	6
5.2 Trailer Gap Requirements.....	6
6 MASS REQUIREMENTS.....	7
6.1 Maximum Steer Axle Mass Limits	7
6.2 Towed Mass Ratio	8
7 ACCESS REQUIREMENTS	8
7.1 Approved Roads and Conditions.....	8
7.2 Speed Restrictions.....	8
7.3 Minimum Following Distance	8
7.4 Poor Visibility	8
7.5 Overtaking	9
8 WARNING SIGN REQUIREMENTS	9
8.1 Warning Signs for Certain Combinations	9
8.2 Warning Signs Specifications.....	9
8.3 Warning Signs Not to be Displayed on Other Vehicles.....	10
9 COMPULSORY HEAVY VEHICLE INCIDENT REPORTING	10
10 AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING CONDITIONS & ACCESS.....	10
10.1 Access Approval Suspension & Revocation.....	10
10.2 Amendments & Notifications	10
11 APPENDICES	11
Appendix 1 – RAV Warning Signs.....	12
Appendix 2 – Example RAV Warning Sign with Sizing Specifications	13

Document Control

Owner	Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services
Custodian	Manager Heavy Vehicle Road Network Access
Document Number	D16#141001
Issue Date	May 2010
Review Frequency	As required.

Amendments

Revision Number	Revision Date	Description of Key Changes	Section
1	01/07/2024	Updated format and added, CGVL, Trailer Gap, Tow Mass Ratio and RAV Warning Sign requirements.	s.3, 4, 5, 7, Appendix 1 and 2.
2	01/08/2024	Added standard following distance, poor visibility and overtaking clauses. Clarify RAV Warning Sign requirements.	s.6 and 7, Appendix 1 and 2.
3	12/11/2024	Amended RAV warning sign requirements.	s.7
4	30/10/2025	Updated hyperlinks due to website changes. Clarified accreditation and licensing requirements. Clarified speed restrictions.	s.2, 3, 7

DEFINITIONS

The following are definitions for terms used in these Operating Conditions. 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 Operating Conditions.

Term	Definition
Main Roads Website	www.mainroads.wa.gov.au
Permit	Means a permit issued under Part 4 of the <i>Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012</i> , which these Operating Conditions form part of.
Permit Holder	The Operator to whom the permit is issued.
Posted Speed Limit	The speed limit indicated by the numerals on the speed limit sign or 50 kilometres per hour in the absence of a speed limit sign in a built-up area.
Prime Mover	A motor vehicle built primarily to tow a semi-trailer but does not include a truck or modified prime mover built primarily to carry a load or carry out a function other than towing a semi-trailer.
RAV	An approved vehicle combination to which the “ <i>Short Triple Road Train Period Permit</i> ” applies.
Short Triple Road Train Network	The Short Triple Road Train Network approved roads are published in the form of Road Tables on the Short Triple Road Train page on the Main Roads website.
Statutory Mass Limits	The mass requirements prescribed in Part 8 of the <i>Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014</i> .
Tandem Drive Network 9	The Tandem Drive Network 9 (N9) approved roads are published in the form of Road Tables or are available on the RAV Mapping Tool on the Main Roads website.
Truck	A motor vehicle designed primarily for the carriage of goods directly upon it, and does not include a prime mover, unless it is fitted with a block for use as a block truck, or has been modified to the extent where its primary function is no longer to tow a semi-trailer.

1 APPLICATION

1.1 Approved Vehicles

The *Short Triple Road Train Period Permit* only applies to a vehicle combination with a maximum length of 36.5 metres and consisting of:

- (a) A prime mover with either a single or twin steer axle group and with a tandem drive axle group;
- (b) A lead semi-trailer with either a tandem or tri axle group;
- (c) A second semi-trailer with either a tandem or tri axle group;
- (d) A rear semi-trailer with a **tri axle group only**; and
- (e) Converter dollies or fixed dollies with **tandem axle groups only**.

1.2 Operating in Conjunction with another Permit or Order

The *Short Triple Road Train Period Permit* cannot be used in conjunction with another permit or order.

2 COMPULSORY WA HEAVY VEHICLE ACCREDITATION

2.1 Requirement for Accreditation

This *Short Triple Road Train Period Permit* does not apply unless and until there is a person who is accredited in relation to the vehicle.

