

OVERVIEW

For many years there has been a lot of misinformation about the towing of combination loads. In this Factsheet we hope to sort the wheat from the chaff and outline the key things you need to know as a heavy transport operator.

Until very recently towing divisible combination loads was prohibited except for removing a vehicle to the nearest place of safety where it could then be separated and towed as separate units.

In late 2020 NZTA, New Zealand Police, Heavy Haulage Association, and no less than nine Heavy Towing Operators from around New Zealand engaged in a series of workshops to work towards setting safe parameters for combination load towing beyond the nearest safe place.

The result is a new set of permits designed specifically to enable the towing of combination loads within a set of safe parameters.

Southern Districts Towing would like to acknowledge the pragmatic approach taken by New Zealand Transport Agency in engaging with Industry which has at times been challenging and to the nine Heavy Towing Operators who were engaged in the series of workshops.



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What can we do?

With these new Recovery Over-Dimension Permits, Southern Districts Towing are permitted to tow combination loads up to 65 tonnes when loaded and a combined length including the recovery vehicle of 35 meters.

Key Permit Conditions

- The permit is issued for the tow of a disabled vehicle from the scene or breakdown location.
- This permit does not allow multiple tows of the same disabled vehicle or the transportation of a disabled vehicle that has previously been towed.
- Can be towed for a maximum of 200 km
- The Recovery Operator must be able to control the casualty trailers service brakes
- The movement is restricted to 70km/hr
- This permit exempts the travel time requirements outlined in 6.22 of VDAM
- Pilots must be used as follows
 - Daytime - One class two pilot
 - Nighttime - Two class two pilots.

Demystifying the myths

- Until now there have been no standing permits that allow movement of combination loads beyond the nearest place of safety.
- There are a number of companies that have these permits including Southern Districts Towing and many of our nationwide recovery partners.

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