

Guidelines on Maximum Weights and Dimensions of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles and Trailers, Including Manoeuvrability Criteria

October 2025

DISCLAIMER: This leaflet is intended as a general guide for industry, hauliers and interested members of the public on the maximum permitted weights and dimensions of mechanically propelled vehicles and their trailers operating in Ireland. It is not an interpretation of the law.



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Terminology

"Air suspension system" means a system in which at least 75 per cent of the spring effect is caused by the elasticity of a confined gas.

"Alternative fuels" shall mean fuels or power sources which serve, at least partly, as a substitute for fossil oil sources in the energy supply to transport and which have the potential to contribute to its decarbonisation and enhance the environmental performance of the transport sector, consisting of:

- (a) electricity consumed in all types of electric vehicles.
- (b) hydrogen.
- (c) natural gas, including biomethane, in gaseous form (Compressed Natural Gas – CNG) and liquefied form (Liquefied Natural Gas – LNG).
- (d) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).
- (e) mechanical energy from on-board storage/on-board sources, including waste heat.

"Alternatively fuelled vehicle" means a motor vehicle powered wholly or in part by an alternative fuel and which has been approved under the framework of the European Union (Road Vehicles: Type-Approval and Market Surveillance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 556 of 2020) or Regulation (EU) 2018/858.

"Appropriate motor vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle having at least three axles, twin tyres, air suspension or an equivalent suspension on each driving axle and ABS brakes. The vehicle must also be fitted with a plate complying with the requirements of the Regulations of 2000.

"Appropriate semi-trailer"^[1] means a semi-trailer which has an air suspension or an equivalent suspension and ABS brakes. It must also be fitted with a plate complying with the requirements of the Regulations of 2000.

"Articulated bus" means a large public service vehicle so constructed that -

- (a) 2 rigid intercommunicating passenger compartments are connected by an articulated section allowing free movement of passengers between the 2 compartments, and
- (b) connection and division of the 2 compartments is possible only in a workshop.

"Articulated vehicle" means the combination of a mechanically propelled vehicle and a drawn vehicle attached by partial superimposition and so constructed and attached that not less than 20 per cent of the weight of the drawn vehicle is borne by the mechanically propelled vehicle.

"Combination of vehicles" means a combination of a mechanically propelled vehicle and one trailer.

"Conditioned vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer with a design gross vehicle weight in excess of 3,500 kilograms, whose fixed or movable superstructure is specially equipped for the carriage of goods at controlled temperatures and whose side walls, inclusive of insulation, are each at least 45 millimetres thick.

"Council Directive" means Council Directive 96/53/EC of 25 July 1996.



"Equivalent system" means a suspension system which fulfils the conditions for equivalence to air suspension as set out in Annex II to the Council Directive.

"Four axle bogie" means 4 successive axles the outermost of which are spaced at a distance apart of less than 4.3 metres.

"Intermodal journey" means a journey to or from a rail terminal or a seaport in the State for onward transfer of goods, such that the goods themselves are not handled in changing modes.

"Large tractor" means a mechanically propelled vehicle which is not constructed to carry any load itself and which has an un-laden weight in excess of 7.25 tonnes.

"Refrigerated vehicle" means any mechanically propelled vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer specially designed and constructed for the carriage of goods at a temperature below the ambient temperature.

"Regulations of 2000" means the Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 224 of 2000).

"Semi-trailer" means the drawn component of an articulated vehicle, or a vehicle constructed or adapted for use as such drawn component.

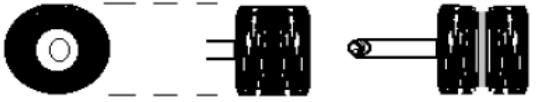
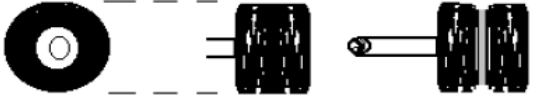


"Tandem axles" means 2 successive axles, not being part of a triaxle or a four-axle bogie which are spaced at a distance apart of not more than 2.5 metres.

"Tractor unit" means the drawing component of an articulated vehicle.

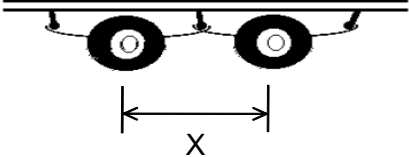
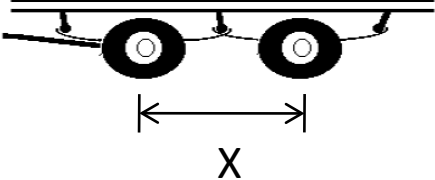
"Triaxle" means 3 successive axles, not being part of a four-axle bogie, the outermost of which are spaced at a distance apart of not more than 3.25 metres.

