

# VEHICLE DIMENSIONS

## APPLICATION

This inspection applies to all vehicles and trailers.

## 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)', as there are several exemptions.

### MAXIMUM LENGTH OF VEHICLES

Item	Class of vehicle	Maximum length (meters)
1	A wheeled motor vehicle, not being a bus	12
2	A semi-trailer manufactured on or after 1 May 1983 which does not meet the requirements of the note below and is not a low loader.	12.2*
3	A trailer (not being a semi-trailer or composite trailer) with at least 4 wheels which is drawn by a motor vehicle having a maximum GVW exceeding 3,500kg.	12*
4	Any other trailer not being a semi-trailer.	7

\* Trailers which are constructed and normally used for the conveyance of indivisible loads of exceptional length are exempt from the requirements of the above table and the note below.

\* Long Semi Trailers (LSTs) which have been issued with a Vehicle Special Order (VSO) exempting them from the maximum length requirements, are exempt from the requirements of the above table and the note below.

**Note:**

- a. the distance from the King-pin to the rear of the semi-trailer must not exceed –
  - i. 12.5m in the case of a car transporter;
  - ii. 12.15m when carrying one or more containers or demountable bodies; or
  - iii. 12m in any other case; and
- b. the distance from the King-pin to any point forward of the semi-trailer must not be more than –
  - i. 4.19 m in the case of a car transporter, or
  - ii. 2.04 m in any other case

Where a semi-trailer has two King-pins or more than one King-pin position, the distance is taken from the rearmost King-pin or King-pin position. Trailers manufactured after 20 July 1999 this distance should be taken from the foremost King-pin or King-pin position.

**MAXIMUM WIDTH OF VEHICLES**

Item	Class of vehicle	Maximum width (meters)
1	A locomotive	2.75
2	A refrigerated vehicle, a refrigerated trailer or demountable body	2.6
3	A motorhome	2.6
4	Any other motor vehicle	2.55
5	A trailer drawn by a motor vehicle having a maximum GVW exceeding 3,500kg	2.55
6	Any other trailer	2.3

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

- devices for securing a tarpaulin/load cover and their protection
- 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,
- handles and hinges of external lockers,

- trim protruding not more than 10mm from the bodywork,

## MAXIMUM OVERHANG

1 Item	2 Class of vehicle	3 Maximum overhang	4 Exemptions
1	Motor tractor	1.83m	
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

	Deficiency Category
a. motor vehicle or trailer exceeds maximum length	MAJOR
b. motor vehicle or trailer exceeds maximum width	MAJOR
c. motor vehicle exceeds maximum overhang	MAJOR