

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

V64 – Load Restraint

Introduction

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

The *Northern Territory Traffic Regulations* and the *Australian Road Rules* make it an offence 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.

Why is Load Restraint Important?

Every year people within Australia are injured and killed in crashes caused by unrestrained loads. This can occur in instances where:

- Heavy objects fall from vehicles on to other vehicles or pedestrians.
- Drivers swerve to avoid falling or fallen items from vehicles.
- Spillage on roads from lost loads causes vehicles to skid and lose control.
- Unrestrained loads crash into vehicle cabins during emergency braking.
- Vehicles overturn because of loads shifting while cornering.

Load Restraint Guide

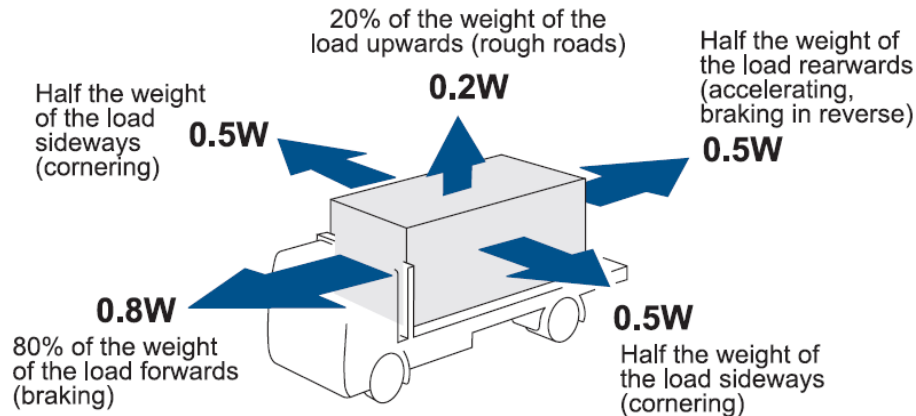
The Load Restraint Guide is a publication which provides drivers, owners, operators, freight consignors and vehicle and equipment manufacturers with the basic safety principles that should be followed to ensure the safe carriage of loads. The guide is based on proven principles and takes into account the performance of vehicles and trailers.

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

Additionally, hard copies of the Load Restraint Guide may be purchased by contacting your nearest Motor Vehicle Registry Office.

Load Restraint Forces

Every load must be restrained to prevent unacceptable movement during all expected conditions of operation. A load restraint method will meet the Load Restraint Guide performance standards if the load doesn't shift when subjected to the forces illustrated below.



(W = Weight of the load)

Important Points

- Use a vehicle appropriate for the type of load you are carrying.
- Position the load correctly.
- Use suitable restraint equipment, in good condition.
- Check your load restraint before leaving and during the trip.

Remember

- You may be driving under different, more difficult conditions when you are carrying certain types of loads.
- Unload safely.
- Failure to restrain a load correctly on a vehicle may result in legal action being taken against any persons involved, including the driver, operator and/or loader of the vehicle.

Vehicles Over 12 Tonne GVM Carrying Loose Bulk Loads

The *Northern Territory Traffic Regulations* also make it an offence for a person 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.

For further information relating to this issue, please refer to MVR Information Bulletin V59 - Mandatory Covering of Loose Bulk Loads on Vehicles Exceeding 12 Tonne GVM

(<http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/mvr/vehiclestandards/infobulletins/ibv59.pdf>)

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

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