

Vehicles 4.5 tonnes or less **CARRYING LOADS**

Definitions

Gross vehicle mass (GVM)

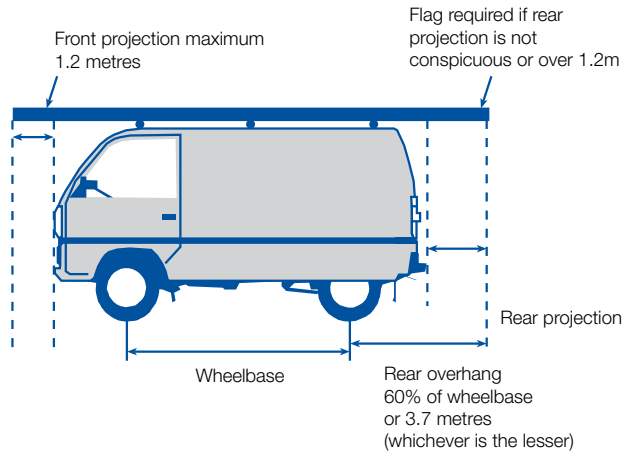
This is the maximum loaded mass of a motor vehicle.

Gross combination mass (GCM)

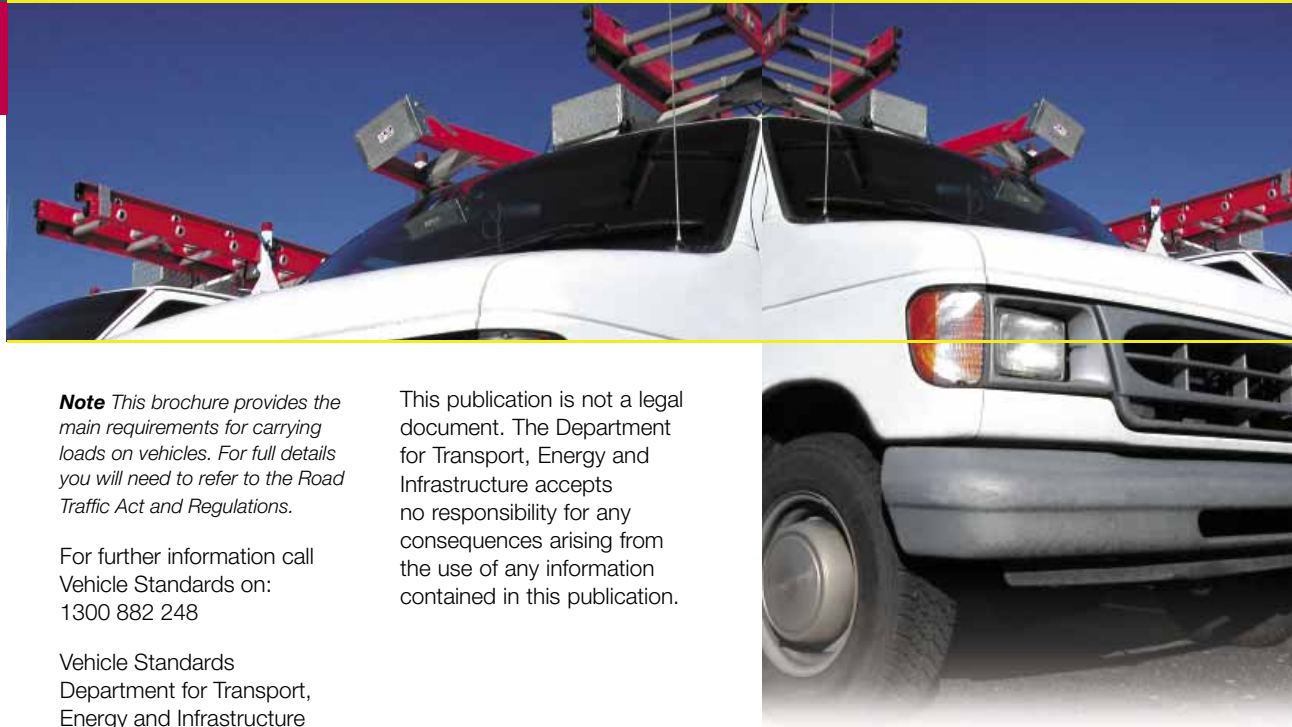
The maximum loaded mass of a motor vehicle and any vehicles or trailers being towed by that motor vehicle.

