

#### Road Traffic (Construction, Use of Vehicles) Regulations, 2003

#### <u>Leaflet No. 1</u> <u>Guidelines on Maximum Weight and Dimensions of</u> <u>Mechanically Propelled Vehicles and Trailers</u>

Vehicle Standards Division Floor 2, Findlater House Upper O'Connell Street Dublin 1 Ireland

January,2003

[leaflet.1]

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Guidelines only**

This leaflet is published by the Department of Transport for the guidance of industry, hauliers, and interested members of the public. It does <u>not</u> purport to be a legal interpretation of the law.

The leaflet provides guidelines on the maximum permitted weights and dimensions of mechanically propelled vehicles and trailers as set out in Regulations<sup>1</sup>.

#### Design Laden Weight

Many vehicles are intended by design to operate at maximum weights which are less than the weights set out herein. It is an offence to carry a load on a vehicle which is unreasonably heavy, e.g. is such that the design weights are exceeded. Owners and drivers should be aware of the maximum weight applicable to their particular vehicle, i.e. the lesser of the design weights or the limits specified in this leaflet.

#### Permit for Special Loads

In exceptional circumstances, for example the carriage of abnormal and indivisible loads (AILs), the legal limits on weights and dimensions may be exceeded. Where it is proposed to carry a load which is such that the gross weight or axle weights are in excess of the legal limits or the dimensional or projecting limits are breached, a permit must be obtained from the relevant local authority or authorities through whose functional area(s) the load will be carried.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 5 of 2003)

The permit procedure is set out in regulation 59 of the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 5 of 2003) -see <u>Appendix 1</u>.

A list of the names, addresses and telephone/telefax numbers of the road authorities responsible for issuing permits is appended to this leaflet (Appendix 2).

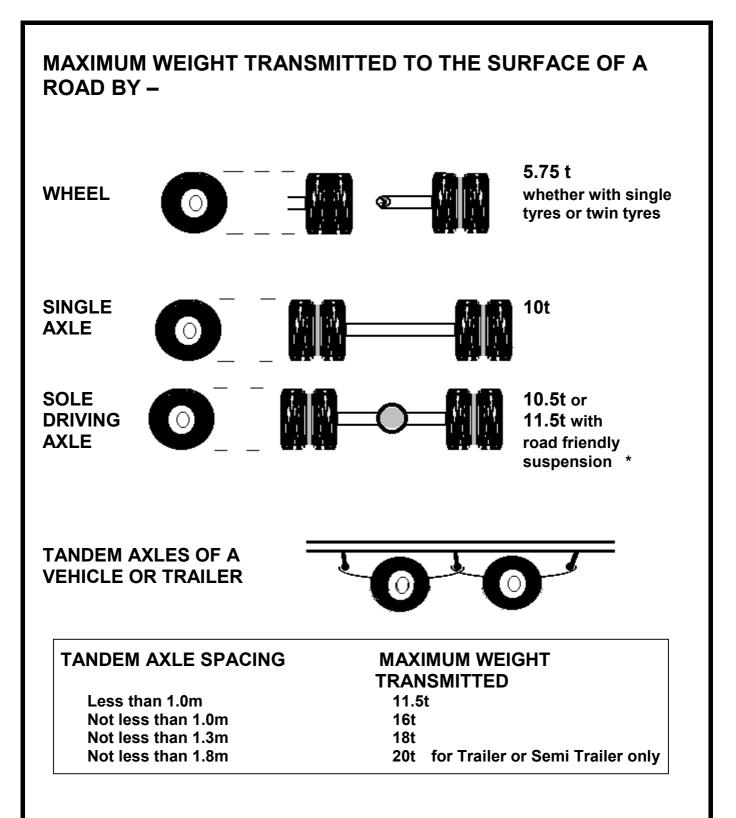
## **MAXIMUM WEIGHTS**

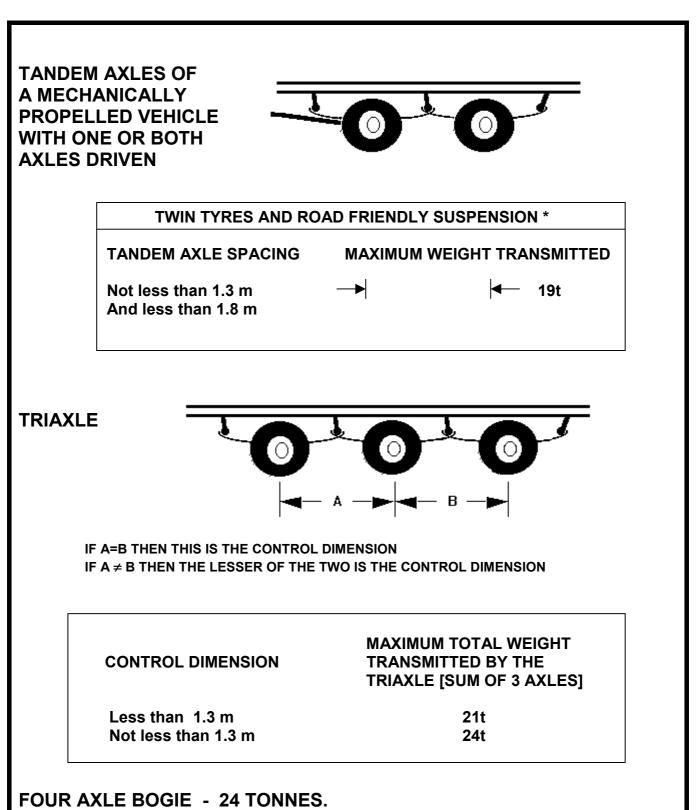
MAXIMUM WEIGHT TRANSMITTED TO THE SURFACE OF A ROAD BY :

