

# Transporting high loads

When it comes to the potential dangers of operating high loads around powerlines and other electricity network infrastructure, there are key safety measures to keep in mind to help keep you and your workers safe.

## Transporting machinery around powerlines

Overhead powerlines criss-cross the country. Often unnoticed, they are essential to provide electricity to our communities. Anyone engaging in transporting high loads risks serious injury or death as a result of contact with powerlines or electrical flash overs occurring.

When transporting, operating, or working with tall equipment, machinery and high loads, it's important to be aware of the electricity network, including overhead powerlines, and what to do to minimise any safety risks.

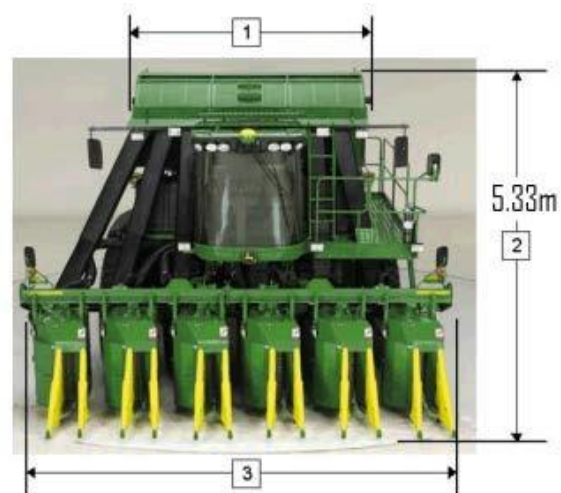
If the height of the vehicle or load is more than 4.3 metres but less than 4.6 metres and the travel path is not a designated high vehicle route, you should contact your local electricity network provider to verify overhead powerline heights. There are further regulations for vehicle loads higher than 4.6 metres.

Further regulations apply to vehicles where loads are higher than 4.6 metres. For more information visit [transport.nsw.gov.au](http://transport.nsw.gov.au).



## Carrier responsibilities and requirements

Under Transport for NSW (TfNSW) regulations and guidelines, the carrier must be clearly aware of the load height and the associated restrictions that apply, including the obligation to contact Essential Energy if the load exceeds 4.6 metres in height.



## Carrier communications with Essential Energy

Where the load height exceeds 4.6 metres and is less than five (5) metres in height and the proposed route is not a designated 4.6 metre high vehicle route the carrier should contact Essential Energy to verify overhead powerline heights.

Loads over 4.6 metres, including loads that exceed five (5) metres, require a permit to travel through the Essential Energy network area. Initial contact should be to contact Essential Energy's high load coordinator by phoning **13 23 91**.

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## High load permit request procedure

You can apply for a high load permit online at [essentialenergy.com.au/partners/high-load-permit](https://essentialenergy.com.au/partners/high-load-permit). When contacting Essential Energy, the carrier must:

- ▶ NOTIFY Essential Energy no less than twelve (12) working days prior to proposed transport date
- ▶ PROVIDE written information regarding dates, times, routes, load type and load dimension / height to Essential Energy
- ▶ RECEIVE written approval from Essential Energy prior to any transport of the high load on the designated routes within Essential Energy's area.

The screenshot shows the 'High Load Permit' application form on the Essential Energy website. The form includes a navigation bar with links like 'Careers', 'About Us', 'Our Network', 'Connections', 'News', 'Contact Us', and 'Emergencies 13 20 80'. The main heading is 'High Load Permit'. Below the heading, there is a 'Call Us' button and a 'Report an outage' section. The form contains several paragraphs of text providing instructions and terms and conditions. At the bottom, there is an 'Applicant Details' section with three input fields: 'Name / Business Name \*', 'Contact Name (if Business) \*', and 'Position (if Business) \*'. There is also a checkbox labeled 'I accept \*'.

## Know the height of your machinery or load

- ▶ Know the height of your machinery or load when it's being transported,
- ▶ Ensure the machinery is fully lowered before transporting the load, and
- ▶ Don't leave rails erected and always ensure materials are secured.

