

Glossary of Terms - Weights & Dimensions Compliance Guide

"**A**" where it refers to a class of highway, means a Class A highway that is any highway under jurisdiction of The City of Winnipeg and any highway that is designated as such

- a. by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in the case of a provincial trunk highway, a provincial road, or a highway in unorganized territory, or
- b. by by-law of the council of the municipality that is the traffic authority in respect thereof.

"**A1**" where it refers to a class of highway, means a Class A1 highway that is a provincial trunk highway, unless otherwise classified by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council and any highway that is designated as such

- a. by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in the case of a provincial road, or a highway in unorganized territory, or
- b. by by-law of the council of The City of Winnipeg, or the municipality that is the traffic authority in respect thereof.

"**A-dolly**" means a trailer converter dolly that is towed from a single hitch located on the centre line of the towing vehicle;

"**A-train**" means a combination of vehicles composed of a truck tractor, a semi-trailer and either:

- a. an A-dolly and a semi-trailer, or
- b. a full trailer;

"**Act**" means the [Highway Traffic Act](#).

"**articulation point**" means:

- a. the vertical axis of the kingpin in a fifth wheel coupler and kingpin assembly,
- b. the vertical axis through the centre of a lunette eye in a pintle hook and lunette eye assembly, or
- c. the vertical axis through the centre of rotation of a turntable or other similar device that allows the vehicles in a combination of vehicles to rotate in the horizontal plane relative to one another;

"**axle group**" means a tandem or tridem axle;

"**axle spread**" means the longitudinal distance between the extreme axle centres of the axle unit

"**axle unit**" means:

- a. a single axle,
- b. a tandem axle, or
- c. a tridem axle;

"**B**" where it refers to a class of highway, means a Class B highway that is any highway in a municipality other than The City of Winnipeg, that is not a provincial trunk highway or a provincial road, and any highway in unorganized territory and any highway that is designated as such

- a. by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in the case of a provincial trunk highway or a provincial road, or

- b. by by-law of the council of a municipality that is the traffic authority in respect thereof to repeal a by-law made before the 21st day of November 1966 that then classified its highways as class B which, subject to subsection (11) are now deemed to be class C.

"**B1**" where it refers to a class of highway, means a Class B1 highway that is a provincial road, unless otherwise classified by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and any highway that is designated as such

- a. by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in the case of a provincial trunk highway, or a highway in unorganized territory, or
- b. by by-law of the council of The City of Winnipeg, or the municipality that is the traffic authority in respect thereof.

"**B-train**" means a combination of vehicles composed of a truck tractor and a semi-trailer, followed by another semi-trailer attached to a fifth wheel coupler mounted on the rear of the first semi-trailer;

"**box length**" means:

- a. with respect to truck in combination with a pony trailer or full trailer, the distance measured from the front of the cargo carrying unit of the truck, excluding any auxiliary equipment attached to the front of the cargo carrying unit of the truck that is not designed for the transportation of goods, to the rear of the pony trailer or full trailer or any load carried on the trailer, whichever is the greater distance from the front of the cargo carrying unit of the truck, or
 - i. with respect to a semi-trailer, the distance measured from the front of the semi-trailer, excluding any auxiliary equipment attached to the front of the semi-trailer that is not designed for the transportation of goods, to the rear of the semi-trailer or any load carried by it, whichever is the greater distance from the front of the semi-trailer, or
- b. with respect to a combination of vehicles other than in clause (a), the distance measured from the front of the lead trailer, excluding any auxiliary equipment attached to the front of the lead trailer that is not designed for the transportation of goods, to the rear of the last trailer, or any load carried on the last trailer, whichever is the greater distance from the front of the lead trailer;

"**C**" where it refers to a class of highway, means a Class C highway subject to subsection (11), any highway in a municipality that is classified as a class B highway by a bylaw before the 21st day of November, 1966 and any highway that is designated as such

- a. by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in the case of a provincial trunk highway, a provincial road, or a highway in unorganized territory, or
- b. by by-law of the council of a municipality that is the traffic authority in respect thereof, except for The City of Winnipeg.