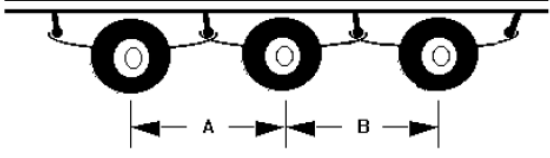
"Vehicle transporter" means a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry 2 or more vehicles.



Maximum Weights for Axles & Wheels			
DESCRIPTION	COMMENT	MAXIMUM WEIGHT TRANSMITTED	IMAGE
Wheel which is part of the sole driving axle	Whether with single or twin tyres.	5.75 tonnes	
Wheel which is <u>not</u> part of the sole driving axle	Whether with single or twin tyres.	5.0 tonnes	
Single axle	Whether with single or twin tyres.	10 tonnes	
Sole driving axle	Twin tyres.	10.5 tonnes or 11.5 tonnes with an air suspension or an equivalent system	

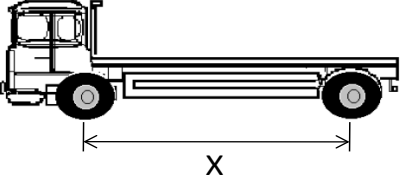
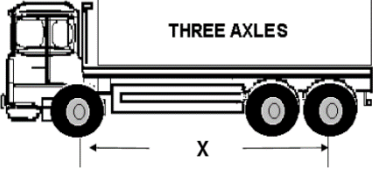
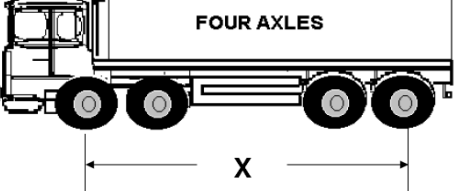
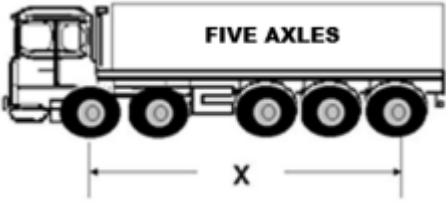


Maximum Weights for Tandem Axles			
Tandem axles of a vehicle or trailer	AXLE SPACING (X) Less than 1.0m 1.0m or greater 1.3m or greater 1.8m or greater	MAX WEIGHT TRANSMITTED 11.5 tonnes 16 tonnes 18 tonnes 20 tonnes (For trailer or semi-trailer only)	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
Tandem axles of a vehicle not including a trailer ^[2]	AXLE SPACING (X) Between 1.3m & 1.8m inclusive	MAX WEIGHT TRANSMITTED 19 tonnes	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>

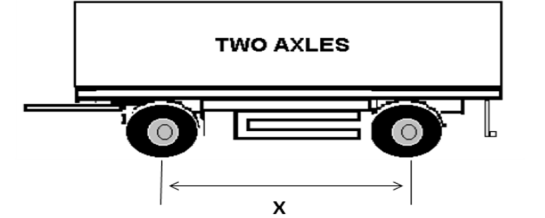
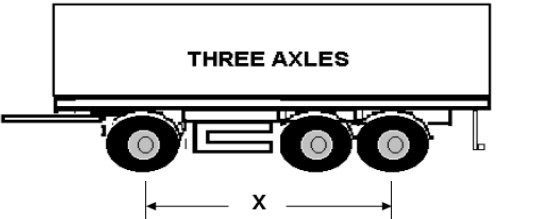
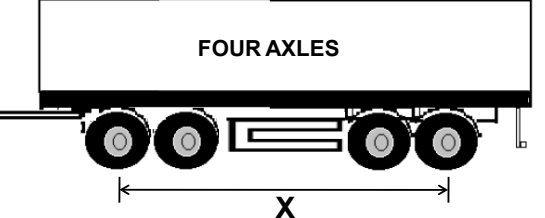

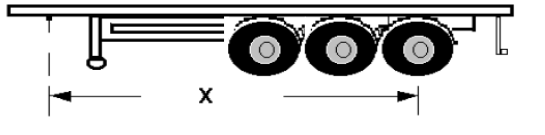
Maximum Weight of a Triaxle			
	AXLE SPACING Less than 1.3m 1.3m or greater ^[3]	MAXIMUM TOTAL WEIGHT TRANSMITTED BY THE TRIAXLE (SUM OF 3 AXLES) 21 tonnes 24 tonnes	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p> <p>Note: In the case of a triaxle (not being a trailer) that is fitted with one or more driving axles, each driving axle that is fitted with twin tyres and an air suspension system or an equivalent system may transmit to the road a weight not exceeding 9.5 tonnes</p>

