



Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006

Compilation: 1 (up to and including Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006 Amendment 1)

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Compiled by: Vehicle Safety Standards, Department of Transport and Regional Services

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1. LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

1.1. NAME OF INSTRUMENT

- 1.1.1. This Standard is the Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006.
- 1.1.2. This Standard may also be cited as Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions.

1.2. COMMENCEMENT

- 1.2.1. This Standard commences on the day after it is registered.

1.3. REPEAL

- 1.3.1. This Standard repeals each vehicle standard with the name Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions that is:
 - (a) made under section 7 of the Motor Vehicles Standard Act 1989; and
 - (b) in force at the commencement of this Standard.
- 1.3.2. This Standard also repeals each instrument made under section 7 of the Motor Vehicles Standard Act 1989 that creates a vehicle standard with the name Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions, if there are no other vehicle standards created by that instrument, or amendments to vehicle standards made by that instrument, that are still in force at the commencement of this Standard.

2. FUNCTION

- 2.1. The function of this vehicle standard is to specify requirements for vehicle configuration and dimensions.

3. APPLICABILITY AND IMPLIMENTATION

3.1. Applicability Summary

- 3.1.1. This vehicle standard applies to the design and construction of vehicles as set out in the table below.
- 3.1.2. Vehicles certified to any of the “Acceptable Prior Rules” as shown below in the Applicability Table for a particular vehicle category are deemed to comply with this national standard:
 - 3.1.2.1. provided that ‘T-Group’ vehicles meet clause 6.1.2.4 and clause 7.3.1,
 - 3.1.2.2. provided that the requirements for ‘*Retractable Axles*’ are met (where appropriate)

3.2. Applicability Table

Vehicle Category	ADR Category Code	UNECE Category Code	Manufactured on or After	Acceptable Prior Rules
Moped 2 wheels	LA	L1	1 March 1998	/01, /02, /03
Moped 3 wheels	LB	L2	1 March 1998	/01, /02, /03
Motor cycle	LC	L3	1 March 1998	/01, /02, /03
Motor cycle and sidecar	LD	L4	1 March 1998	/01, /02, /03
Motor tricycle	LE	L5	1 March 1998	/01, /02, /03
Passenger car	MA	M1	1 Jan 1998	/01, /02, /03
Forward-control passenger vehicle	MB	M1	1 Jan 1998	/01, /02, /03
Off-road passenger vehicle	MC	M1	1 Jan 1998	/01, /02, /03
Light omnibus	MD	M2	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Heavy omnibus	ME	M3	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Light goods vehicle	NA	N1	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Medium goods vehicle	NB	N2	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Heavy goods vehicle	NC	N3	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Very light trailer	TA	O1	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Light trailer	TB	O2	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Medium trailer	TC	O3	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03
Heavy trailer	TD	O4	1 July 1998	/01, /02, /03

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. Refer to Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule Definitions and Vehicle Categories) 2005.

5. TURNING CIRCLE

Every vehicle must have a turning circle in either direction, as determined by reference to the extreme outer edge of the tyre track at ground level, not exceeding 25 metres in diameter.

6. DIMENSIONS OF VEHICLES

- 6.1. *'Total Length'*, including any *'Equipment'*
- 6.1.1. Rigid vehicles
- 6.1.1.1. The *'Total Length'* of any vehicle, other than a *'Semi-trailer'* must not exceed 12.5 metres.
- 6.1.2. *'Semi-trailers'*
- 6.1.2.1. The distance from the *'Point of Articulation'* to the line from which the *'Rear Overhang'* is measured must not exceed 9.5 metres.
- 6.1.2.2. The forward projection from the *'Point of Articulation'* of the *'Semi-trailer'* portion of an *'Articulated Vehicle'* must be contained within a radius of 1.9 metres.