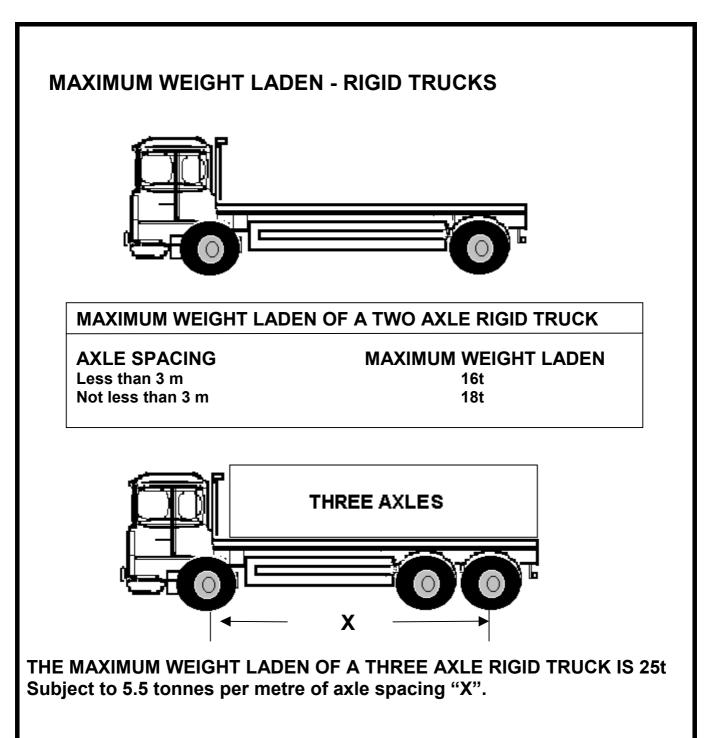
- A WHEEL,
- A SINGLE AXLE,
- A SOLE DRIVING AXLE,
- TANDEM AXLES,
- A TRIAXLE,
- A FOUR AXLE BOGIE.

## **MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF :**

- A RIGID TRUCK,
- A TRAILER,
- A TRUCK AND TRAILER COMBINATION,
- THE DRAWING COMPONENT OF AN ARTICULATED VEHICLE,
- AN ARTICULATED VEHICLE.

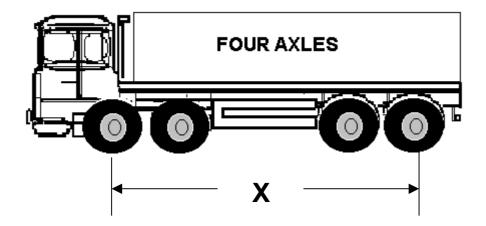






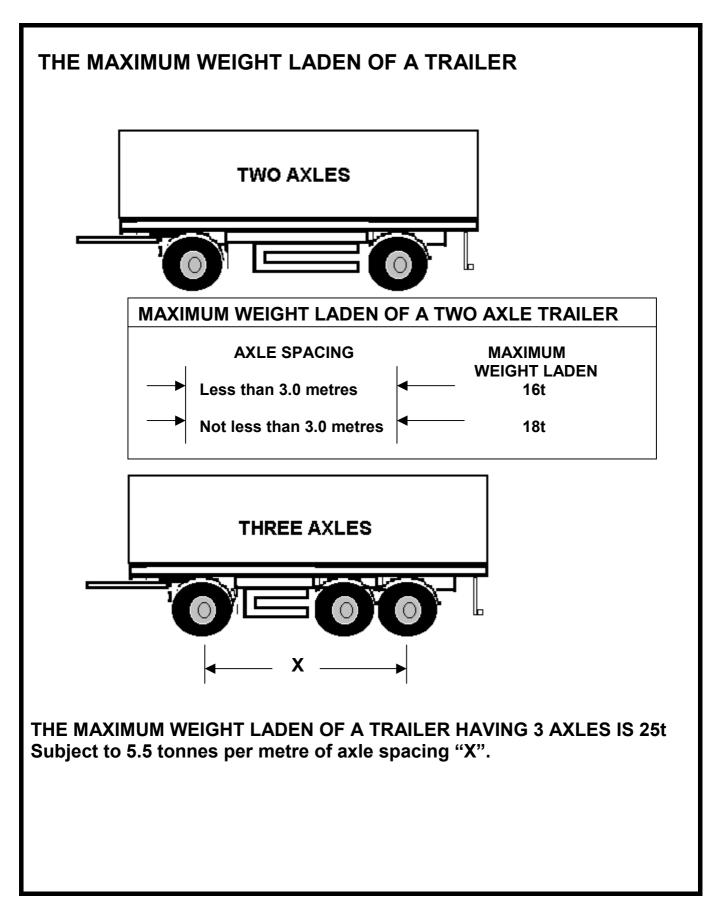
THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A THREE AXLE RIGID TRUCK WITH TWIN TYRES AND ROAD FRIENDLY SUSPENSION\* ON EACH DRIVING AXLE IS 26t Subject to 5.5 tonnes per metre of axle spacing "X".

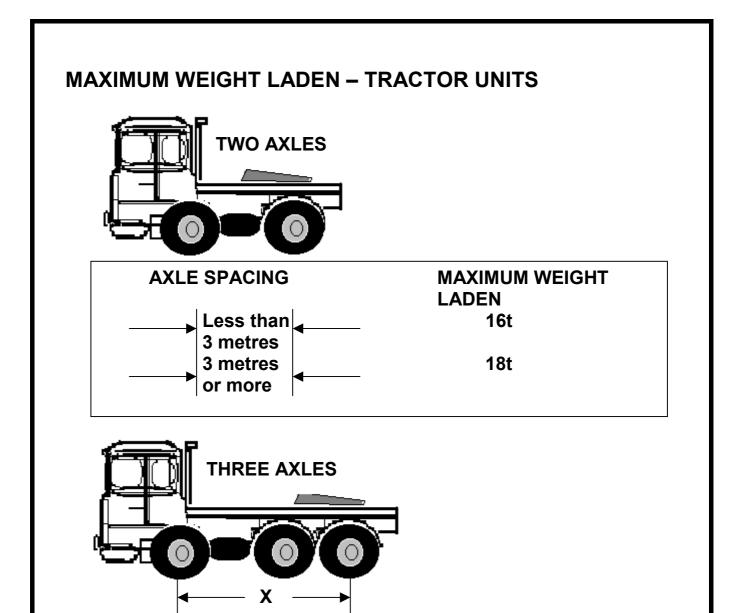
# THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A RIGID TRUCK HAVING A TOTAL OF 4 AXLES



THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A FOUR AXLE RIGID TRUCK IS 30t Subject to 5 tonnes per metre of axle spacing "X".

THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A FOUR AXLE RIGID TRUCK WITH TWIN TYRES AND ROAD FRIENDLY SUSPENSION\* ON EACH DRIVING AXLE IS 32t Subject to 5 tonnes per metre of axle spacing "X".



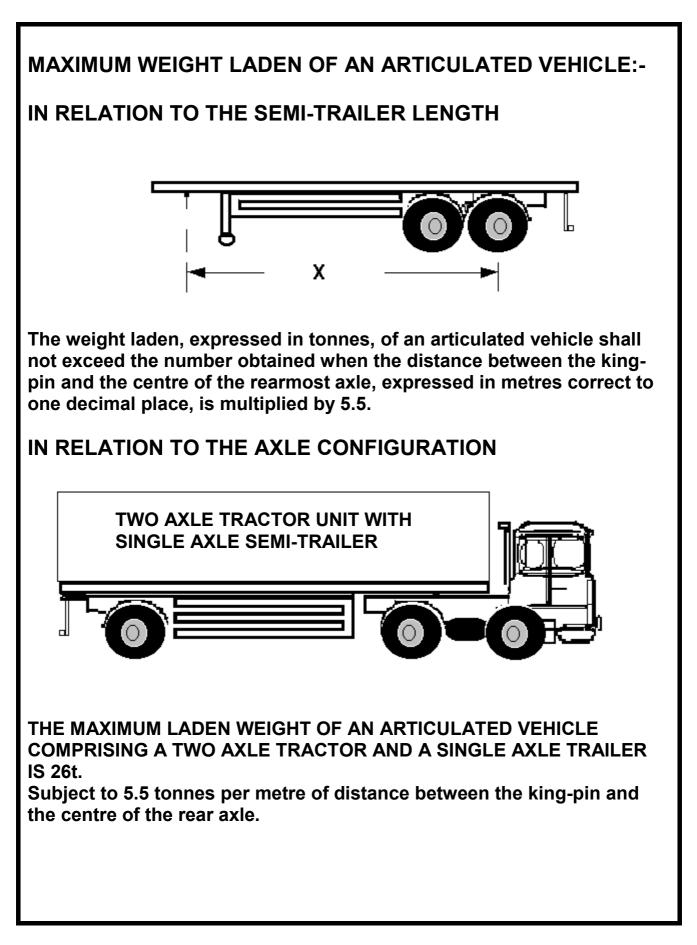


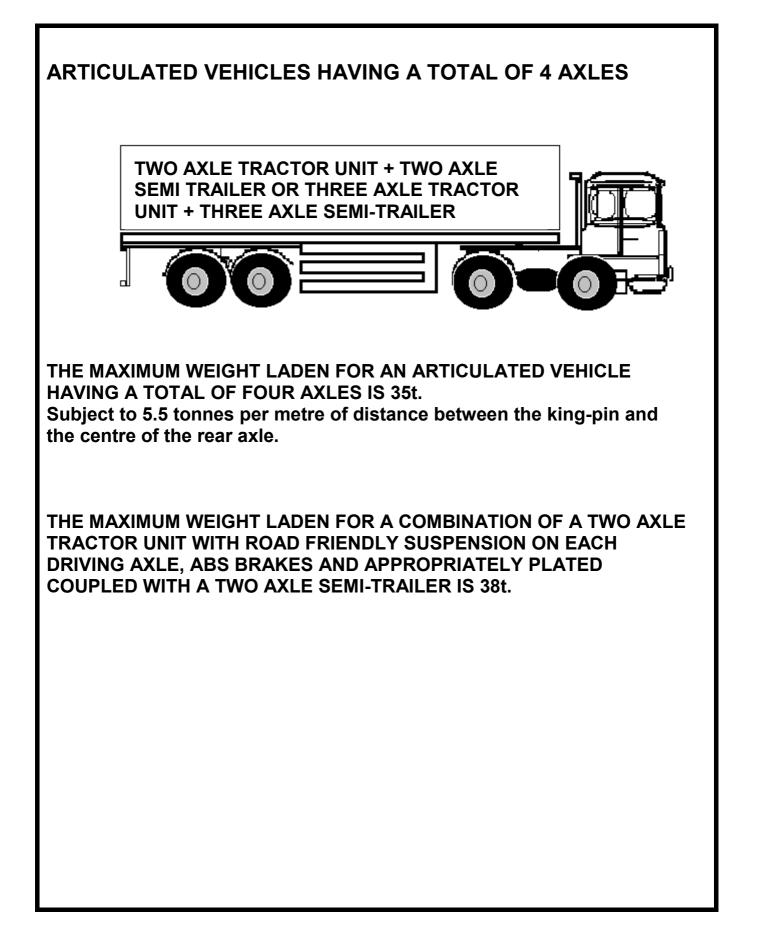
THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A THREE AXLE TRACTOR UNIT IS 25t