Maximum Weight of a Four Axle Bogie			
Four axle bogie		(SUM OF 4 AXLES) 24 tonnes	



Maximum Weights for Rigid Vehicles			
<p>2 axle rigid trucks</p>	<p>AXLE SPACING (X)</p> <p>Less than 3m 3m or greater</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>16 tonnes 18 tonnes^{[4][5]}</p>	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>3 axle rigid trucks</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes 5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>25 tonnes^{[4][5]} 26 tonnes^{[2][4][5]}</p>	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>4 axle rigid trucks</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>30 tonnes 32 tonnes^[2]</p>	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>5 (or more) Axle rigid trucks</p> <p>Note: This weight limit of 36 tonne applies to Five (or more) axle rigid vehicles first registered in the State from 1 February 2018. Five (or more) axle rigid vehicles first registered in the state before 1 February 2018 must comply with the individual axle and bogey limits stipulated in the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of vehicles) Regulations 2003 as amended (S.I No. 5/2003).</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>36 tonnes</p>	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>

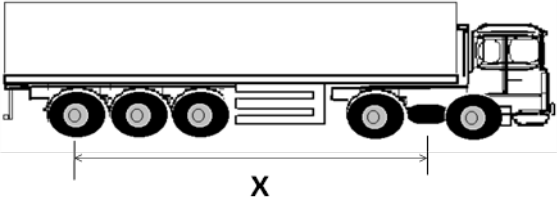
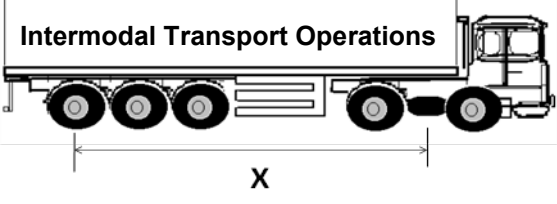


Maximum Weights for Trailers <u>Not</u> Forming Part of a Combination Of Vehicles			
Two axle trailer	AXLE SPACING (X) Less than 3.0m 3.0m or greater	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN 16 tonnes 18 tonnes	
Three axle trailer	TONNES PER METRE (X) 5.5 tonnes	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN 25 tonnes	
Four axle trailer	TONNES PER METRE (X) 5 tonnes	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN 30 tonnes	
Semi-trailer component of an articulated vehicle combination	TONNES PER METRE (X) 5.5 tonnes		
Tri-axle semi-trailer component of a 46 tonne six axle articulated vehicle combination	TONNES PER METRE (X) 5.75 tonnes		

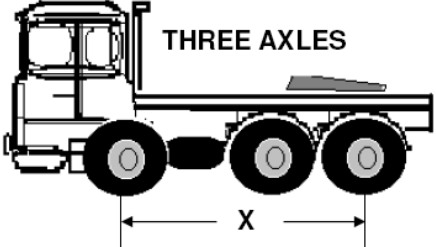
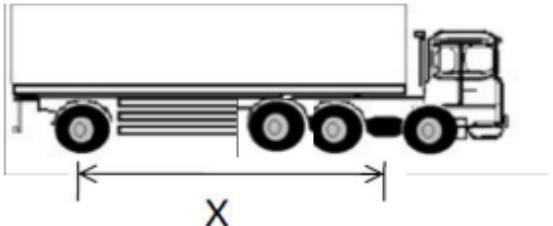
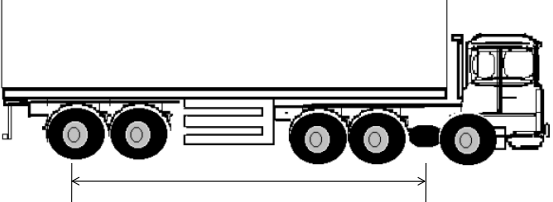
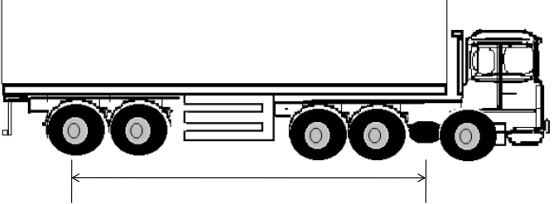