- 6.1.2.3. The distance from the '*Point of Articulation*' to the '*Rear End*' must not exceed 12.3 metres.
- 6.1.2.4. The length available for the carriage of animals on a '*Livestock Trailer*' must not be more than 12.5 metres when measured from the inside of the front wall or door of the trailer to the inside of the rear wall or door of the trailer (as the case may be), and any intervening partition must be disregarded.
- 6.1.3. Non-rigid vehicles (other than '*Road Trains*', '*B-Doubles*' and '*Articulated Omnibuses*').
- 6.1.3.1. The '*Total Length*' must not exceed 19.0 metres.
- 6.1.3.2. '*Drawbar Length*'
- 6.1.3.2.1. for a trailer having a single '*Axle Group*' the '*Drawbar Length*' must not exceed 8.5 metres.
- 6.1.3.2.2. For all other trailers the '*Drawbar Length*' must not exceed 5 metres.
- 6.1.4. '*Articulated Omnibuses*'
- 6.1.4.1. The '*Total Length*' of an '*Articulated Omnibus*' must not exceed 18 metres.
- 6.1.4.2. All parts of an '*Articulated Omnibus*' except mirrors and signalling devices must be capable of moving within a circular track having an inner radius of 5.3 metres and an outer radius of 12 metres.
- 6.2. '*Rear Overhang*' (including any '*Equipment*')
- 6.2.1. For a trailer (other than a '*Semi-trailer*') having a single '*Axle Group*' the '*Rear Overhang*' must not exceed the length of the load space forward of the line at the rear of the vehicle from which '*Rear Overhang*' is measured, or 3.7 metres whichever is the lesser.
- 6.2.2. For a '*Semi-trailer*' the '*Rear Overhang*' must not exceed 60 percent of the distance between the centreline of the '*Fifth Wheel*' king pin and the line from which '*Rear Overhang*' of the '*Semi-trailer*' is measured, or 3.7 metres whichever is the lesser.
- 6.2.3. For all other motor vehicles and trailers (other than '*Semi-trailers*') the '*Rear Overhang*' must not exceed 60 percent of the distance from the centreline of the front '*Axle*' (or the front '*Axle*' of a '*Twin Steer Axle Group*') to the line from which '*Rear Overhang*' is measured, or 3.7 metres whichever is the lesser.
- 6.2.4. In the case of a vehicle fitted with '*Twin Steer Axle Group*', the front '*Axle*' of that group must be the '*Axle*' used to determine the permitted '*Rear Overhang*'.
- 6.3. Height, including any '*Equipment*'
- 6.3.1. The height of any vehicle, except for a '*Livestock Trailer*' must not exceed 4.3 m.
- 6.3.2. The height of a '*Livestock Trailer*' must not exceed 4.6 metres.

- 6.4. *'Ground Clearance'* The *'Ground Clearance'* of a vehicle, other than an L-Group vehicle, measured from a horizontal road surface to any point on the underside of the vehicle except the tyres, wheels and wheel hubs must, under the conditions of *'Maximum Loaded Test Mass'* loading as specified in the relevant braking rule, be not less than:
- 6.4.1. [This clause has been deleted]
- 6.4.2. for the mid-point between any 2 consecutive *'Axles'*, the dimension in millimetres obtained by multiplying the distance between those 2 *'Axles'* in metres by 33.33; and
- 6.4.3. for any other point, *'Ground Clearance'* is such that if the wheels of one *'Axle'* are on one plane and the wheels on the next consecutive *'Axle'* are on another plane which intersects the first so that the angle between them is 7 degrees 38 minutes the point will pass over the apex transverse to the vehicle formed by that intersection, as shown in Figure 1.
- 6.4.4. Where an omnibus, when fully laden and at normal ride height, does not meet the ground clearance as determined in 6.4.2, a device must be fitted to enable the chassis to be lifted sufficiently to meet the ground clearance relative to the wheelbase for manoeuvring purposes only.
- 6.5. *'Overall Width'*, including any *'Equipment'*
- 6.5.1. The *'Overall Width'* of any motor vehicle (other than an L-Group vehicle) or trailer must not exceed 2,500 mm.
- 6.5.2. The *'Overall Width'* of an L-Group vehicle must be as follows :
- 6.5.2.1. In the case of a two wheel vehicle (LA or LC), the maximum width must not exceed 1,000 mm.
- 6.5.2.2. In the case of a three wheel vehicle (LB or LE) or a motor cycle with a side car (LD), the maximum width must not exceed 1,850 mm.
- 6.6 The *'Running Clearance'* of a vehicle, other than an L-Group vehicle must be not less than 100 mm.

