Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Rule Review 2016

Reviewing the key draft changes

Overview

The Rule review aims to deliver benefits that:

- improve road safety and community well-being through encouraging freight and passengers to be carried by safer vehicles

- improve vehicle operator compliance

- optimise the use of New Zealand's roading network.

Timing:

- The final Rule is expected to be approved end of Sept.

- The Associate Minister of Transport has previously communicated an implementation date of 1 November 2016.

- Changes in gross mass limits will be on HPMV routes only until 1 November 2017 – then become general access.

Changes to dimensions

Change maximum width to 2.55m for all vehicles

- Current Rule is 2.5m plus extra width of 25mm each side for load securing devices.

- 2.55m width is all inclusive.

- Big gain is to refrigerated vehicles who will be able to normalise pallet loading rather than parquet stacking - resulting in 15% gain in capacity.

- Wider range of vehicle sources.

Change maximum height to 4.3m for all vehicles

- Current Rule is 4.25m plus load securing devices

- 4.3m is all inclusive

Permitting

Key points to note

- 50MAX permitting to remain

- Road Controlling Authorities given greater flexibility in permitting specialist vehicles to suit local situations e.g. rubbish trucks

- Decision making will rest with Road Controlling Authorities to make balanced assessment of bridges and pavement costs vs productivity gains for local community i.e. public transport options, tourist operations, export production levels.

  (Pavement costs on website, bridge loading guidance being developed)

7 & 8 axle vehicles

7 axle: increase to 45 tonnes with 16.8m wheelbase (Class 1 extension line)

8 axle: increase to 46 tonnes with 17.4m wheelbase (Class 1 extension line)

Vehicle type	Initial costs (5-7 years) $M		Initial Annual Benefits $M	Longer Term Costs $M		On-going Annual Benefits $M
	SH	LR		SH	LR	
7 axle	0.52	1.03	5.0	0.21	0.41	2.0
8 axle	2.34	4.63	15.0	1.61	3.18	10.3
Totals	2.86	5.68	20.0	1.82	3.59	12.3