Two Axle Tractor Unit with Various Trailer Combinations			
Two axle tractor unit on its own, i.e. not towing a trailer	<p>AXLE SPACING (X)</p> <p>Less than 3m 3m or greater</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>16 tonnes 18 tonnes</p>	<p>TWO AXLES</p> <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
A combination of a two-axle tractor unit with a single axle semi-trailer	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes 5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>22 tonnes 26 tonnes^[6]</p>	<p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>A combination of a two-axle tractor unit with a two axle semi-trailer</p> <p>A combination of a two-axle tractor unit with a two axle semi-trailer</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes 5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>35 tonnes 38 tonnes^{[4][5][7]}</p>	<p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>



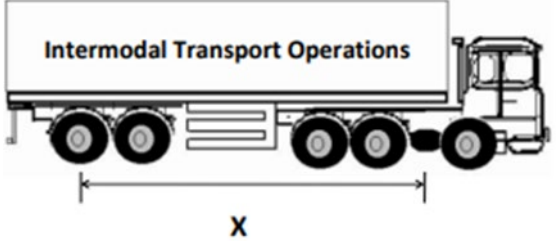
Two Axle Tractor Unit with Various Trailer Combinations (Continued)			
<p>A combination of a two-axle tractor unit with a three-axle appropriate semi-trailer</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>40 tonnes ^{[4][5]}</p>	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>A combination of a two-axle tractor unit with a three axle semi-trailer carrying, intermodal transport operations, one or more containers or swap bodies, up to a total maximum length of 45ft</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>42 tonnes ^{[4][5]}</p>	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>



Three Axle Tractor Unit with Various Trailer Combinations			
<p>Three axle tractor unit on its own, i.e. not towing a trailer</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>6 tonnes 6 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>25 tonnes 26 tonnes^[2]</p>	 <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>A combination of a three-axle tractor unit with a single axle semi-trailer</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>35 tonnes</p>	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>A combination of a three-axle tractor unit with a two axle semi-trailer</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>40 tonnes^{[4][5]}</p>	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>
<p>A combination of an appropriate motor vehicle with a two-axle appropriate semi-trailer</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>42 tonnes</p>	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>

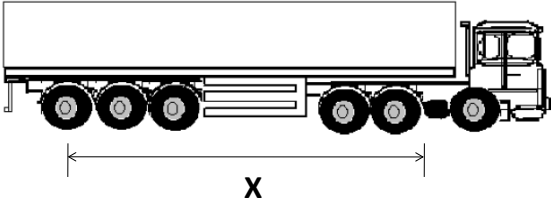


Three Axle Tractor Unit with Various Trailer Combinations (Continued)

<p>Three-axle appropriate motor vehicle with two axle semi-trailer carrying, in intermodal transport operations, one or more containers or swap bodies, up to a total maximum length of 45ft</p>	<p>TONNES PER METRE (X)</p> <p>5.5 tonnes</p>	<p>MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN</p> <p>44 tonnes ^{[4][5]}</p>	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p>

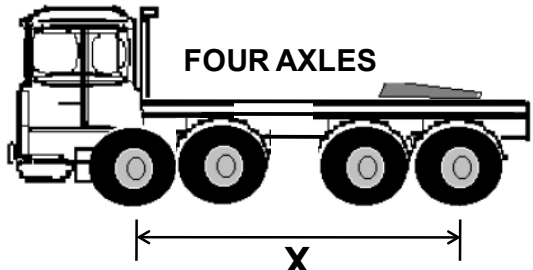


Three Axle Tractor Unit with Various Trailer Combinations (Continued)

