This fact sheet aims to provide heavy vehicle drivers with information about safe driving behaviour. The Information provided in this publication is not a substitute for knowing the legislation and should not be taken as an accurate or binding interpretation of the law.

Heavy Vehicle Driver – Tips & Guide

Issue 7 - December 2013

HEAVY VEHICLE SPEED LIMITS

The Maximum Speed Limit for Heavy Vehicles on Western Australian Roads is 100km/h (as prescribed in the Road Traffic Code 2000) unless a lower speed applies. A heavy vehicle is defined under the Road Traffic Code 2000 as a vehicle, other than a bus, that has or together with any attached trailer and its load has, a Gross Combination Mass (GCM) that is 22.5 tonnes or more.

GCM is defined as, in relation to a motor vehicle, the greatest possible sum of the maximum loaded mass of the motor vehicle and of any vehicles that may lawfully be towed by it at one time, as specified by the manufacturer or the relevant authority (in the absence of a manufacturers rating).

Restricted Access Vehicles Operating Under a Notice or Permit

Restricted Access Vehicles (RAVS) operating under a Main Roads Notice or Permit must not be driven on a road that exceeds the lesser of;

- 100km/h (as per the Road Traffic Code 2000)
- The posted speed limit; or
- A speed restriction specified for the particular vehicle type as a Notice or Permit condition.

A Notice or Permit condition may be listed in the operating conditions or as a road condition in the list of approved roads. Examples of these conditions are;

- Unsealed section – 30km/h below posted speed limit; or
- For a Local Government road, if no maximum speed is specified as a condition in the applicable RAV Network Road Table - the speed must not exceed 10 km/h lower than the posted speed limit for that road where that speed is greater than 60 km/h.
**Heavy Vehicle Speed Zones**

A “Heavy Vehicle Speed Zone” is a length of carriageway, defined at its beginning by means of a “heavy vehicle speed zone” sign and at its end by means of an “end of heavy vehicle speed zone” sign. The “heavy vehicle speed zone” sign will specify a maximum speed limit that applies to heavy vehicles that are travelling within the heavy vehicle speed zone.

The Road Traffic Code 2000 prescribes that a person shall not drive a heavy vehicle in a “heavy vehicle speed zone” at a speed exceeding the speed limit indicated on the “heavy vehicle speed zone” sign.

Penalties for a person driving a heavy vehicle in excess of a speed limit prescribed under the Road Traffic Code 2000 are as follows:

- Not more than 9km/h in excess - $150;
- 10km/h but not more than 19km/h in excess - $250 and 2 demerit points;
- 20km/h but not more than 29km/h in excess - $400 and 3 demerit points;
- 30km/h but not more than 40km/h in excess - $850 and 5 demerit points;
- 41km/h or more in excess - $1000 and 7 demerit points.

The above penalties are subject to double demerit points during prescribed holiday periods (Australia Day, Labour Day, Easter, Anzac Day, Western Australia Day, Queens Birthday and the Christmas/New Year period).

WA Police have the power to impound a heavy vehicle that exceeds the speed limit by 45 km/h or more.

“Heavy vehicle speed zones” are generally on roads with steep gradients. However, they may be on other roads where speed restrictions are necessary for heavy vehicles to ensure road safety. Some existing “heavy vehicle speeds zones” include:

- Greenmount Hill (7% gradient) on Great Eastern Highway, Shire of Mundaring;
- Coalfields Highway (7% gradient) in the Shire of Harvey;
- Bedfordale Hill (5.11% gradient) on Albany Highway, City of Armadale.

*The speed limit within a “heavy vehicle speed zone” applies to all heavy vehicles with a GCM rating of 22.5 tonnes or more. This applies regardless of whether the vehicle is towing a trailer or carrying a load.*

For further information, contact Heavy Vehicle Operations Help Desk on 138 HVO (138 486) or the WA Police on 131 444.