2.2 Effect on the Permit

If the person who is accredited in relation to the vehicle ceases to be accredited, the *Short Triple Road Train Period Permit* ceases to have effect on and from the day on which the person ceases to be accredited.

2.3 Non-Application of this Section

The requirement for Accreditation under this section does not apply to a person operating a RAV that is not being used in connection with a business.

3 LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Requirement for Appropriate Vehicle Licensing

This *Short Triple Road Train Period Permit* does not apply unless the prime mover is licensed under the appropriate heavy vehicle licence class applicable to the number of trailers being towed.

3.2 Complying with Licence Conditions

In addition to these Operating Conditions, the RAV must be driven in accordance with any conditions of the vehicle's licence, as imposed by the relevant licensing authority.

4 COMMERCIAL GOODS VEHICLE LICENCE

4.1 Obtaining a CGVL

Each RAV must obtain a Commercial Goods Vehicle Licence (CGVL), in accordance with the *Transport Co-ordination Act 1966*, when carrying iron ore, or any mining product from which iron is to be extracted, if sourced from a mine or mine stockpile situated:

- (a) Within 100km of Geraldton, Marchagee, Pindar, South Mine 94 or Wubin; or
- (b) Within 100km on either side of:
 - i. The railway between Geraldton and Wubin, including the section of railway between Mullewa and Pindar; or
 - ii. The railway between Geraldton and Marchagee; or
 - iii. The railway between Dongara and South Mine 94.

Note: to obtain a CGVL, the operator must contact the Department of Transport Freight, Ports, Aviation and Reform Section via cgv@transport.wa.gov.au. For more information, see the Commercial Goods Vehicle Licence page on the Department of Transport website: [Commercial goods vehicle licence \(CGVL\) \(transport.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/commercial-goods-vehicle-licence-cgv).

4.2 Complying with CGVL Conditions

The driver and permit holder must comply with the conditions specified in the CGVL.

4.3 Carrying a Copy of the CGVL

A copy of the CGVL must be carried in the RAV and presented to WA Police or Main Roads personnel upon request.

5 DIMENSION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Axle Spacings

- 5.1.1** A RAV must comply with the minimum axle spacing requirements specified in the following table:

Adjacent Axles or Axle Groups	Minimum Distance
Tandem axle group to tandem axle group	5.6 m
Tandem axle group to tri axle group	6.9 m

"Tandem axle group" does not include a twin steer axle group.

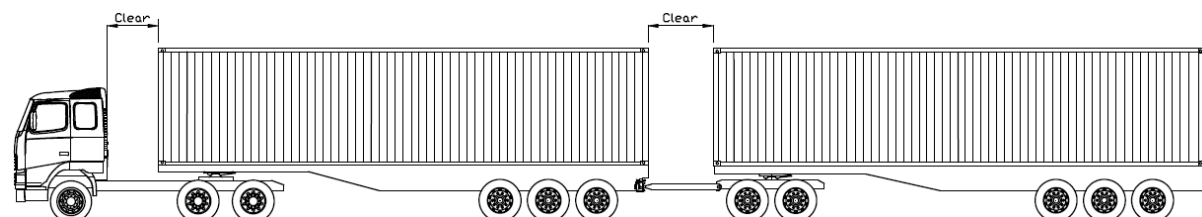
- 5.1.2** Axle spacing measurements are taken from the centre of outermost extreme axles of the two adjacent axle groups, as shown in the following diagram:



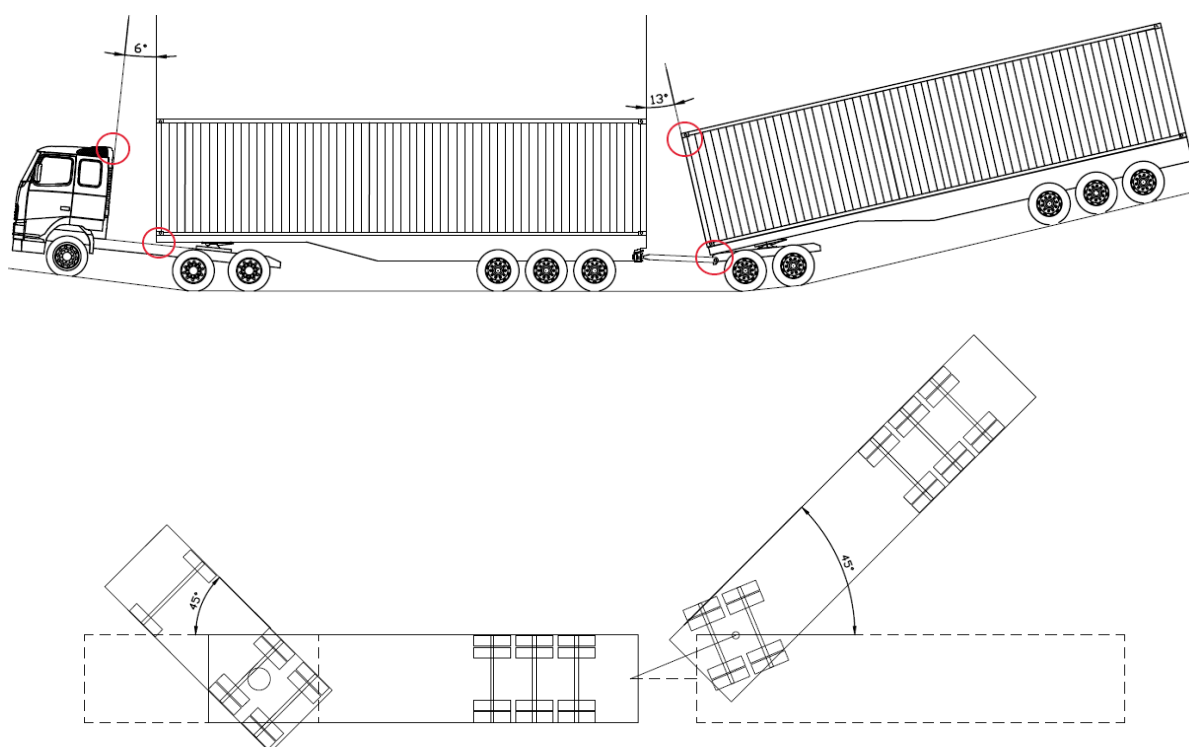
5.2 Trailer Gap Requirements

- 5.2.1** The RAV must be able to achieve the following angles of rotation simultaneously and independently, without any part of the trailer contacting any part of the towing vehicle (i.e. prime mover, lead semi-trailer or converter dolly), including the load:
- (a) Articulation – 45° left and right;
 - (b) Pitch – 6° forward and 7° rearward;
 - (c) Roll – as provided by the coupling.

5.2.2 There must be sufficient clear gap, as per the below example to achieve the specified angles of rotation:



5.2.3 The clear gap must be sufficient to enable the trailers to move through all the specified angles of rotation without contacting any other part of the towing vehicles, as per the following two diagrams. The red circles indicate the potential fouling zones.



Note: The [Trailer Clearance Calculator](#) is available on Heavy Vehicle Assessment Tools page on the Main Roads website.

6 MASS REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Maximum Steer Axle Mass Limits

A RAV is not permitted to exceed any statutory mass limit, except where specified in the following table:

Axle Group	Mass Limit
Single Steer Axle with tyres <375 mm	6.5 t
Single Steer Axle with tyres ≥375 mm	7.1 t
Twin Steer Axle Group with non-load sharing suspension	10 t
Twin Steer Axle Group with load sharing suspension and tyres <375 mm	11 t
Twin Steer Axle Group with load sharing suspension and tyres ≥375 mm	12 t

6.2 Towed Mass Ratio

- 6.2.1** When a RAV is laden, the total axle group mass of a trailer must not exceed the total axle group mass of the towing vehicle.
- 6.2.2** For the purpose of this clause, the towing vehicle is:
- (a) For the lead semi-trailer, the prime mover; or
 - (b) For the first dog trailer, the prime mover and lead semi-trailer combined; or
 - (c) For another dog trailer, the dog trailer directly in front.

