



# Immovative & High Productivity Vehicles

Performance, Infrastructure & Safety

### HPMVS IN NEW ZEALAND

"YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE"

John de Pont



# Since trucking began operators have been looking for ways to carry more payload



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#### But there are issues with infrastructure



#### ...with vehicle design



#### ...and with safety



# Size and Weight Regulations

- Regulations go back to early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Three processes for increasing size and weight
  - Incremental creep
  - Trial and error
  - Performance- based standards

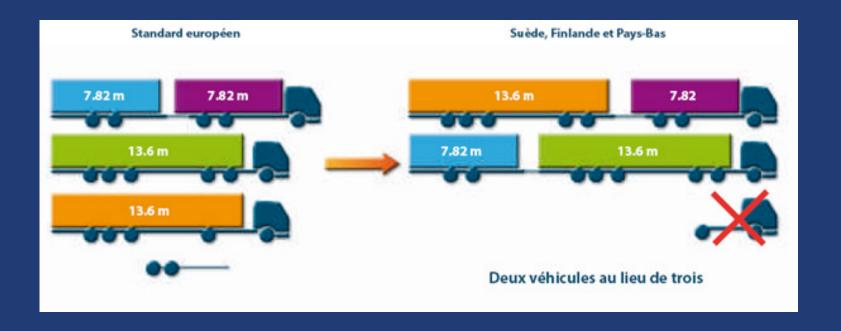
## Europe

Standard general access European combination 16.5m, 40t, 5-axle semitrailer



### European Modular System

25.25m, 60t. Allowed in Sweden and Finland and operating on trial in the Netherlands



#### **United States**

Standard general access combination 80,000lb (36.3t) 5-axles with 53' (16.2m) semitrailer



#### **United States - LCVs**

Rocky Mountain Double



Turnpike Double



- Allowed in some states on some roads
- Combined trailer length limit up to 110' (33.5m)
- Gross weight limit up to 129,000lbs (58.5t)
- Limits frozen.

## **United States – State Specific**



Michigan 11-axles gross weight 164,000lb (74.4t)

#### Canada

# MOU between provinces agreed standard size and weight limits for eight vehicle categories

Category	Vehicle Configuration	Max Length (m)	Max Weight (t)
1	Tractor Semitrailer	23	46.5
2	A Train Double	25	53.5
3	B Train Double	25	62.5
4	C Train Double	25	58.5
5	Straight Truck	12.5	24.25
6	Truck - Pony Trailer	23	42.25
7	Truck - Full Trailer	23	53.5
8	Intercity Bus and Recreational Vehicles	14	24.25

# Canada - semi



#### Australia



The AEC Government Road Train is shown here being checked on a rough track at the British Army proving grounds before being shipped to Australia in 1934. It was loaded with heavy steel plates for the trial. (The Engineer)

#### Australia - General Access

- Semi-trailers, truck and full trailers, B-doubles all at 19m, 42.5 tonnes
- Concessional Mass Limits available for NHVAS accredited operators – some route restrictions
- Higher Mass Limits available for vehicles with roadfriendly suspensions on approved routes.

# Australia - Route Specific

- B-doubles 26m, 62.5t with higher weights possible under CML or HML
- Type 1 Road Trains 36.5m, 79t up to 82.5t with RFS
- Type 2 Road Trains 53.5m, 115.5t up to 122.5t with RFS



#### Australia - PBS Vehicles

- Alternative regime to prescriptive size and weight
- Four levels of infrastructure access
- Vehicles need to be approved (NHVR) and routes have to be approved (RCAs)
- Prescriptive length limits still apply
- Operational since 2007
- 359 applications approved representing 1000+ vehicles
- 75% PBS vehicles are in Victoria
- 63% are truck and trailer combinations

#### New Zealand - General Access

- Semi-trailer combinations 19m, 39t-44t depending on number of axles
- Truck and full trailer and B-train combinations –
  20m, 44t
- Truck and simple trailers 20m, 36t



#### New Zealand - HPMVs

- Available since May 2010
- Vehicles operate under permit on where the infrastructure can cope
- NZTA has promoted the development of pro-forma designs
- Vehicles fitting the pro-forma design envelopes can be approved for general access at standard weights without requiring additional assessment
- For higher weights or dimensions outside the envelopes an assessment of the vehicle and the route is required

#### New Zealand - HPMV Vehicles

- Pro-forma designs available
  - 19.45m quad semi-trailer
  - 23m truck and full trailers
  - □ 23m B-trains
  - 23m truck and simple trailers
- General access at 44t (36t for simple trailers)
- Higher weights on approved routes
- 50Max pro-forma designs likely to be approved soon
- Non pro-forma designs approved at individual vehicle level – up to 25m and 62t.

#### NZ HPMVs and the World

- Uptake has been excellent over 2000 HPMVs approved since 2010 compared to 649 LHVs since 2001 in the Netherlands and about 1000 PBS vehicles since 2007 in Australia
- Cost of compliance is very low
- Payload volume capacity is high particularly for general access
- Payload weight capacity moderate
- 50Max option is not optimal but can be implemented reasonably quickly
- Axle weight limits are relatively low

#### Conclusions

- HPMV process is a performance-based approach but there are still elements of incremental creep
- Implementation and uptake has been relatively rapid and strong
- Pragmatic approach taken by industry and regulators to find compromise solutions that are acceptable to all stakeholders
- Process is simplified by having fewer layers of government

