

ODL vehicles crossing tramways and railways

Information Sheet

November 2020

Introduction

The process for over-dimensional load (ODL) vehicles to cross an at-grade railway or tramway has been simplified.

The changes mean:

- ODL rail permits can be paid for by credit card rather than invoiced.
- ODL rail permits to cross tracks operated by MTM or Yarra Trams can be obtained through a single point of contact.
- Loads up to five metres wide no longer require an ODL rail permit to cross tracks.

When do the changes come into effect?

The changes to the payment process come into effect on 2 November.

Changes to the dimensions of vehicles requiring a permit come into effect on 30 November. This change will particularly benefit operators of Class 1 vehicles like oversize over-mass (OSOM) low-loaders as well as OSOM agricultural equipment and implements.

What are the changes to the payment process?

Operators will no longer be invoiced after the permit has been issued and can now pay by credit card.

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>



When is a permit to cross tracks required?

It is an operator's responsibility to check whether an ODL rail permit is required.

If your vehicle exceeds any of the dimensions in Table 1 and you are crossing at-grade tram or rail tracks, you must apply for 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.	

Table 1 Mass and dimensions of vehicles requiring a permit

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.



How long does a permit last?

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

Do I still need to deal with individual track managers?

The team in the Department of Transport will process your application on behalf of MTM (manager of the metropolitan passenger rail network) and Yarra Trams.

In the case of rail track managed by V/Line or ARTC, applications should be lodged directly.

Can I avoid getting an ODL rail permit by routing around a crossing?

Operators of ODL vehicles are encouraged to nominate the most direct route to their destination with the least impact on amenity.

In those instances where a route has been nominated to deliberately circumvent a rail crossing and local amenity is affected, the application will normally be declined.

How much notice do I need to give?

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

Allow seven business days for subsequent moves under a three-month permit application.

Are site inspections required?

Site inspections are rare. In most cases, a permit can be issued based on the information you supply in your application. However, if an inspection is required, fees apply.

If rail safety is required at the proposed crossing(s), the management of the 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 permits valid up to three months, the rail safe working requirements for any subsequent moves will be the same as initial moves.

How do I apply?

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.