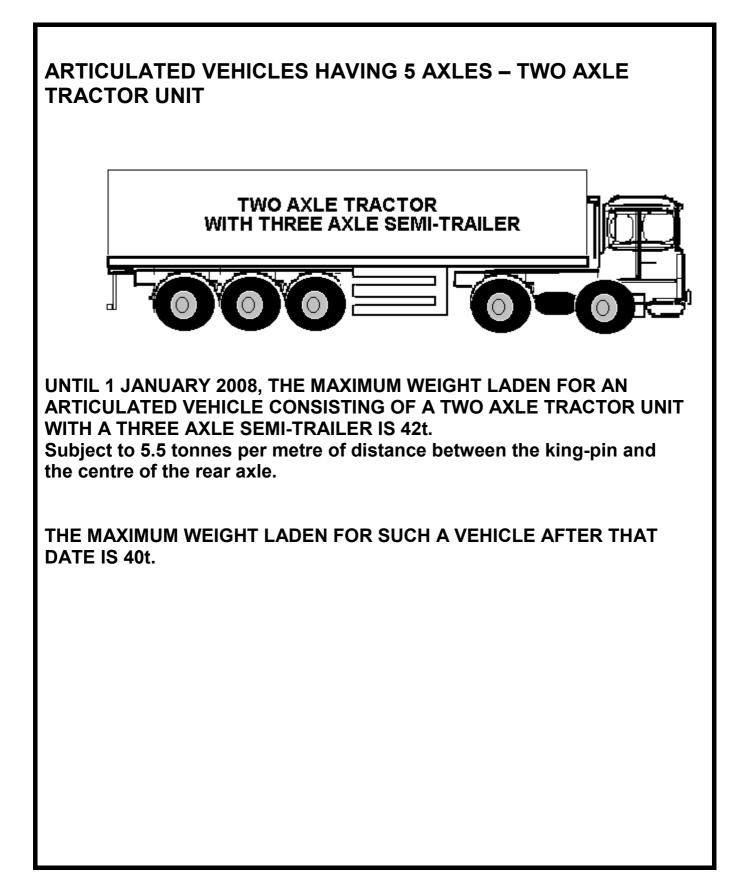
Subject to 6 tonnes per metre of axle spacing "X".

THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A THREE AXLE TRACTOR UNIT WITH TWIN TYRES AND ROAD FRIENDLY SUSPENSION\* ON EACH DRIVING AXLE IS 26t,

Subject to 6 tonnes per metre of axle spacing "X".

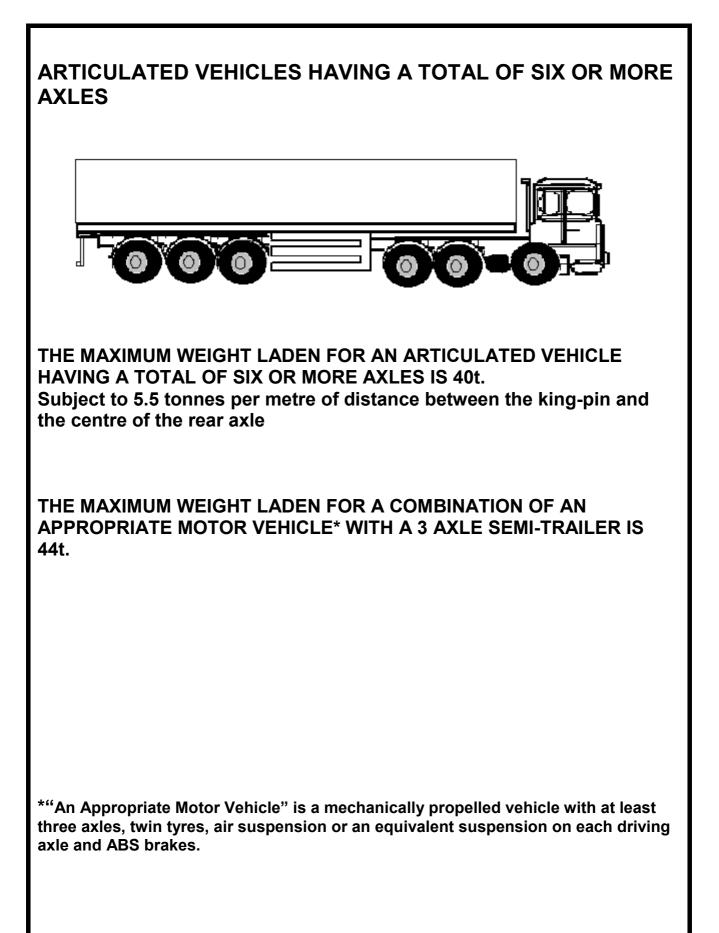






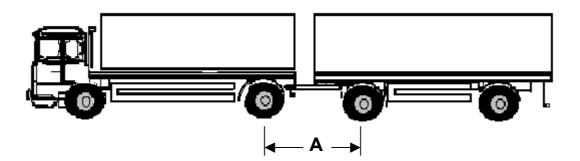
**TRACTOR UNIT** THREE AXLE TRACTOR UNIT WITH TWO AXLE SEMI-TRAILER THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN FOR AN ARTICULATED VEHICLE HAVING A TOTAL OF FIVE AXLES BEING A THREE AXLE TRACTOR UNIT WITH A TWO AXLE SEMI-TRAILER IS 40t. Subject to 5.5 tonnes per metre of distance between the king-pin and the centre of the rear axle. THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN FOR A COMBINATION OF AN **APPROPRIATE MOTOR VEHICLE\* WITH A TWO AXLE SEMI-TRAILER IS** 42t. \*"An Appropriate Motor Vehicle" is a mechanically propelled vehicle with at least three axles, twin tyres, air suspension or an equivalent suspension on each driving axle and ABS brakes.

**ARTICULATED VEHICLES HAVING 5 AXLES – THREE AXLE** 



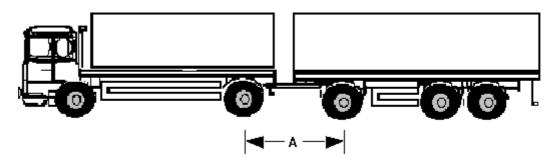
MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN – TRUCK AND TRAILER COMBINATION

EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW, THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A FOUR AXLE COMBINATION OF TRUCK AND TRAILER IS 30t,



WHERE "A" IS GREATER THAN 3 METRES THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF A TWO AXLE DRAWING VEHICLE AND A TWO AXLE TRAILER IS 36t.

FIVE (OR MORE) AXLE COMBINATION - 2 AXLE TRUCK

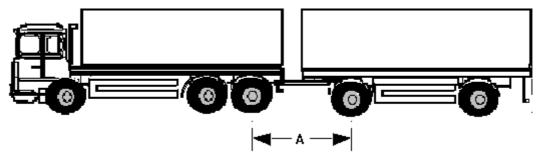


THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF A TWO AXLE DRAWING VEHICLE AND A TRAILER WITH THREE AXLES IS 34t.

