

# VEHICLE DIMENSIONS

## APPLICATION

This inspection applies to all vehicles.

## PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS

Check vehicle dimensions by means of a measuring tape and record for the first inspection. For inspections thereafter, visually check that no alterations have been made to the vehicle body and the dimension still remain the same. If the body has been altered the vehicle should be measured again and the record up dated.

The main dimensions to be checked are: -

- Length
- Width
- Overhang

**Note:** The information below is given for guidance only. Before refusing a vehicle refer to the 'Motor Vehicles (construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland)' 1999, as there are several exemptions.

### MAXIMUM LENGTH OF VEHICLES

Item	Class of vehicle	Maximum length (meters)
1	An articulated bus	18.75
2	A bus with 2 axles	13.5
3	A bus with more than 2 axles	15

## MAXIMUM WIDTH OF VEHICLES

Item	Class of vehicle	Maximum width (meters)
4	Any other motor vehicle	2.55

**Note:** When measuring the overall width of a vehicle the following should be excluded.

- protruding flexible parts of wheelguards
- lighting equipment,
- mirrors and other devices for indirect vision,
- the deflected part of the tyre walls immediately above the point of contact with the ground,
- trim protruding not more than 10mm from the bodywork,

## MAXIMUM OVERHANG

1 Item	2 Class of vehicle	3 Maximum overhang	4 Exemptions
2	Heavy motor car and motor car	60% of the distance between the centre of the foremost axle and the foremost point from which the overhang is to be measured. (see note below). Or A heavy motor car may comply with Community Directive 97/27 i.e. Turning circle.	<p>a. A refuse vehicle</p> <p>b. A motor vehicle which is an ambulance</p> <p>c. a vehicle designed to dispose of a load to the rear, if the overhang does not exceed 1.15m</p> <p>d. a vehicle first used before 2 January 1933</p> <p>e. a vehicle first used before 1 January 1966 if –</p> <p>the distance between the centre of the rearmost and foremost axles does not exceed 2.29m, and</p> <p>the distance specified in column 3 is not exceeded by more than 76mm.</p>

**Note:**

- Motor vehicles with one rear axle: the overhang is measured from the centre of this axle to the rearmost point of the vehicle.

- Where a three axle motor vehicle has two rear axles one of which is steered, the overhang is measured from the centre of the non steered axle to the rearmost point of the vehicle.
- Where a three or four axle motor vehicle has two rear non steered axles, the overhang is measured from a point 110 mm behind the centre point between these two axles to the rearmost point of the vehicle.
- Overhang is not required to be measured in any other case.

## REASONS FOR FAILURE

	<b>Deficiency Category</b>
a. motor vehicle exceeds maximum length	MAJOR
b. motor vehicle exceeds maximum width	MAJOR
c. motor vehicle exceeds maximum overhang	MAJOR