"**C-dolly**" means a trailer converter dolly equipped with:

- a. a self steering axle, and
- b. a rigid double pintle hitch assembly located on a horizontal transverse plane;

"**C-train**" means a combination of vehicles composed of a truck tractor and a semi-trailer, followed by another semi-trailer attached to the first semi-trailer by the means of a C-dolly;

"**down loading formula**" means a formula to reduce the allowable weight on a combination of adjacent axle units on non RTAC vehicles by reducing the combined gross axle weight by 330 kilograms per each 0.1 metre (or part thereof) by which the interaxle spacing is less than the minimum spacing prescribed in [Manitoba Regulation 575/88](#).

"**drawbar**" means a structural part of a full trailer, pony trailer or trailer converter dolly that includes a device for the purpose of coupling with a hitching device or fifth wheel coupler;

"**drawbar length**" means:

- a. with respect to a truck in combination with a pony trailer, the longitudinal distance measured from the hitching device of the towing vehicle to the front of the cargo carrying portion of the pony trailer, or
- b. with respect to a truck in combination with a full trailer, the longitudinal distance measured from the hitching device of the towing vehicle to the geometric centre of the front axle unit of the full trailer, or
- c. with respect to an A-train or a C-train, the longitudinal distance measured from the centre of the hitching device on the lead semi-trailer to the centre in the hole of the fifth wheel coupler of a trailer converter dolly;

"**drive axle**" means an axle that is or may be connected to the power source of a motor vehicle and transmits tractive power to the wheels;

"**effective rear overhang**" means the longitudinal distance from the turn centre to the rearmost point including load on the truck, trailer or semi-trailer;

"**end dump bulk trailer**" means a semi-trailer truck so constructed that the semi-trailer box may be elevated to provide for the dumping of a load through the rear of the trailer;

"**fifth wheel coupler**" means a coupling device securely attached to the chassis of a vehicle and which will accept a semi-trailer kingpin inserted through the device and will lock the kingpin in position to allow rotation in a horizontal plane through the coupling device;

"**full trailer**" means a vehicle without motive power that is designed to be towed by another vehicle and is so designed that the whole of its weight and load is carried on its own axles and includes a combination consisting of a semi-trailer and a trailer converter dolly;

"**gross axle weight**" means the gross weight carried by an axle unit and transmitted to the road by the wheels of that axle;

"**gross vehicle weight**" or "**GVW**" means the total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including its load, transmitted to the road by its axles;

"**hitch offset**" means the longitudinal distance from the turn centre to the articulation point of the hitching device or fifth wheel coupler used to tow the following vehicle;

"**interaxle spacing**" means the longitudinal distance separating two axle units as determined from the centres of each of the axles that is the closest to the other axle unit;

"**kingpin setback**" means the horizontal distance from the vertical axis through the centre of the kingpin to any point on the semi-trailer ahead of the kingpin including any load, but excluding any auxiliary equipment attached to the front of the semi-trailer that is not designed for the transport of goods;

"**lift axle**" means an axle controlled by a device designed for raising or lowering a single axle unit or for varying the load on an axle unit, and:

- a. with respect to a non RTAC vehicle manufactured after December 31, 1988, the control device can not be operated from the operator's compartment, and
- b. with respect to an RTAC vehicle, the tires on the lift axle can not be in contact with the ground;

"**load-covering device**" means a device or equipment designed or used to cover a vehicle's load

"**load securement device**" means:

- a. a tie down, binder, lock chain, cable, belt, rope, winch, cinch, hook or covering, or
- b. a door handle, door lock, door hinge or bunk cable guide required or permitted by the Act and the Regulations;

"**pony trailer**" means a vehicle without motive power that is equipped with a rigid drawbar and is designed to be towed by another vehicle and is so designed to carry all or substantially all of its gross vehicle weight on its axles;

"**provincial road**" or "**PR**" means a highway that is a provincial road within the meaning of the Highways and Transportation Department Act;

"**provincial trunk highway**" or "**PTH**" means a highway that is a provincial trunk highway within the meaning of the Highways and Transportation Department Act;

"**RTAC route**" means a highway designated as an RTAC route in Schedule B of [Manitoba Regulation 575/88](#).

