

ODL permits to cross railways and tramways

Information Sheet

May 2022

Introduction

Loads that cross railways or tramways in Victoria and exceed dimensions prescribed under the *Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983* require a permit.

Over-dimensional load (ODL) permits contain conditions that ensure the safe movement of vehicles, freight and large loads over railways and tramways.

When is a permit required?

Loads that cross railways or tramways and exceed certain dimensions require a permit.

Table 1 Mass and dimensions of vehicles requiring a permit

	Railway	Tramway
Height	4.9m*	4.3m
Width	5.0m	3.0m
Length	26.0m	26.0m
Weight	No weight limit, unless specified in your NHVR permit.	

*May not apply in regional areas.

Your National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) permit will indicate whether you need to apply for an ODL rail permit. If you are travelling on a gazetted OSOM network, the location of at-grade level crossings is available on [Victoria's oversize over-mass network maps](#).

Does my NHVR permit allow me to cross tracks?

Permits issued by the NHVR do not permit operators to cross a railway or tramway.

Approval to cross tracks is handled by a team in the Department of Transport (DoT).



How do I apply?

Applications for a permit and payment by credit card can be made on the VicRoads Upload and Submit a Form page at <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/online-services/upload-and-submit-a-form>

Class 1 applicants need to reference their NHVR permit or the relevant Gazette notice.

You are encouraged to nominate the most direct route to your destination with the least impact on amenity.

You are limited to one configuration per application. Applications for multiple configurations will not be accepted and you will be asked to reapply.

In most cases, a permit can be issued based on the information you supply. However, if an inspection is required, fees apply.

If rail safety is required at the proposed crossing, the management of rail traffic during your move is your responsibility to arrange, including any associated costs.

You may use any accredited third-party rail safe-working companies for this activity.

For details of permit fees and penalties, see <https://transport.vic.gov.au/getting-around/roads/over-dimensional-load-permits-for-travel-across-railways-and-tramways>

You can check progress of your permit via email at odlpermit@roads.vic.gov.au or phone 0417 054 626.

How long does a permit last?

Depending on the track manager and your load and route, the duration of each permit's validity can range from 1 day to 12 months.

Do I need to deal with individual track managers?

Normally, DoT will handle your permit application, however in some instances, you may be asked to deal directly with a track manager like V/Line or ARTC.

Depending on your load, you may also be invoiced directly by a track manager.

Ensure you carry all track manager approvals when you travel.

Work is under way to simplify the application process to reduce interactions with track managers.

How much notice do I need to give?

Allow a minimum of 15 business days between lodging your application and your planned move.

Further information

Further information on crossing rail or tram tracks is available at

<https://transport.vic.gov.au/getting-around/roads/over-dimensional-load-permits-for-travel-across-railways-and-tramways>

To contact a transport compliance officer, email odlpermit@roads.vic.gov.au or phone 0417 054 626.

