

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Land Transport Rule

Heavy Vehicle Productivity Reform

Amendment 2025

Draft for consultation

Land Transport Rules are law produced by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi for the Minister of Transport. This is the public consultation draft of **Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicle Productivity Reform Amendment 2025**.

If you wish to comment on this draft Rule, please see the information about making a submission in the accompanying explanatory material. The deadline for submissions is midnight on **Wednesday 17 December 2025**.

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Heavy Vehicle Productivity Reform Amendment 2025

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Section 1 Preliminary provisions

1.1 Title

This Rule is Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicle Productivity Reform Amendment 2025.

1.2 Commencement

This Rule comes into force on [date].

1.3 Objective

The objective of this Rule is to make amendments to land transport rules relating to heavy vehicles—

- (a) to better support innovation and efficiency, including the adoption of new vehicle designs and technologies; and
- (b) to refine administrative requirements, particularly in relation to permitting, and to reduce unnecessary compliance costs; and
- (c) to promote risk-based regulation through land transport rules that are fit for purpose.

1.4 Principal Rules amended

This Rule amends the following Land Transport Rules:

- (a) Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004;
- (b) Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016.

Section 2 Heavy Vehicles 2004

2.1 Amendments to the Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004

This Section amends the Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004.

2.2 Clause 3.2 amended (Vehicle body and equipment attachment)

Replace clause 3.2(3) with:

3.2(3) Subject to 9.1(3), logging bolster attachments fitted to a vehicle on or after 27 November 1998 must comply with the approved version of the *Bolster Attachment Code* that applied at the time of fitting.

2.3 Clause 4.4 amended (Drawbeams and towbars)

In clause 4.4(2), replace “*Schedule 3*” with “*the Schedule*” .

2.4 Clause 4.5 amended (Drawbars)

In clause 4.5(2), replace “*Schedule 3*” with “*the Schedule*” .

2.5 Clause 9.1 amended (Transitional provisions and savings)

(1) Replace clause 9.1(3) with:

9.1(3) Despite 3.2(3), logging bolster attachments exempted by notice in the *Gazette* from having to comply with a version of the *Bolster Attachment Code* do not have to comply with the Code.

(2) In clause 9.1(4), delete “in *Schedule 1 or 2*”.

2.6 Part 2 amended (Definitions)

(1) In Part 2, replace the definition of **Bolster Attachment Code** with:

Bolster Attachment Code means the *Bolster Attachment Code* of the Log Transport Safety Council, approved by the Director and published by the Agency.

(2) In Part 2, delete the definition of **Low volume vehicle**.

2.7 Part 3 amended (Schedules)

In Part 3,—

- (a) In the Part 3 heading, replace “Schedules” with “Schedule”;
- (b) revoke Schedules 1, 2 and 4;
- (c) revoke Appendix Sample forms of NZTA approved acceptable design certificates; and
- (d) rename the existing Schedule 3 as “Schedule”.

Section 3 Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016

3.1 Amendments to the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016

This Section amends the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016.

3.2 Clause 2.1 amended (Responsibilities of operators)

After clause 2.1(2), insert:

2.1(2A) A person who operates a 50MAX vehicle must comply with 4.3(12) and 4.3(14).

3.3 Clause 4.3 amended (Limits set by vehicle configuration)

Replace clause 4.3(11) with:

4.3(11) A heavy motor vehicle operating under general access limits that has at least 7 axles and a distance from the centre of the first axle to the centre of the last axle of 16.8 m or more must not exceed the gross mass limits in *Table 2.2 of Schedule 3*.

4.3(12) A 50MAX vehicle operating under general access limits that has at least 9 axles and a distance from the centre of the first axle to the centre of the last axle of 18.0 m or more—

- (a) must not exceed the gross mass limits in *Table 2.3 of Schedule 3*; and
- (b) must not exceed the gross mass limits in *Table 2.2 of Schedule 3* unless it is being operated on roads to which 4.3A applies; and
- (c) must comply with the conditions in 4.3(13).

4.3(13) The conditions in 4.3(12)(c) are:

- (a) an individual axle mass, an axle set mass, and the maximum sum of mass on any two or more axles must not exceed the applicable mass limit in *Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 3*; and
- (b) the vehicle must comply with the dimension requirements in *Schedule 2* or any variation from those requirements specified in the

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| | 50MAX proforma applicable to that type of 50MAX vehicle; and |
| (c) | the vehicle must comply with the axle and axle set requirements listed in 5.9(4)(a) to (d); and |
| (d) | if the 50MAX proforma applicable to that type of 50MAX vehicle specifies the vehicle by identifying a prime mover and trailer type, the combination must comply with that description; and |
| (e) | any additional conditions specified in the 50MAX proforma applicable to that type of 50MAX vehicle. |
| 4.3(14) | The operator of a 50MAX vehicle must— |
| (a) | carry in the vehicle, in any readable format, the 50MAX proforma applicable to that type of 50MAX vehicle; and |
| (b) | produce that 50MAX proforma on demand for inspection by an enforcement officer. |

3.4 New clauses 4.3A and 4.3B inserted (Approval of routes for 50MAX vehicles and Approval of 50MAX proformas)

After clause 4.3, insert:

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| 4.3A | Approval of routes for 50MAX vehicles |
| 4.3A(1) | This clause applies to all roads specified as being approved for use by 50MAX vehicles in the current maps published on the Agency’s website for this purpose. |
| 4.3A(2) | The Agency must not specify, in a map published under 4.3A(1), any road as being approved for use by 50MAX vehicles unless the road controlling authority that controls that road has approved that road under 4.3A(3) and that approval remains current. |
| 4.3A(3) | A road controlling authority may: |
| | (a) approve a road under its control for use by 50MAX vehicles; and |

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|-------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) may amend, replace, temporarily suspend or revoke any approval that it has previously made. |
| 4.3A(4) | <p>Before approving a road for use by 50MAX vehicles and before amending, replacing, temporarily suspending or revoking any approval that it has previously made, the road controlling authority must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the durability of the road (and any bridges on that road) on which the 50MAX vehicles may operate; and (b) the suitability of the road for use by 50MAX vehicles; and (c) the safety of road users. |
| 4.3B | Approval of 50MAX proforms |
| 4.3B(1) | <p>The Director may approve, for a type of 50MAX vehicle, a 50MAX proforma that specifies any of the following—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) permissible variations from a dimension requirement in <i>Schedule 2</i> listed in 5.9(5); and (b) other vehicle attributes relating to safety and design; and (c) a combination of prime mover and trailer type with which the vehicle must comply; and (d) any other conditions the Director considers appropriate. |
| 4.3B(2) | <p>The Director may amend, replace or revoke any approval under 4.3B(1).</p> |
| 4.3B(3) | <p>In approving a 50MAX proforma under 4.3B(1) and in amending or replacing an approval under 4.3B(2), the Director must be satisfied that any vehicle that complies with the 50MAX proforma will have the equivalent safety performance as a standard motor vehicle for the roads on which 50MAX vehicles are typically operated.</p> |

3.5 Clause 5.9 amended (Permits for high-productivity motor vehicles)

Revoke clause 5.9(8)(e).

3.6 Clause 5.10 revoked (High-productivity motor vehicle sign)

Revoke clause 5.10.

3.7 Clause 6.1 amended (Application of this section)

After clause 6.1(2)(a), insert:

(ab) a 50MAX vehicle; or

3.8 Part 2 amended (Definitions and vehicle classes)

(1) In Part 2, replace the definition of **High-productivity motor vehicle** (HPMV) with:

High-productivity motor vehicle (HPMV) means a heavy motor vehicle or heavy combination vehicle that is operating under a permit issued under this Rule to, with or without a load—

- (a) exceed a gross mass of 44,000 kg; or
- (b) vary from a dimension requirement in *Schedule 2* listed in 5.9(5); or
- (c) both exceed a gross mass of 44,000 kg and vary from a dimension in *Schedule 2* listed in 5.9(5); but

for clarity, does not include a 50MAX vehicle.

(2) In Part 2, insert in their appropriate alphabetical order:

50MAX proforma means, in relation to a 50MAX vehicle, a 50MAX proforma approved by the Director under 4.3B for that type of 50MAX vehicle and published on the Agency's website.

50MAX vehicle means a heavy motor vehicle or heavy combination vehicle that—

- (a) complies with the requirements in this Rule for operating as a 50MAX vehicle with a gross mass exceeding 44,000 kg but not exceeding 50,000 kg; and
- (b) has at least 9 axles; and
- (c) complies with the requirements specified in the 50MAX proforma applicable to that type of 50MAX vehicle.

3.9 Part 3 amended (Schedules)

(1) In Part 3, Schedule 1, after clause 1, insert:

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|----------|--|
| 2 | Provisions relating to the amendments made by Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicle Productivity Reform Amendment 2025 |
| 2.1 | <p>A variation approved by the Director under 5.9(2) that is current immediately before the commencement date—</p> <p class="list-item-l1">(a) must be treated as a 50MAX proforma approved by the Director under 4.3B for the type of 50MAX vehicle to which it applies; and</p> <p class="list-item-l1">(b) continues to be valid until the Director amends, replaces or revokes it.</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>A road specified on any map published on the Agency's website immediately before the commencement date as approved for high-productivity motor vehicles—</p> <p class="list-item-l1">(a) must be treated as a road to which 4.3A applies; and</p> <p class="list-item-l1">(b) continues to be a road to which 4.3A applies until the road controlling authority that controls the road amends, replaces or revokes the approval for use of that road by 50MAX vehicles.</p> |
| 2.3 | <p>In this clause, commencement date means the date on which the Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicle Productivity Reform Amendment 2025 comes into force.</p> |

(2) In Part 3, Schedule 2, after Table 2.2, insert new Table 2.3:

Table 2.3—Maximum total mass for 50MAX vehicles with at least nine axles

| Distance from the centre of the first axle to the centre of the last axle | Mass (kg) |
|--|------------------|
| 18.0 m but less than 18.6 m | 47,000 |
| 18.6 m but less than 19.4 m | 48,000 |
| 19.4 m but less than 20.0 m | 49,000 |
| 20.0 m or more | 50,000 |

(3) In Part 3, revoke Schedule 5 (High-productivity motor vehicle sign).