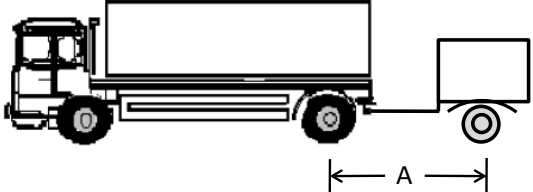
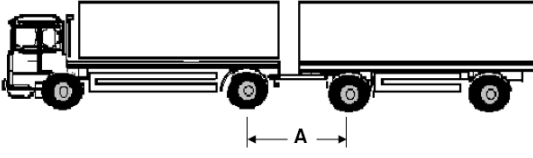
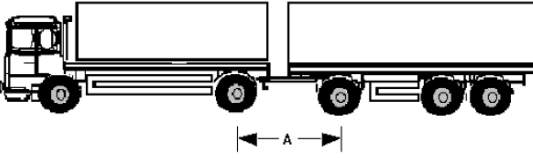
	TONNES PER METRE (X)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	
A combination of a three-axle tractor unit with a three-axle semi-trailer	5.5 tonnes	40 tonnes	 <p>Distance measured from kingpin to centre of rearmost axle</p> <p>Note: Since the 1st of April 2013 triaxle tractor units towing triaxle semi-trailers may operate at a gross combination weight of 46 tonnes (5.75 tonnes/metre). However, in addition to satisfying the requirements of an 'appropriate motor vehicle' and 'appropriate semi-trailer respectively'; they must also satisfy the following additional criteria in order to be allowed to operate as part of a 46-tonne combination:</p> <p>Tractor units and semi-trailers already in service on 1st April 2013 require Electronic Braking Systems (EBS). Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) are not sufficient. New tractor units first registered on or after 1st April 2013 (in addition to requiring EBS) need Vehicle Stability Function (VSF) which is more commonly known as Electronic Stability Control (ESC); and semi-trailers first licensed on or after 1st April 2013 (in addition to requiring EBS) require roll stability control.</p>
A combination of an appropriate motor vehicle with a three-axle appropriate semi-trailer	5.5 tonnes	44 tonnes ^{[4][5]}	
A combination of a three-axle motor vehicle with three-axle semi-trailer carrying, in intermodal transport operations, one or more containers or swap bodies, up to a total maximum length of 45ft.	5.5 tonnes	44 tonnes ^{[4][5]}	
A combination of an appropriate motor vehicle with a three-axle appropriate semi-trailer	5.75 tonnes	46 tonnes (see note)	



Four Axle Tractor Unit with Various Trailer Combinations

	TONNES PER METRE (X)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	
Four axle tractor unit on its own, i.e. not towing a trailer	6 tonnes	30 tonnes	 <p>FOUR AXLES</p> <p>Distance measured from centre of front to centre of rearmost axle</p>
A combination of a four-axle tractor unit and an appropriate semi-trailer	6 tonnes	See manufacturer's specifications. Vehicle will require a Local Authority permit if combination exceeds 46 tonnes.	

Two Axle Rigid Truck with Various Trailer Combinations

	AXLE SPACING (A)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	
Two axle rigid truck drawing a single axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	22 tonnes 26 tonnes	<p>A = Distance between rearmost axle of the vehicle and the foremost axle of the trailer.</p> 
Two axle truck drawing a two-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	30 tonnes 36 tonnes ^{[4][5]}	
Two axle truck drawing a three-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 40 tonnes ^{[4][5]}	



Three Axle Rigid Truck with Various Trailer Combinations

	AXLE SPACING (A)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	A = Distance between rearmost axle of the vehicle and the foremost axle of the trailer.
Three axle truck drawing a single axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	30 tonnes 36 tonnes	
Three axle truck drawing a two-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 40 tonnes ^{[4][5]}	
Three axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a two-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 42 tonnes	
Three axle truck drawing a three-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 40 tonnes	
Three axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a three-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 44 tonnes	



Four Axle Rigid Truck with Various Trailer Combinations

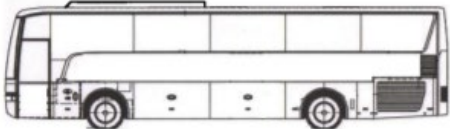
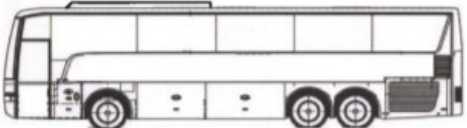

	AXLE SPACING (A)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	A = Distance between rearmost axle of the vehicle and the foremost axle of the trailer.
Four axle truck drawing a single axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 40 tonnes	
Four axle truck drawing a two-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 40 tonnes	
Four axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a two-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 42 tonnes	
Four axle truck drawing a three-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 40 tonnes	
Four axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a three-axle trailer	Less than 3m 3m or greater	34 tonnes 44 tonnes	



Six (Or More) Axle Rigid Truck and Drawbar Trailer Combinations

	AXLE SPACING (A)	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	A = Distance between rearmost axle of the vehicle and the foremost axle of the trailer.
Three axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a three (or more) axle trailer	3m or greater	46 tonnes ^[8]	
Four axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a two (or more) axle trailer	3m or greater	46 tonnes ^[8]	
Four (or more) axle appropriate motor vehicle drawing a three (or more) axle trailer	3m or greater	46 tonnes ^[8]	

