

WORK VEHICLE OVERLOADING

This alert has been generated to ensure that all Victorian ETU members are aware of their responsibilities when driving a vehicle supplied by the employer.

There are strict, and sometimes complex, requirements regarding the weight that heavy vehicles can carry. The requirements limit both the gross vehicle mass (i.e. the mass of the entire vehicle or combination) and the mass which can be borne by the axles.

It is an offence to exceed a mass limit applying to a vehicle or combination.

The penalty available to the Court for overload offences is a fine. The maximum fine which the Court can impose depends on:

- the "risk category" of the offence (i.e. how much you were over the allowable weight)
- whether the defendant is an individual or body corporate; and
- whether the offence is a first or subsequent offence.

The maximum fines available to the Court can be very substantial. The Local Court may impose a fine up to \$55,000.00 for an overloading offence.

What you need to know prior to driving a work vehicle:

- Does the vehicle you are driving comply with the relevant mass requirements?
- Has the vehicle weight been verified?
- Is there enough allowable mass available to carry additional equipment?
- Does the combination of vehicle and trailer exceed the GVM?
- If the vehicle you are driving is operating under a notice or permit, ensure that the

vehicle and the operation of the vehicle complies with any conditions specified, including carrying a copy?

- The journey follows the route as approved under the relevant notice or permit noting any relevant bridge, tunnel or other mass restrictions?

If any of the above cannot be verified by your employer **do not drive the vehicle**. Contact your designated Health & Safety Representative, your local organiser or alternatively your Union OH&S Officer.