"**RTAC vehicle**" means:

- a. a truck,
- b. a truck and pony trailer,
- c. a truck and full trailer,
- d. a truck tractor and semi-trailer,
- e. an A-train,
- f. a B-train, or
- g. a C-train which conforms to the criteria set out in sections 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 28, and 30 of [Manitoba Regulation 575/88](#) but does not include a pony trailer where the gross vehicle weight of the pony trailer as rated by the manufacturer is less than 10,000 kg;

"**self-steering axle**" means an axle on which the wheels turn left and right on one or more essentially vertical axes but their turning is not controlled by means of the steering wheel in the operator's compartment;

"**semi-trailer**" means a vehicle without motive power, designed so that a substantial part of its weight and load rests on and is carried by the truck tractor, another semi-trailer or a trailer converter dolly to which it is attached by a fifth wheel coupler;

"**single axle**" means one axle or two consecutive axles having an axle spread of less than 1.0 m;

"**steering axle**" means an axle on which the wheels turn left and right on one or more essentially vertical axes and their turning is controlled by and in direct proportion to, the rotation of the steering wheel in the operator's compartment;

"**tandem axle**" means two or more equally spaced consecutive axles having an axle spread of not less than 1.0 m nor more than 1.85 m that are designed to automatically distribute the load so that the gross axle weight on each single axle does not exceed the maximum prescribed for a single axle under [Manitoba Regulation 575/88](#).

"**track width**" means the overall width of an axle across the outside edges of the tires;

"**trailer converter dolly**" means a vehicle without motive power that has:

- a. one or more axles,
- b. the lower half of a fifth wheel coupler, and
- c. a drawbar assembly, and is designed to be used to convert a semi-trailer to a full trailer;

"**trailer length**" means:

- a. with respect to a pony trailer, the longitudinal distance measured from the articulation point of the hitching device to the rear of the pony trailer or any load carried on the trailer, whichever is the greater distance from the front of the pony trailer, or
- b. with respect to a full trailer, the longitudinal distance measured from the front of the trailer, excluding any auxiliary equipment attached to the front of the full trailer to the rear of the full trailer or any load carried on the trailer whichever is the greater distance from the front of the full trailer, or
- c. with respect to a semi-trailer, the longitudinal distance measured from the front of the semi-trailer, excluding any auxiliary equipment attached to the front of the semi-trailer that is not designed for the transportation of goods, to the rear of the semi-trailer or any load carried on it, whichever is the greater distance from the front of the semi-trailer;

"**trailer wheelbase**" means the longitudinal distance from the centre of:

- a. the kingpin of a semi-trailer, or
- b. the turntable of a full trailer, or
- c. the hitching device on a pony trailer to the turn centre of the trailer;

"**tridem axle**" means three equally spaced consecutive axles, having an axle spread of not less than 2.4 m nor more than 3.7m and which are designed to automatically distribute the load so that the gross axle weight on each single axle does not exceed the maximum prescribed for a single axle under [Manitoba Regulation 575/88](#) and so that the gross axle weight on any two adjacent single axles does not exceed the maximum prescribed for a tandem axle under [Manitoba Regulation 575/88](#).

"**truck tractor**" means a motor vehicle having a net weight of more than 4000 kg equipped with the lower half of a fifth wheel coupler designed to be used to pull a semi-trailer by coupling to the kingpin attached to the semi-trailer;

"**truck tractor wheelbase**" means the longitudinal distance from the centre of the front steering axle to the geometric centre of the drive axle unit;

"**turn centre**" means the geometric centre of

- a. the axle group on a semi-trailer or pony trailer, or
- b. the rear axle group on a truck, truck tractor or full trailer;

"**width of tire**" means, with respect to rubber tires, the width of the tire as customarily measured and rated by manufacturers of motor vehicles and tires and, with respect to metal tires or solid rubber tires, the transverse width of the outer circumference of the metal tire or solid rubber tire.