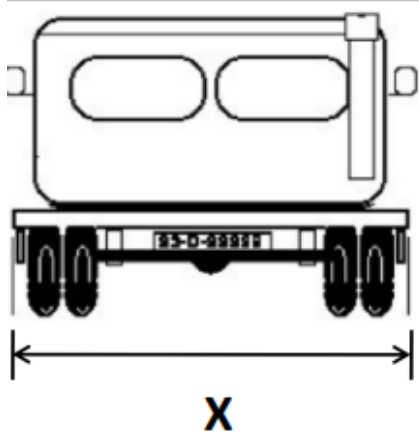


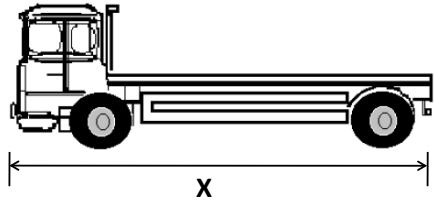
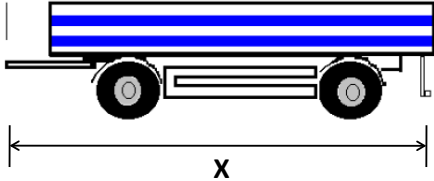
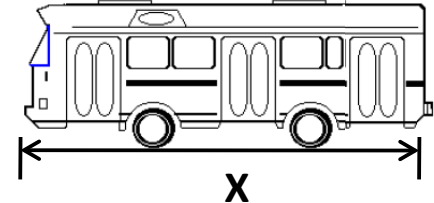
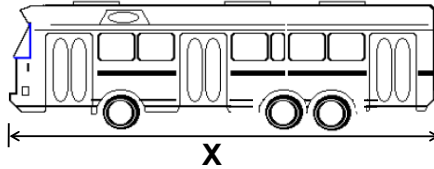
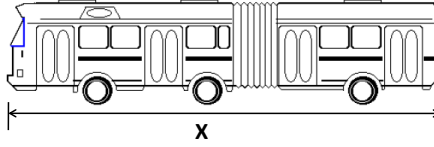
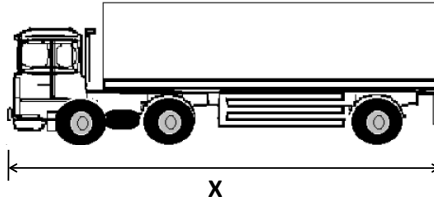
Maximum Weights for Two & Three Axle Buses		
	MAXIMUM WEIGHT LADEN	
Two-axle buses	19.5 tonnes	
Three-axle buses	25 tonnes	
	26 tonnes ^{[2][4][5]}	
Three-axle articulated buses	28 tonnes ^{[4][5]}	



Maximum Widths

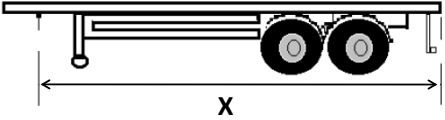
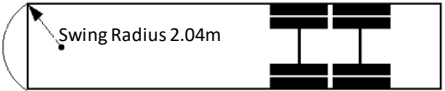
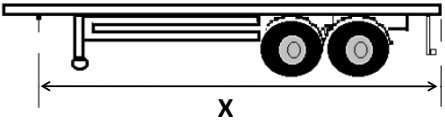
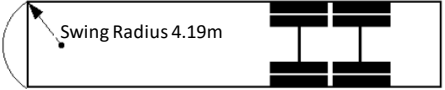
These dimensions do not apply to a land implement or vehicle for grass cutting, hedge trimming or forestry operations while used in the daytime, or a land implement used during lighting up hours from July to August inclusive, provided that the vehicle complies with the Road Traffic (Lighting of Vehicles) Regulations 1963 (S.I No.189 of 1963).

DESCRIPTION	WIDTH (X)	IMAGE
Agricultural trailer / piece of interchangeable towed equipment	Click here for dimensional limits for agricultural vehicles	 <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>
Conditioned vehicle (includes superstructures of conditioned vehicles or conditioned containers or swap bodies transported by vehicles)	2.6m	
Passenger vehicle with seating capacity for more than eight passengers	2.55m	
Refrigerated vehicle, Trailer or semi-trailer	2.55m (For vehicles first registered or trailers first licensed on or before 31 st Dec 1997 The limit was 2.6m but this expired on 31 st Dec 2006)	
Rigid truck, tractor unit of an articulated vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer	2.55m (Provided that the vehicle's DGWV exceeds 3.5 tonnes)	
Vehicle or trailer Vehicle together with its load (apart from loose agricultural produce which is not in bales or crates)	2.5m 2.9m	

Maximum Length		
DESCRIPTION	LENGTH (X)	IMAGE
Rigid truck	12m	
Trailer	12m	
Two axle bus	13.50m	
Bus having more than two axles	15.00m	
Articulated bus	18.75m	
Articulated vehicle	16.5m	

