

Retro-Fitting Tarps and Safety Harnesses

August 2005



Driver using a safety harness fitted to a vehicle to attend to livestock



A mechanical tarping system that complies with the 2.5 metre vehicle width



Mechanical arm to wind the tarp must be folded to the front or rear of the vehicle

New Safety Regulations – Working at Heights

In March 2004, new regulations were introduced in Victoria requiring employers to identify and address the risk to their employees and contractors of falling when working more than two metres above the ground.

To control the risk of falling from heights, some transport operators are fitting driver safety harnesses to livestock vehicles and mechanical tarping systems to tippers and waste vehicles.

When fitted to the vehicle, some of these safety devices can result in the vehicle being wider than the permitted vehicle width of 2.5 metres.

What does this mean for you?

In Victoria, vehicles first registered before 1 February 2006 have been provided with a width exemption to enable driver safety harnesses or mechanical tarping systems to be retro-fitted. These safety systems can protrude up to a maximum of 50 mm each side of the vehicle, provided that the projection is more than 2 metres off the ground.

New vehicles, first registered after 1 February 2006, must comply with the 2.5 metre width limit.

Retro-fitting Safe Solutions

Driver safety harness

To minimise the risks associated with working at heights and enable drivers to attend to livestock from both sides of the vehicle, a safety harness can be retro-fitted to livestock vehicles.

Mechanical tarping systems

Quarry and waste vehicles can be fitted with ground/cab operated mechanical or electronically controlled tarping systems. This removes the need for a driver to climb on a vehicle to fit a tarp.

A mechanical arm to wind the tarp in or out must be folded to either the front or rear of the vehicle body.

What Documents You Must Carry

The driver of the truck must carry a copy of this information bulletin in the vehicle, or a copy of the Notice published in the Victoria Government Gazette that describes this exemption. Either document must be produced if requested by a VicRoads Officer or a police officer.

The information contained in this bulletin relates to travel in Victoria only. If travelling interstate you need to check the regulations relating to that particular State or Territory.

Further Information

Further information about the regulations and guidelines relating to the prevention of falls can be obtained from the WorkSafe website: www.workcover.vic.gov.au

For further enquiries about the exemption, contact VicRoads' Permit Issuing Officers on (03) 9881 8853 or (03) 9302 8405.

Email: cvo@roads.vic.gov.au

Website: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au