7 ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Approved Roads and Conditions

- 7.1.1** A RAV must only operate on a road specified in the:
- (a) *Short Triple Road Train Network*; or
 - (b) *Tandem Drive Network 9*.
- 7.1.2** A RAV must be operated in accordance with any conditions specified for a particular road in the approved Network specified in sub-clause 7.1.1.

Note: *There will be no further expansion of the Short Triple Road Train Network.*

7.2 Speed Restrictions

A RAV must not travel at a speed exceeding the lesser of:

- (a) The speed limit applicable to the road or vehicle under the *Road Traffic Code 2000*; or
- (b) 10 km/h below the speed limit applicable to the road under the *Road Traffic Code 2000*, where the speed limit is greater than 60 km/h; or
- (c) The maximum speed specified as a condition for a particular road in the Approved Network.

7.3 Minimum Following Distance

The driver of a RAV must maintain a distance of at least 200 metres from any other heavy vehicle travelling in front of it, unless:

- (d) The RAV is overtaking the vehicle in front or the vehicle in front is stopping; or
- (e) There is a separate lane available for the use of overtaking traffic; or
- (f) The RAV is in an urban area and it is not reasonably practicable to maintain such a distance; or
- (g) The RAV is stopped, or coming to a stop for the purpose of complying with a provision of any law or avoiding conflict with other traffic.

7.4 Poor Visibility

- 7.4.1** The driver of a RAV must not begin to travel if, due to circumstances such as fog, heavy rain, smoke, dust or insect plague:
- (a) The visibility is less than 250 metres during the day; or
 - (b) The headlights of a vehicle approaching within 250 metres could not be seen at night.

- 7.4.2** Where a RAV is already travelling when visibility is reduced to the level described above, the driver must drive into the nearest safe parking area and wait until visibility improves beyond that level before continuing to travel.

7.5 Overtaking

The driver of the RAV must not overtake another vehicle, unless:

- (a) There is a separate lane available for the purpose of overtaking traffic; or
- (b) The vehicle in front is stopping; or
- (c) The vehicle in front is travelling at a significantly lower speed, i.e., 20 km/h or more below the RAV's legal speed limit; and
- (d) It is safe to do so.

8 WARNING SIGN REQUIREMENTS

8.1 Warning Signs for Certain Combinations

- 8.1.1** In addition to, or instead of, a "Road Train" or "Long Vehicle" sign, a RAV may display one of the RAV warning signs specified in this clause.
- 8.1.2** A RAV exceeding 27.5 metres in length, but not exceeding 36.5 metres in length, may display a 36.5m Long RAV Warning Sign, as specified in [Appendix 1](#).
- 8.1.3** The RAV warning sign must only be fitted horizontally on the rear of the RAV.

8.2 Warning Signs Specifications

- 8.2.1** The RAV warning sign must be manufactured in one or 2 parts from:
- (a) sheet steel with a minimum thickness of 0.8 mm thick; or
 - (b) a sticker attached to an equivalent rigid surface; or
 - (c) a flexible vinyl material, provided the sign is attached in such a manner that ensures it remains taut and clearly visible.
- 8.2.2** The RAV warning sign must be at least 1.02 metres wide and at least 250 millimetres high.
- 8.2.3** The RAV warning sign must display the words specified in [Appendix 1](#), in black capital letters at least 80 millimetres high in typeface Helvetica Neue Bold Condensed.
- 8.2.4** If the RAV warning sign is in 2 parts, it must be split as shown in [Appendix 1](#).
- 8.2.5** The RAV warning sign must have a black border. A black border is not required on the inside of a RAV warning sign split in 2 parts.
- 8.2.6** The RAV warning sign must display the sign manufacturer's name or logo, and the brand and class of retro-reflective material used, in block letters not over 10 mm high.
- 8.2.7** The RAV warning sign must be coated with yellow retro-reflective material that complies with class 100 or 400 of AS1906.1 – 2017 *Retroreflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes – Retroreflective Sheeting*.
- 8.2.8** The RAV warning sign must only be fitted on the rear of the RAV and so:
- (a) no part of the sign is —
 - (i) over 2.75 m above ground level; or

- (ii) under 500 mm above ground level;
- and
- (b) if the sign is in 2 parts, the parts are fitted at the same height above ground level.

Note: Refer to [Appendix 2](#) for example RAV Warning Sign with sizing specifications.