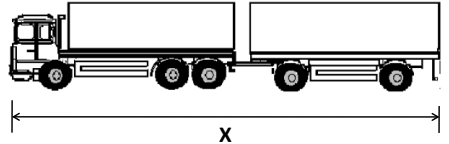
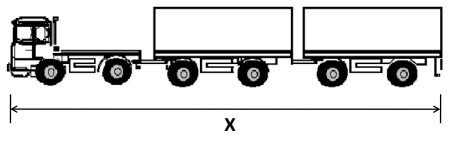


Maximum Lengths (Continued)

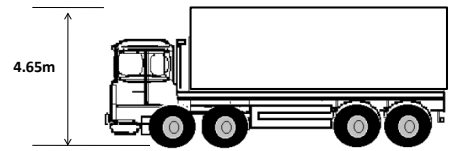
<p>Semi-trailer</p> <p>Note: These provisions do not apply to articulated vehicles first registered before 1st January 1991 which do not exceed 15.5m in length.</p>	<p>12.0m^[9]</p> <p>(Distance measured from the axis of the kingpin to the rear of the trailer)</p> <p>2.04m</p> <p>(Distance measured from the axis of the kingpin to any point on the front of the semi-trailer)</p>	 
<p>VEHICLE TRANSPORTER</p> <p>Note: These provisions do not apply to articulated vehicles first registered before 1st January 1991 which do not exceed 15.5m in length.</p>	<p>12.5m</p> <p>(Distance measured from the axis of the kingpin to the rear of the trailer)</p> <p>4.19m</p> <p>(Distance measured from the axis of the kingpin to any point on the front of the semi-trailer)</p>	 



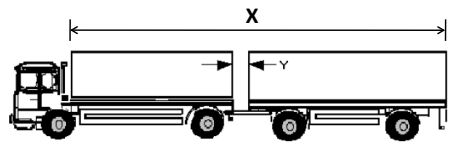
Maximum Length (Continued)

<p>Combination of vehicles including a large tractor drawing two trailers</p>	<p>18.75m</p>	
<p>Large tractor drawing two trailers Note: a large Tractor is permitted to tow two trailers and exceed 18.75m in overall length, but NOT in any town with a population exceeding 10,000 people. The limit for this combination is 22m.</p>	<p>22.00m</p>	

Maximum Height

DESCRIPTION	HEIGHT	IMAGE
<p>All vehicles</p> <p>Note: The 4.65m limit does not apply to vehicles/combinations of vehicles and trailers transporting agricultural produce (i.e. hay, silage straw or other animal fodder) which is baled.</p>	<p>4.65m</p> <p>(Includes the load being carried)</p>	

Maximum Loading Space

DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	IMAGE
<p>Maximum loading space of a truck and trailer combination</p> <p>Distance measured from the foremost external point of the loading area behind the cabin to the rearmost point of the trailer.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>X = 16.40m</p> <p>X-Y = 15.65m</p>	



Maximum Load Overhang		
DESCRIPTION	SIDE OVERHANG	IMAGE
<p>Vehicle or trailer</p> <p>A load must not project by more than 300mm (1 foot) beyond the extreme projecting points on either / both sides of the vehicle or trailer.</p> <p>The overall width of a vehicle or trailer together with its load (except loose agricultural produce) must not exceed 2.9m (9 feet and 6 inches)</p>	<p>300mm (1 foot) on either / both sides</p>	
DESCRIPTION	REAR OVERHANG	IMAGE
<p>Vehicle or trailer</p> <p>A load on a vehicle or trailer must not project more than 3 metres beyond the rearmost point of the vehicle or trailer. An exception is made for electricity and telephone poles.</p>	<p>$X = 3\text{m}$</p> <p>Note: If the overhang exceeds 1m, a warning device must be carried at the rear of the load during the daytime</p>	

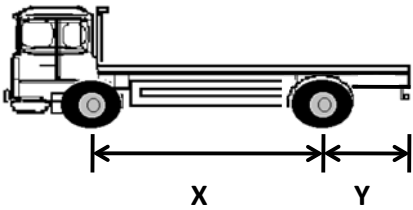
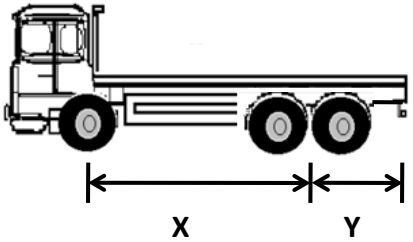
Manoeuvrability Criteria - Turning Circle Requirements	
DESCRIPTION	IMAGE
<p>All vehicle combinations</p> <p>A mechanically propelled vehicle, an articulated vehicle and a combination of vehicles must be capable of being driven within an area contained between concentric circles with radii of 12.50 metres and 5.30 metres such that no part of the vehicle or the combination of vehicles projects outside the area contained between these two circles.</p>	

Maximum Load Overhang

These dimensions do not apply to an articulated vehicle, a tractor, a works truck, a cycle, a vehicle which is steered by the movement of the rear wheels, and a vehicle registered before 1st July 1964.