WHERE "A" IS GREATER THAN 3 METRES, THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF A TWO AXLE DRAWING VEHICLE AND A TRAILER WITH THREE AXLES IS 40t.

### MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN – TRUCK AND TRAILER COMBINATION

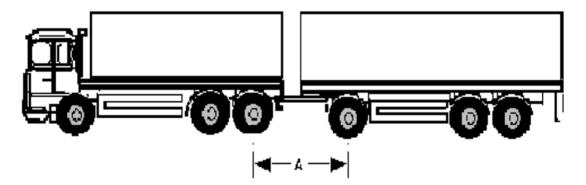
FIVE (OR MORE) AXLE COMBINATION - TWO AXLE TRAILER



THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF A THREE AXLE DRAWING VEHICLE AND A TRAILER WITH TWO AXLES IS 34t.

WHERE "A" IS GREATER THAN 3 METRES THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF A THREE AXLE DRAWING VEHICLE AND A TWO AXLE TRAILER IS 42t.

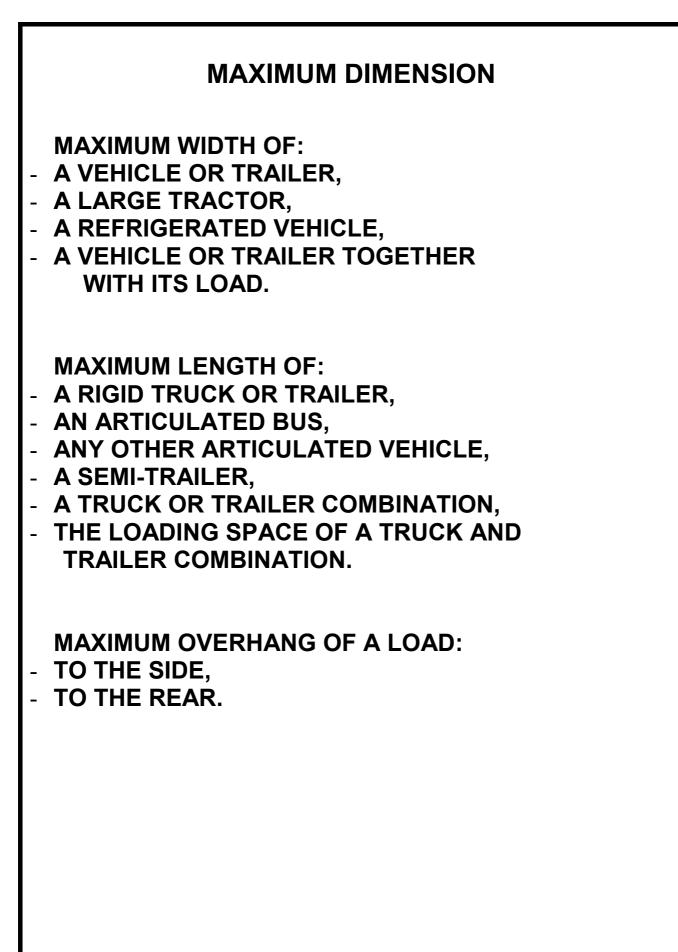
SIX (OR MORE) AXLE COMBINATION - THREE AXLE TRAILER

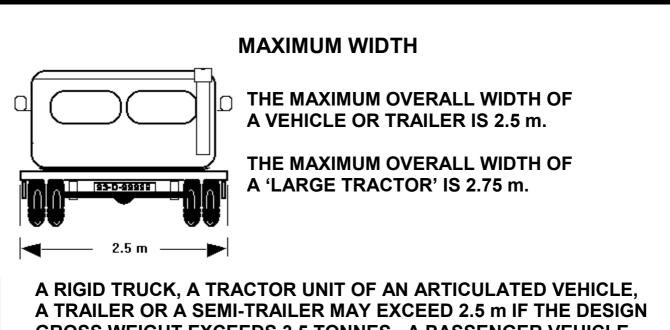


THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF VEHICLES WITH A TOTAL OF SIX AXLES IS 34t.

WHERE "A" IS GREATER THAN 3 METRES, THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF VEHICLES WITH A TOTAL OF SIX AXLES IS 40t.

WHERE "A" IS GREATER THAN 3 METRES, THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN OF A COMBINATION OF AN APPROPRIATE MOTOR VEHICLE AND A TRAILER WITH THREE AXLES IS 44t.

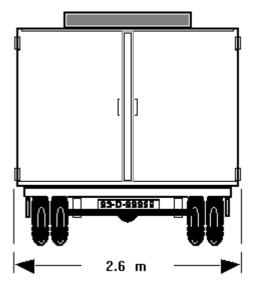




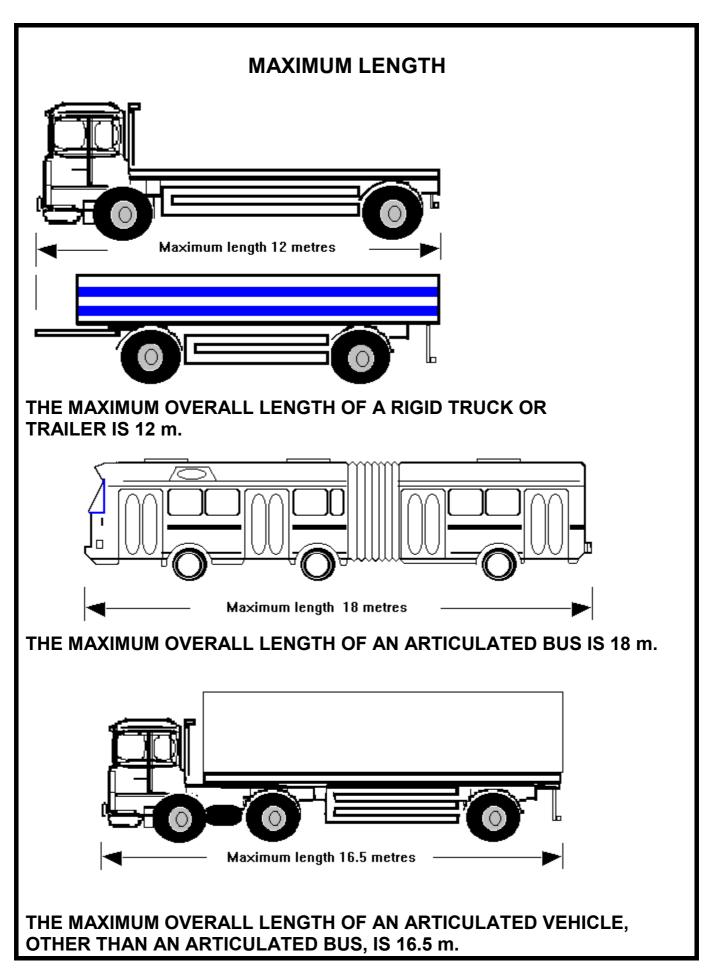
GROSS WEIGHT EXCEEDS 3.5 TONNES. A PASSENGER VEHICLE WITH SEATING FOR MORE THAN EIGHT PASSENGERS MAY ALSO EXCEED 2.5 m.