7. AXLE CONFIGURATION

- 7.1. Vehicles must satisfy the following requirements:
- 7.2. A rigid motor vehicle must be supported by 2 *'Axle Groups'* disposed as follows:
- 7.2.1. one towards the front of the vehicle, with all wheels connected to the steering system for that part of the vehicle, either a *'Single Axle'* or a *'Twin Steer Axle Group'*; and
- 7.2.2. one towards the rear of the vehicle.
- 7.3. A *'Semi-trailer'* must be supported towards the rear by an *'Axle Group'*.
- 7.3.1. Every *'Semi-trailer'* which is extendible or fitted with a sliding *'Axle Group'* must be so constructed that:
- 7.3.1.1. positive locking devices are utilised;

- 7.3.1.2. all locking device controls must be in a lockable enclosure when mounted on the chassis;
 - 7.3.1.3. failure of the engagement of the locking device must activate a visible and/or audible warning device;
 - 7.3.1.4. where the locking device is air-operated the supply must be fitted with a protection valve to prevent loss of air to the air brake supply in the event of line fracture or failure; and
 - 7.3.1.5. the movable assembly must be fitted with substantial stops to prevent disconnection from the vehicle in the event of failure of the locking device.
- 7.4. A trailer other than a ‘*Semi-trailer*’ must be supported by either:
- 7.4.1. one ‘*Axle Group*’; or
 - 7.4.2. an ‘*Axle Group*’ towards both the front and rear of the trailer provided that all wheels in the front ‘*Axle Group*’ are connected to the steering mechanism for that part of the vehicle.

8. LOAD SHARING SUSPENSION

- 8.1. All the ‘*Axles*’ in an ‘*Axle Group*’ other than a ‘*Twin Steer Axle Group*’ must be related to each other through a ‘*Load Sharing Suspension*’ except :
- 8.1.1. this requirement must not apply to a ‘*Close Coupled Axle Group*’ on any motor vehicle or trailer (including a ‘*Semi-trailer*’) with a ‘*GVM*’ or ‘*ATM*’ less than 4.5 tonne provided that the load carrying capacity of each of the ‘*Axles*’ and the wheel and tyres fitted to each ‘*Axle*’ is at least 120% of the nominal load imposed on that ‘*Axle*’ with the vehicle or trailer at its ‘*GVM*’ or ‘*ATM*’; and
 - 8.1.2. this requirement must not apply to a ‘*Close Coupled Axle Group*’ fitted with a ‘*Retractable Axle*’ on any motor vehicle or trailer (including a ‘*Semi-trailer*’) with a ‘*GVM*’ or ‘*ATM*’ less than 4.5 tonne provided that the load carrying capacity of each other ‘*Axle*’ and the wheels and tyres fitted to it is at least equal to the load imposed on that ‘*Axle*’ with the motor vehicle or trailer at its ‘*GVM*’ or ‘*ATM*’ and with the ‘*Retractable Axle*’ retracted.

9. RETRACTABLE AXLE REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1. The ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must automatically lower to the ‘*Fully-down*’ position no later than when the ‘*Prescribed Transition Mass*’ shown in Table 1 is reached.
- 9.2. The ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must remain in the ‘*Fully-down*’ position when the ‘*Prescribed Transition Mass*’ shown in Table 1 is exceeded.

