

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

V59 - Mandatory Covering of Loose Bulk Loads on Vehicles Exceeding 12 Tonne GVM

Introduction

The safe loading and adequate restraint of loads on vehicles is important in preventing injury to people and damage to property.

It is an offence under the *Northern Territory Traffic Regulations* and the *Australian Road Rules*, to drive or permit a person to drive a vehicle carrying a load, unless the load is arranged, contained, fastened or covered in a manner that complies with the performance standards of the Load Restraint Guide – Second Edition 2004.

Additionally, the *Northern Territory Traffic Regulations* make it an offence to drive, or permit a person to drive a vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) **greater than 12 tonnes** that is carrying a loose bulk load, unless the load is fully covered by a load cover that is suitable for securing the load.

Vehicles Over 12 Tonne GVM

The regulation mandating covering of loose bulk loads applies to all load carrying hauling and rigid motor vehicles with a GVM greater than 12 tonnes and includes truck and trailer combinations.

Please Note: Truck and trailer combinations carrying loose bulk loads must be fully covered if the hauling vehicle GVM exceeds 12 tonnes.

Loose Bulk Loads

Loose bulk loads can be described as light weight material such as sand, soil, quarry products, primary produce, demolition/waste material and/or any other fine particle matter that is likely to be dislodged by the effect of air flow across the load or road conditions.

Load Restraint

Correctly fitted tarpaulins, load covers and load nets are an effective means of restraining loose bulk loads in open topped vehicles to counteract the effect of air flow and rough roads. The use of 'wetting' or 'skinning' agents alone is not acceptable, however, may be used in conjunction with a suitable load cover.

Loose loads should never be transported on flat bed or platform type vehicles without sides or gates, or tipper bodies without tailgates. Bodies with poorly fitting sides and gates should not be used to transport fine particle materials such as sand.

Important Note: In accordance with the *NT Traffic Regulations* and the *Australian Road Rules*, all other loads carried in or on vehicles must be restrained in a manner complying with the performance standards of the **Load Restraint Guide – Second Edition 2004**. For further information regarding the Load Restraint Guide, refer to Information Bulletin V64 – Load Restraints (<http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/mvr/vehiclestandards/infobulletins/ibv64.pdf>).

Exemptions

Exemptions from the mandatory requirement to cover loose bulk loads on vehicles exceeding 12 tonne GVM may be considered where mandatory covering is inappropriate or impractical. Applications for exemptions may be made in writing to the Chief Transport Inspector using the contact details listed below.

The Load Restraint Guide and a load restraint training package can be downloaded from the National Transport Commission's website at: <http://www.ntc.gov.au/>

For further information regarding load restraint do not hesitate to contact your nearest Motor Vehicle Registry office.

Contact Details	
Motor Vehicle Registry	
Telephone	1300 654 628
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