Note on trailers: the rear overhang requirements outlined below do not apply to trailers, however all vehicle and trailer combinations used on a public road in Ireland must satisfy the turning circle requirements outlined above.

Type approval requirements: commission regulation (EU) No 2019/2144 governs the manoeuvrability requirements for new vehicles at type approval. New vehicle/vehicle combinations must also meet the turning circle requirements outlined above; however, there are additional rear swing out^[10] requirements stipulated for HCV's & buses. Further information is available [here](#).

DESCRIPTION	REAR OVERHANG	IMAGE
<p>Vehicle having two axles</p> <p>X = Distance between the centre of the front wheel and the centre of the rear axle.</p> <p>Y = Distance between the centre of the rear axle and the rearmost point of the vehicle.</p>	<p>Dimension 'Y' must not exceed 60% of dimension 'X'</p>	
<p>Vehicle having three or more axles</p> <p>X = Distance between the centre or centres of the front wheel or wheels and the centre point of a straight line joining the centre points of the rear and second rearmost axles.</p> <p>Y = Distance between the centre point of a straight line joining the centre points of the rear and second rearmost axle and the rearmost point of the vehicle.</p>	<p>Dimension 'Y' must not exceed 60% of dimension 'X'</p>	



Notes:

^[1] The 'appropriate semi-trailer' concept came into force on 1st April 2013 and applies to both new and existing semi-trailers operating as part of a combination of vehicles with a gross weight in excess of 40 tonnes.

^[2] Provided that the vehicle is equipped with twin tyres and an air suspension system or an equivalent system on each driving axle OR is equipped with twin tyres and 2 driving axles neither of which transmits to the surface of a road a weight in excess of 9.5 tonnes.

^[3] If A equals B then this is the control dimension. If A does not equal B then the lesser of the two is the control dimension, i.e. if A = 1.2m & B = 1.5m, the max weight transmitted = 21 tonnes.

^[4] In the case of a vehicle that is an alternatively fuelled vehicle, the maximum permitted weight laden is increased by the additional weight that is required for the vehicle's alternative fuel technology, subject to a maximum of one additional tonne.

^[5] In the case of a vehicle that is a zero-emission vehicle, the maximum permitted weight laden is increased by the additional weight that is required for the vehicle's zero-emission technology, subject to a maximum of 2 additional tonnes.

^[6] Provided the distance between the rearmost axle of the vehicle and the axle of the trailer is greater than 3 metres.

^[7] Provided that the tractor unit is equipped with an air suspension system or an equivalent system on the driving axle, ABS brakes and a plate complying with the requirements of the Regulations of 2000.

^[8] Since 1st June 2015 six (or more) axle rigid truck and drawbar trailer combinations may operate at a gross combination weight of 46 tonnes. However, in addition to satisfying the requirements of an 'appropriate motor vehicle' they must also satisfy the following additional safety criteria:

3 or more axle rigid trucks and 2 (or more) axle drawbar trailers already in service on 1st June 2015 require Electronic Braking Systems (EBS). Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) are not sufficient. New three axle rigid trucks first registered on or after 1st June 2015 (in addition to requiring EBS) will also need Vehicle Stability Function (VSF) which is more commonly known as Electronic Stability Control (ESC). New drawbar trailers first licensed on or after 1st June 2015 (in addition to requiring EBS) will also require roll stability control. Note that new four (or more) axle rigid trucks first registered on or after 1st June 2015 will not require ESC to operate as part of a 46-tonne combination.

^[9] This distance can be, subject where applicable to article 9a(1) of the council directive, and the maximum distance laid down in Point 1.6 of Annex I to the council directive, may be exceeded by 15cm for vehicles or vehicle combinations engaged in the transport of 45ft containers or 45ft swap bodies, empty or loaded, provided that the road transport of the container or swap body in question is part of an intermodal transport operation.

^[10] Rear swing out (more commonly known as tail swing) occurs when the movement of the rear portion of a long vehicle swings in the opposite direction to the front during a turn