TABLE 1

Transition mass ratings for Axle Configurations and Tyre types.

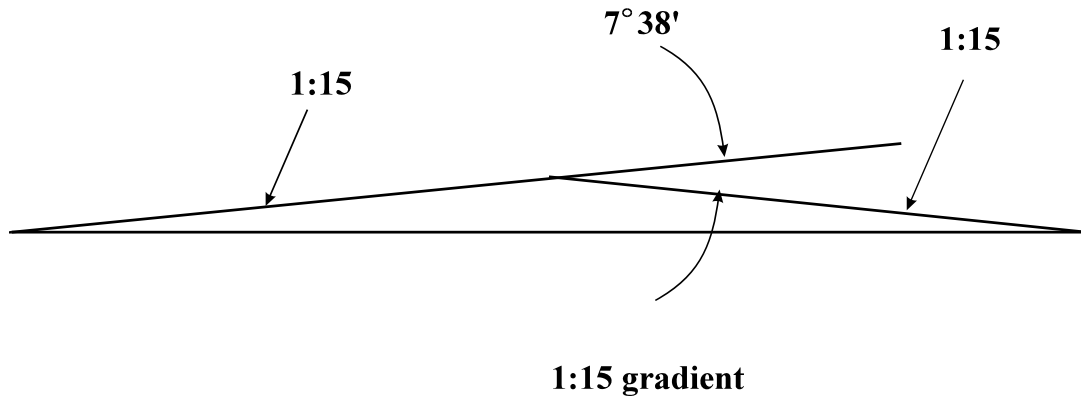
Axle Configuration		Tyres	Prescribed Transition mass (tonnes)
from	to	S	4.0
1	2	D	6.5
		W ₁	6.5
		W ₂	6.5
		SS	10
2	3	W ₁	13
		W ₁	
		DD	13
		W ₂	13
		W ₂	

Example: If a tri-axle suspension fitted with dual tyres has two retractable axles, when running only on the nonretractable axle, the first ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must come down no later than when the load imposed on the ground reaches 6.5 tonnes. The second ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must come down no later than when the load imposed on the ground reaches 13.0 tonnes.

Tyre type codes

S	Single tyre per wheel
D	Dual tyres per wheel
W ₁	Wide Single Tyre (375 to 450 mm width)
W ₂	Wide Single Tyre (over 450 mm width)

- 9.3. The ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must remain fixed, in either the raised or ‘*Fully-down*’ position, when the vehicle is in motion. This requirement does not require speed sensing. It must be demonstrated however, that in the intended service of the vehicle, road shock or other influences will not cause the ‘*Retractable Axle*’ to raise or lower. Compliance with this requirement must be demonstrated by providing evidence that the designed response of the control system prevents the inadvertent raising or lowering of the ‘*Retractable Axle*’.
- 9.4. A vehicle fitted with a ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must, in all ‘*Configurations*’, comply with all relevant requirements of clause 6.1.
- 9.5. A vehicle fitted with a ‘*Retractable Axle*’ must, in all ‘*Configurations*’, comply with all relevant requirements of clause 6.2.



COMPILATION NOTES

This compilation of Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006 includes all the instruments set out in the Table of Instruments. The Table of Amendments provides a history of clauses that have been amended, inserted or deleted.

Table of Instruments

Name of Instrument	Registration Date	Commencement Date
Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006	11/05/2006	12/05/2006
Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006 Amendment 1	12/10/2007	13/10/2007

Table of Amendments

Clause affected	How affected	Amending instrument
6.4.1	rr	Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006 Amendment 1
6.6	ad	Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 43/04 – Vehicle Configuration and Dimensions) 2006 Amendment 1

ad = added or inserted

am = amended

del = deleted or removed

rr = removed and replaced

→ = clause renumbered. This takes the format of old no. → new no.