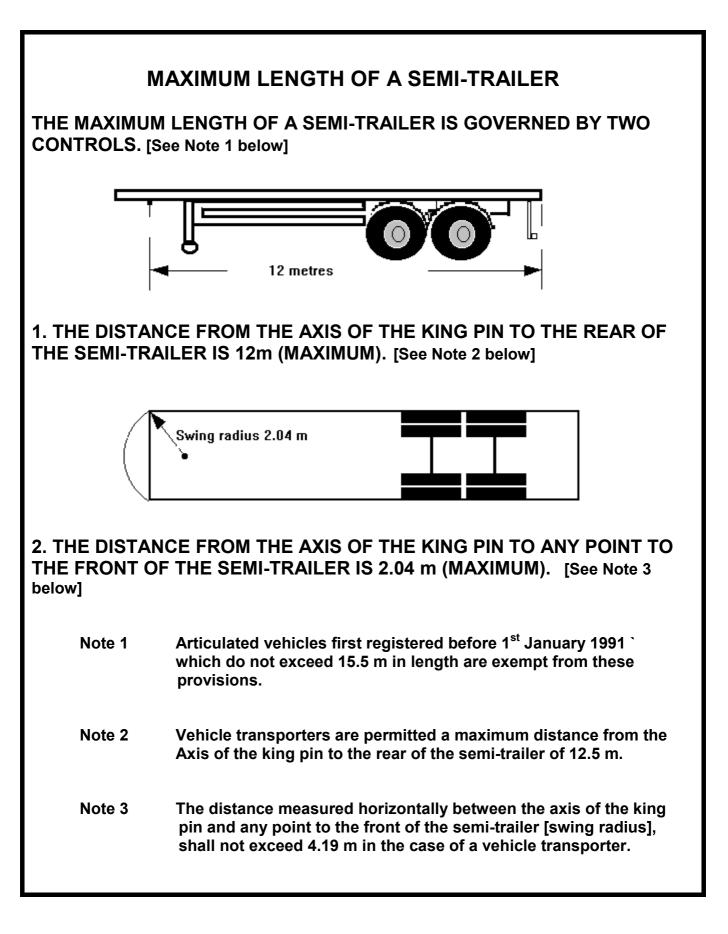
THE LIMIT FOR ALL OF THESE VEHICLES IS 2.55 m.

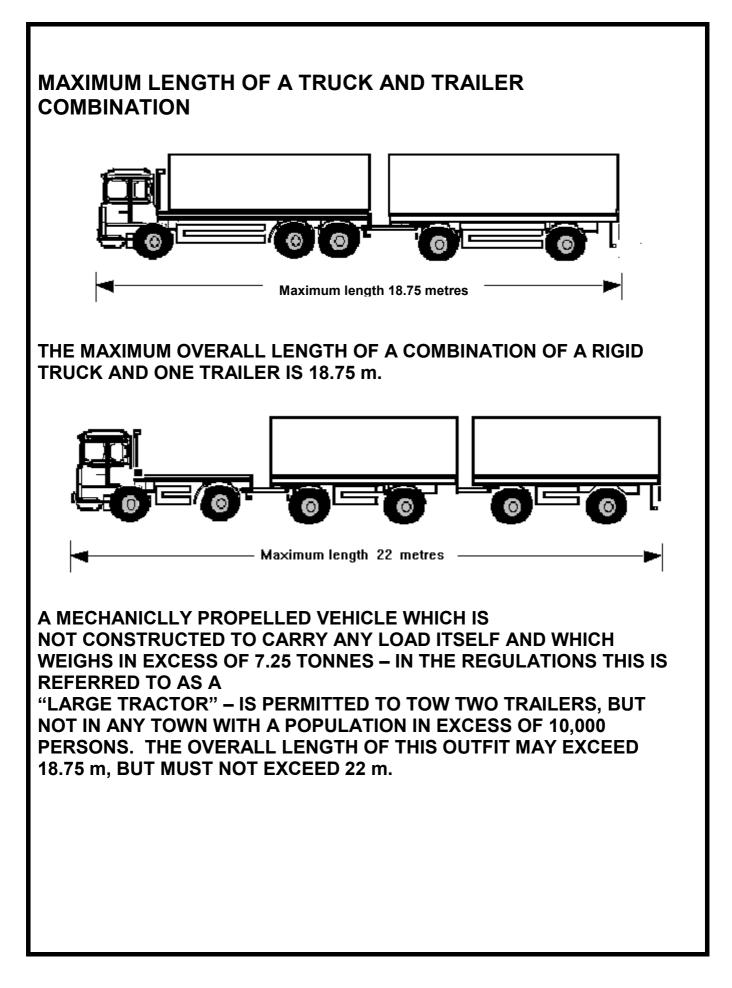
GOODS VEHICLES AND TRAILERS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE RESTRICTED TO 2.55 m, ARE PERMITTED A WIDTH OF 2.6m IF THEY MEET THE CONDITIONS DEFINING EITHER A REFRIGERATED VEHICLE OR A CONDITIONED VEHICLE.



