



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

HEAVY VEHICLES USING COUNCIL BRIDGES

Originated Date: Adopted 23 September 2002 Min. No. 373/02 (as Policy 31)

Amended Date/s:

Applicable Legislation: Section 44 of the *Local Government (Highway) Act 1982*

Objective To protect Council bridges from damage caused by heavy vehicle loads.

Administration: Works & Infrastructure

Review Cycle/Date: Next review 2019.

BACKGROUND

The Council, at its 26 August 2002 meeting, considered a background report (Data Works No 74574) on the effect of B-Double, Quad Dog and Heavy vehicles on Council bridges.

What are the statutory requirements and entitlement for B-Double and Quad Dog vehicles travelling on public roads?

TABLE 1	B-Double Vehicles Types			
	1	2	3	3 (Higher Mass)
Length	< 19m	< 21m	< 25m	< 25m
Weight	42.5t	50t	62.5t	68 tonne
Special Requirements				Fitted with air-ride suspension
Restricted Roads	None	None	All *1	All *1
DIER Special Licence Required	No	No	Yes *1	Yes *1
Council Approval on 'Local' Roads	No	No	Yes	Yes
Note *1 Must obtain DIER permit to travel any road				

TABLE 2	Quad Dog Vehicles Types			
	1	2	3	4
Length	< 19m	< 21m	< 21m	< 25m
Weight	42.5t	49t	54t	62t
Special Requirements	No	Fitted with air-ride suspension	Fitted with air-ride suspension	Fitted with air-ride suspension
Restricted Roads	None	None	All *1	All *1
DIER Special Licence Required	No	No	Yes *1	Yes *1
Council Approval on 'Local' Roads	No	No.	Yes	Yes
Note: *1 Full air-bags *2 Must obtain DIER permit to travel any road				

WHEN SHOULD RESTRICTIONS BE IMPOSED ON VEHICLES USING COUNCIL BRIDGES?

1. Timber Bridges – no restrictions shall apply to B-Double, Quad Dog or Standard Heavy vehicles, provided their total weight is less than the maximum permitted weight, being 68 tonne, 62 tonne and 42.5 tonne respectively.
2. Concrete or Steel Bridges (simple span) – no restrictions shall be imposed on B-double, Quad Dog or Heavy vehicles if their total weight is less than the maximum permitted weight and either the bridge is a single span or, if it is multi-span, then each individual span is simply supported.
3. Concrete or Steel Bridge (continuous span) – load restrictions shall be applied as determined by table 3.

TABLE 3

Span	Load Restrictions
Less than 6.0m	No load restrictions beyond statutory limits
Between 6.0m and 7.5m	Load restrictions shall be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-Double & Quad Dog vehicles – 62.5 tonnes • All other vehicles – 42.5 tonnes
Between 7.5m and 9.0m	Load restrictions shall be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-Double & Quad Dog vehicles – 55 tonnes • All other vehicles – 42.5 tonnes
Between 9.0m and 10.0m	Load restrictions shall be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-Double & Quad Dog vehicles – 50 tonnes • All other vehicles – 42.5 tonnes
Greater than 10.0m	Load restrictions of 42.5 tonnes

4. The Manager, Technical Services shall, in consultation with the Works Manager, apply load and/or vehicle-class restrictions on Council bridges where, in their opinion, the bridge structural components have deteriorated or are damaged to the point that the maximum permitted weight for B-Double (68t), Quad Dog (62t) or Standard Heavy (42.5t) vehicles could cause an accelerated rate of deterioration or possible collapse. The restrictions shall be applied immediately if the Manager, Technical Services considers the situation to be critical, otherwise the matter shall be reported to the Council for endorsement before application.

WHAT DESIGN LOADS WILL THE COUNCIL USE FOR NEW BRIDGES?

All new bridges on Council roads shall be designed to cope with the loads applied by the T44 Load Standard, 68 tonne Type-3 (Higher Mass) B-Double vehicles or 62 tonne Type-4 Quad Dog vehicles.