Typical high load operations include:

- ▶ Machinery walked/driven between properties
- ▶ Houses being relocated
- ▶ Transportation of large machinery.

## WARNING

- ▶ DO NOT attempt to directly measure the height of overhead powerlines
- ▶ DO NOT use conductive metallic objects or measuring devices such as metal tape measures for estimating the height of overhead powerlines.

## Driver responsibilities

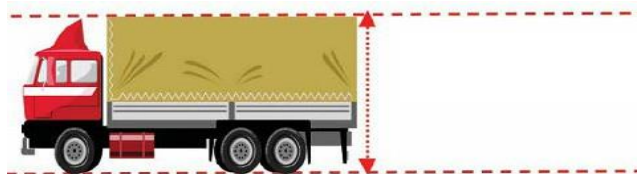
When transporting high loads, plan safe travel paths that allow you to maintain the required clearances. Before entering the destination, worksite or property, contact the site manager or property owner for information on the approved safe travel path on site. Visually check all powerlines if you must pass beneath them and ensure you don't vary from the approved safe travel path.

When transporting high loads the driver must ensure:

- ▶ Directives from Essential Energy personnel are followed at all times
- ▶ At no time may a person climb or ride on the load
- ▶ Other persons must remain at least eight (8) metres clear of the load whilst the load passes beneath live conductors
- ▶ The vehicle does not remain stationary within three (3) metres of live conductors.

## Transit envelope and minimum clearances

The transit envelope is the maximum overall height of the vehicle, the area encompassing normal height and width of vehicles or plant when travelling to or from a work site.



# Transporting high loads

## LOAD TO LINE MINIMUM CLEARANCES

Insulated Low Voltage up to 1,000 volts (only with consultation and insulation verified by an authorised person)	0.3 metres
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Uninsulated Low Voltage up to 1,000 volts	0.6 metres
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## HIGH VOLTAGE, UP TO AND INCLUDING:

33,000 volts	0.9 metre
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132,000 volts	2.1 metres
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Refer to: Essential Energy's fact sheet "Work near overhead powerlines."

## Situational awareness and changing conditions

Essential Energy always attempts to ensure information is correct at the time of issuing. Visual inspections are conducted and the height of powerlines are measured before permits are issued.

Be aware that since the permit was issued, parts of Essential Energy's electrical infrastructure may have changed due to storms, hot weather, bird strikes or other factors.

Changes to any of this infrastructure could reduce the clearances required for you to safely pass under the powerline

Any changes observed should be reported immediately to Essential Energy on **13 20 80**.

## What to do in the event of an incident - **STAY. CALL. WAIT.**

- ▶ If you come into contact with the electricity network, stay in your vehicle, call 000, and wait for emergency services to arrive and give you the all clear.
- ▶ Try not to panic, remain calm and stay in the vehicle until the power has been isolated and the powerlines removed, don't risk being electrocuted by attempting to leave the vehicle
- ▶ Advise anyone near the incident site to stay a minimum of eight (8) metres from the vehicle and anything else in contact with the powerlines
- ▶ Call Emergency Services immediately on 000 to report wires down and a life-threatening situation; contact Essential Energy on 13 20 80 to switch off the power
- ▶ Always treat powerlines and anything in contact with the powerlines as live
- ▶ Only attempt to drive the vehicle if you're not going to create another hazard to yourself or others and ensure you drive a minimum of eight (8) metres from the powerlines and anything in contact with the damaged powerlines
- ▶ Rubber tyres may explode up to 24 hours after a contact. Tyres should then be replaced if there is any evidence of arcing or burning on them.

For more information on the emergency evacuation procedure, please refer to Essential Energy's *Emergency Response to a Powerline incident* fact sheet.

## SAFETY FIRST

- ▶ Know the height of the machine or load
- ▶ Visually check powerlines before passing under them
- ▶ Ensure a high load permit has been obtained
- ▶ Don't change your identified route.