THE WALL THICKNESS OF A CONDITIONED VEHICLE HAS TO BE A MINIMUM OF 45mm. THE ALLOWANCE OF EXTRA WIDTH FOR REFRIGERATED VEHICLES APPLIES TO VEHICLES REGISTERED BEFORE JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 1998 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2006

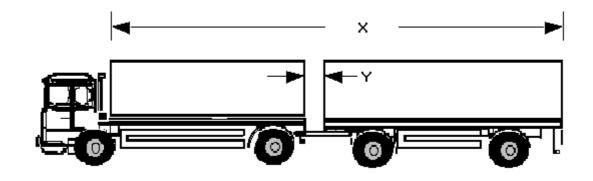






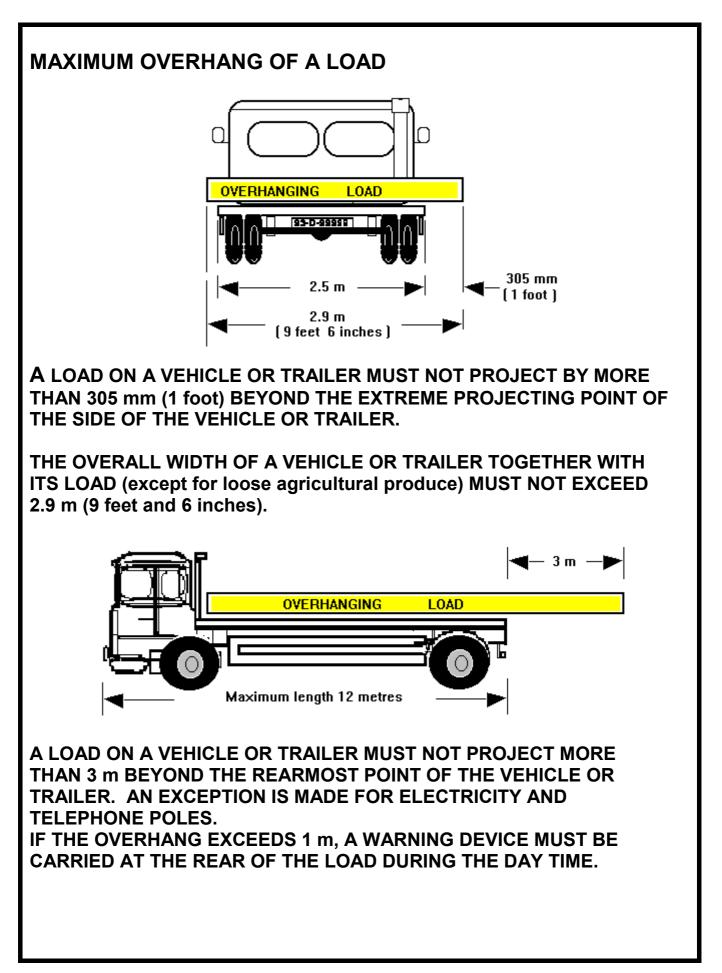
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# MAXIMUM LOADING SPACE OF A TRUCK AND TRAILER COMBINATION



(X) – THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM THE FOREMOST EXTERNAL POINT OF THE LOADING AREA BEHIND THE CABIN TO THE REARMOST POINT OF THE TRAILER IS 16.4 m.

(X-Y) - THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM THE FOREMOST EXTERNAL POINT OF THE LOADING AREA BEHIND THE CABIN TO THE REARMOST POINT OF THE TRAILER, LESS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE REAR OF THE DRAWING VEHICLE AND THE FRONT OF THE TRAILER, IS 15.65 m.



#### <u>APPENDIX 1</u> <u>The Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles)</u> <u>Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 5 of 2003) – Regulation 59</u>

- 59. (1) In this Regulation "appropriate local authority" means the city council or the county council in whose functional area the relevant public road is situated.
  - (2) Any person may apply to the appropriate local authority for the issue of a special permit (in this Regulation referred to as a "permit") authorising any particular vehicle, or particular vehicles, the use of which would contravene any of the requirements of these Regulations, to be used on a specified public road or roads or all the public roads within a specified area within the functional area of the authority notwithstanding such contravention.
  - (3) An application for a permit shall specify and describe any vehicles for which the permit is required, the nature, dimensions and weight of any load or loads to be carried, particulars of the journey or journeys to be undertaken and such other information as the local authority concerned may require.
  - (4) (a) Before making an application for a permit, the applicant shall give to the Commissioner of the Garda Siochana (in this Regulation referred to as the "Commissioner") 4 clear days' notice of such application, and such notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the application for the permit. Saturday, Sunday and any public holiday (within the meaning of the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 (No. 20 of 1997)) is not included in the reckoning of the 4 days' notice.
    - (b) Where a person is concerned with public transport, lighting, water supply, communications or some other similar public service and the Commissioner is of the opinion that the use on public roads of vehicles belonging to such person, the use of which would contravene these Regulations, is likely to be urgently necessary for the more efficient carrying on of such public service, the Commissioner may exempt this person from full compliance with subparagraph (a).
  - (5) An application for a permit shall contain an undertaking by the applicant to refund to the local authority charged with the maintenance of the road the amount of any damage caused to any public road by the use of the vehicle under the permit which may be granted as a result of the application, provided that a claim for such refund is made by such local authority before the expiration of twelve months from the last date when a vehicle is driven on the public road under the permit.
  - (6) Where an application for a permit is made, the appropriate local authority shall, before issuing the permit, satisfy itself that the undertaking in such application to refund damage can be enforced, if necessary, and for that purpose may require the applicant, as a condition to the issue of the permit, either to deposit with it (or in the case of a public road in the charge of an urban district council, with that council) a sum sufficient to cover the amount of such damage, or to furnish other sufficient security.