8.3 Warning Signs Not to be Displayed on Other Vehicles

- 8.3.1** The whole or a part of a RAV warning sign must not be displayed unless it is displayed in accordance with this section.
- 8.3.2** A RAV must not display a warning sign not specified in this section.

9 COMPULSORY HEAVY VEHICLE INCIDENT REPORTING

All on-road incidents involving a RAV must be reported to Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services by the permit holder. The Heavy Vehicle Incident Reporting form is available on the Incident Reporting page on the Main Roads website and it must be submitted within 48 hours of the incident occurring.

10 AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING CONDITIONS & ACCESS

10.1 Access Approval Suspension & Revocation

- 10.1.1** Approval to operate a RAV may be suspended when road and/or traffic conditions are considered unsuitable. Main Roads personnel, WA Police or Traffic Escort Wardens, may make verbal notification of such suspension.
- 10.1.2** Approval to operate a RAV may be suspended or revoked if the permit holder or vehicle combination fails to comply with any of the requirements specified in these Operating Conditions.

10.2 Amendments & Notifications

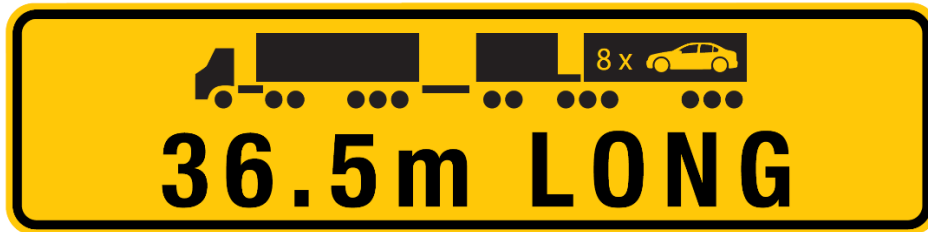
- 10.2.1** These Operating Conditions are subject to occasional amendments. If amendments are made that impact transport operators, they will be published as an “HVS Update” on the Main Roads website on the first working day of the month. Permit holders and drivers are required to ensure that they are operating vehicles on the public road network in accordance with the current and up to date Operating Conditions.
- 10.2.2** The RAV Networks are subject to periodic amendments, which include additional roads being included in the lists, roads being removed from the lists, or amendments being made to a condition relating to a particular road in the lists. RAV Network updates will be effective from the Wednesday following the amendment and the RAV Networks are maintained in the RAV Mapping Tool on the Main Roads website. Permit Holders and drivers are required to ensure they are operating vehicles on the public road network in accordance with the current and up to date RAV Networks.
- 10.2.3** Heavy Vehicle Travel Impacts are published when road conditions may impede the movement of Restricted Access Vehicles. Permit Holders and drivers are required to check the Heavy Vehicle Travel Impacts in the RAV Mapping Tool on the Main Roads website immediately prior to operating the vehicle on the public road network to ensure that there is no relevant information that will impede their vehicle operating on the WA road network.
- 10.2.4** All conditions stipulated in HVS Updates or Heavy Vehicle Travel Impacts must be adhered to.

11 APPENDICES

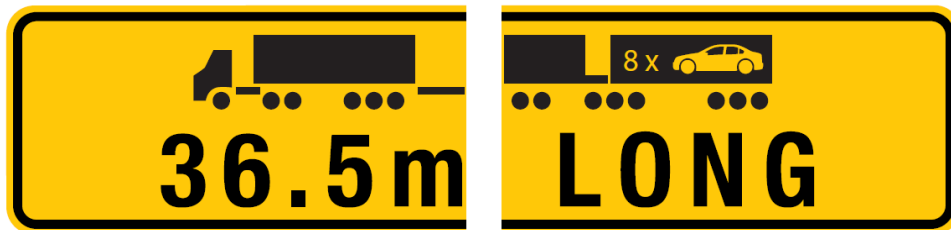
Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	RAV Warning Signs
Appendix 2	Example RAV Warning Sign with Sizing Specifications

Appendix 1 – RAV Warning Signs

36.5m Long RAV Warning Sign:



Split RAV Warning Sign:



Appendix 2 – Example RAV Warning Sign with Sizing Specifications