Safety checklist

- Ensure that a brightly coloured flag or, at night a red light, is attached to a load if it projects more than 1.2 metres from the rear of the vehicle, or is inconspicuous.
- Ensure that ropes and lashings are tight and not likely to lose tension with travel.
- Ensure that the load is safely secured to the vehicle and does not present any danger to other people or property if it projects past the body (even if it meets all the dimension and safety requirements).
- Ensure that the load is correctly balanced and restrained so that there is no movement with braking or cornering.
- Ensure that the load being carried does not exceed the length and projection limits.
- Ensure that the total mass of the load and vehicle does not exceed the vehicle's GVM.



Note The rear of a load on a vehicle must carry a warning signal if the load projects more than 1.2 metres or cannot be easily seen. In the daytime, the warning signal must be a brightly coloured flag measuring at least 300mm x 300mm. At night, the warning signal must be a red light that can be seen for 200 metres.



Note This brochure provides the main requirements for carrying loads on vehicles. For full details you will need to refer to the Road Traffic Act and Regulations.

For further information call Vehicle Standards on: 1300 882 248

Vehicle Standards
Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure
Kateena Street, Regency Park

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What

You

NEED

to

Know



Government of South Australia
Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure

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...you must ensure that all safety measures and loading regulations have been met.

Securing load safety requirements

On 1 December 1999 nationally consistent vehicle regulations were introduced in South Australia. These regulations specify how loads are to be carried on a motor vehicle. The specifications provide for the safety of all road users and ensure the efficient operation of vehicles and the free flow of traffic.

Before transporting loads on a motor vehicle, you must ensure that all safety measures and loading regulations have been met. The following information covers the key requirements relating to carrying loads on motor vehicles. Detailed information is contained in the Road Traffic Act and Regulations.

The owner/driver of a vehicle is responsible for ensuring that any load on a vehicle is securely and safely restrained in accordance with the *Load Restraint Guide* and does not present a danger to people or property.

Note A copy of the *Load Restraint Guide* can be obtained from any Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure and Service SA Customer Service Centre for \$10.00.

When loading a vehicle ensure that:

- The load will not move or become dislodged from the vehicle;
- The position of the load will not affect the vehicle's stability, steering and braking performance; and
- The tyres and axles of the vehicle are not overloaded.

During the journey a driver should periodically check the load and its restraints to ensure it remains secure and will not move with sudden braking or cornering.

Note Penalties apply for not securing a load properly.

Mass limits

Mass of the load

The mass of any load being carried on a vehicle must not exceed the maximum load capacity specified by the vehicle manufacturer.

Total mass of load and vehicle

The mass of a vehicle and its load must not exceed the GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass) specified by the vehicle manufacturer or the GVM specified on the vehicle's registration certificate, whichever is the lesser.

Note For information about towing and trailer regulations see the leaflet *Light Vehicle Towing and Trailer Regulations* available from Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure and Service SA.

Projection limits

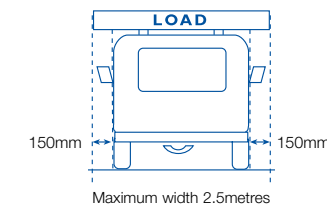
Mass on the tyres and wheels

The mass on any of the tyres and wheels fitted to a vehicle must not exceed the limit specified by the manufacturer. The tyre rating can usually be found on the side wall of the tyre. Wheels should not be used unless marked and stamped by the manufacturer.

Side projection

The maximum width of a load is 2.5 metres.

In addition, a load must not project more than 150 mm from the side of a vehicle, regardless of the width of the vehicle. For example, if a light vehicle is 2 metres wide, then the width of the load it may carry will be a maximum of 2.3 metres.



The side projection of a load is the distance measured from the side of the vehicle to the side edge of a load being carried. (This does not include mirrors, lights etc)

Front projection

The load being carried on any vehicle must not project more than 1.2 metres forward of the vehicle.

Rear overhang

The rear overhang of a vehicle is the distance measured from the centre of the rear axle or axle group, to the rear of the vehicle and includes any rear load projection. The rear load projection is the distance measured from the rear of the vehicle to the rear end of a load being carried and is included in the rear overhang measurement.

The maximum rear overhang allowed is 60% of the wheelbase up to a maximum of 3.7 metres, whichever is the lesser. The wheel base is the distance between the centre of the rear axle or rear axle group to the centre of the front axle.