- (7) Where an application for a permit is made, the appropriate local authority, where it is satisfied that the requirements of this Regulation have been complied with and after consideration of any representations made to them by the Commissioner, may issue such permit.
- (8) Where a permit relates to a public road in the charge of a town council, the appropriate local authority shall inform that council of the issue of the permit.
- (9) A permit shall contain the following particulars -
- (a) a specification and description of any vehicle to which the permit relates,
- (b) the nature, dimensions and weight of any vehicle to which the permit relates, and of any load or loads to be carried,
- (c) details of the journey or route and itinerary to be used in the making of the journey.
- (10) A local authority that issues a permit may attach to the permit any limitations, restrictions or conditions (including in particular conditions as to weight, dimensions, speed, number of trailers, springs, tyres and wheels) which they consider advisable to prevent unnecessary damage to public roads or which, after consultation with the Commissioner, they consider expedient to protect other road users.
- (11) A permit may, in addition to specifying a particular public road in a specified area, authorise the occasional use of any vehicle to which it relates on other public roads not specified, subject to compliance with conditions specified by the appropriate local authority, including in particular the condition that before using a vehicle on any such other public road, the person in charge of the vehicle shall inform, orally or in writing, an officer of the appropriate local authority designated for that purpose by the local authority and shall comply with any instructions given by such officer.
- (12) A permit shall at all times be carried on the vehicle to which it relates, or on the vehicle drawing the trailer to which it relates.
- (13) A permit is valid for the period of 12 months from the date of issue of the permit or for such lesser period as may be stated in it.
- (14) Where a vehicle, in respect of which a permit has been issued, is being used in contravention of any condition attached to the permit, the appropriate local authority which issued the permit may withdraw it.
- (15) Where a local authority proposes to withdraw a permit it shall give 21 day's notice of such intention to withdraw it to the holder and shall consider any representations made by the holder within that period.
- (16) A special permit issued under article 17 of the Regulations of 1963 and which is in force immediately before the making of these Regulations continues in force as if issued under this Regulation.

APPENDIX 2 LOCAL AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR SPECIAL LOADS
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LOCAL AUTHORITY	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.	FAX NO.
County Councils			
Carlow	Sec., Carlow Co. Cl., County Offices, Carlow	(0503) 31126	0503 41503
Cavan	Sec., Cavan Co. Cl., Courthouse, Cavan	(049) 31799	049 61565
Clare	Sec., Clare Co. Cl., Courthouse, Ennis, Co. Clare	(065) 21616	065 28238
Cork	Sec., Cork Co. Cl., Carrigrohane Road, Cork	(021) 276891	021 276321
Donegal	Sec., Donegal Co. Cl., Co. Buildings, Lifford, Co Donegal	(074) 41066	074 41205
Dublin	Sec., Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Co. Cl., Town Hall, Marine Rd, Dun Laoghaire	(01) 2806961	01 2782654
	Sec., Fingal Co. Cl., 46/49 Upr. O'Connell St., Dublin 1	(01) 8727777	01 8728108
	Sec., South Dublin Co. Cl., Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24	(01) 4620000	01 4620201
Galway	Sec., Galway Co. Cl., Buildings, Prospect Hill, Galway	(091) 563151	091 565817
Kerry	Sec., Kerry Co. Cl., Thos. Ashe Memorial Hall, Tralee, Co Kerry	(066) 21111	066 29764
Kildare	Sec., Kildare Co. Cl., St. Mary's, Naas, Co Kildare	(045) 897071	045 879772
Kilkenny	Sec., Kilkenny Co. Cl., John's Green, Kilkenny	(056) 52699	056 63384
Laois	Sec., Laois Co. Cl., Courthouse, Portlaoise, Co Loais	(0502) 22044	0502 22633
Leitrim	Sec., Leitrim Co. Cl., Courthouse, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim	(078) 20005	078 21023
Limerick	Sec., Limerick Co. Cl., Co. Buildings, 82/83 O'Connell St., Limerick	(061) 318477	061 318478
Longford	Sec., Longford Co. Cl., Church Street, Longford	(043) 46231	043 41233
Louth	Sec., Louth Co. Cl., Courthouse, Crowe St., Dundalk, Co Louth	(042) 35457	042 34549
Mayo	Sec., Mayo Co. Cl., Castlebar, Co Mayo	(094) 24444	094 23937
Meath	Sec., Meath Co. Cl., General Office, Navan, Co Meath	(046) 21581	046 21463
Monaghan	Sec., Monaghan Co. Cl., Courthouse, Monaghan	(047) 82211	047 82736
Offaly	Sec., Offaly Co. Cl., Courthouse, Tullamore, Co Offaly	(0506) 21419	0506 41160
Roscommon	Sec., Roscommon Co. Cl., Courthouse, Roscommon	(0903) 26100	0903 25477
Sligo	Sec., Sligo Co. Cl., County Offices, Riverside, Co Sligo	(071) 43221	071 41118
Tipperary N.R.	Sec., Tipperary N.R. Co. Cl., Courthouse, Nenagh, Co Tipperary	(067) 31771	067 33134
Tipperary S.R	Sec., Tipperary S.R. Co. Cl., Emmet Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary	(052) 25399	052 23228
Waterford	Sec., Waterford Co. Cl., County Offices, Dungarvan, Co Waterford	(058) 42822	058 42911
Westmeath	Sec., Westmeath Co. Cl., Council Chambers, Mullingar, Co Westmeath	(044) 40861	044 42330
Wexford	Sec., Wexford Co. Cl., County Hall, Wexford	(053) 42211	053 24852
Wicklow	Sec., Wicklow Co. Cl., County Buildings, Wicklow	(0404) 67324	0404 67464
Corporations			
Cork	City Manager, Cork City Council, City Hall, Cork	(021) 966222	021 316016
Dublin	City Manager, Dublin City Council, City Hall, Dublin 2	(01) 6796111	6790621

Limerick	City Manager, Limerick City Council, City Hall, Limerick	(061) 415799	061 314386
Waterford	City Manager, Waterford City Council, City Hall, Waterford	(051) 73501	051 70813
Galway	City Manager, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Rd., Galway	(091) 568151	091 567493
Garda Siochana	Commissioner, Garda Siochana (HQ) Phoenix Park, Dublin 8	(01) 6771156	01 6794669
(Police)		ext. 2451	