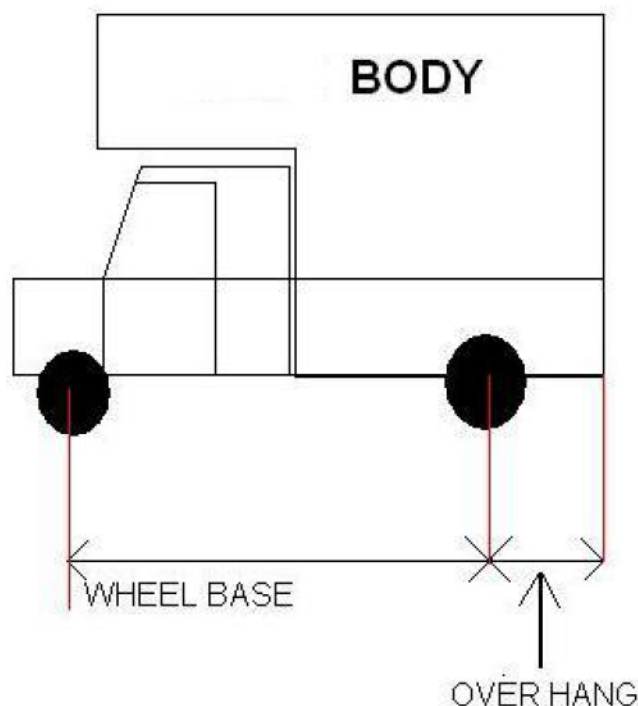


-----Information Sheet-----

**Extending a vehicle's length behind its rear axle**

The rear of a motor vehicle may normally extend past the rear axle for a distance not greater than 60% of the wheel-base (the distance between the two axles). For example, if a vehicle has a wheel-base of 3 meters, the relevant distance is 60% of 3 meters (i.e. 1.8meters).

Where bodywork is added to the vehicle, for example a Luton body or a load bed on a recovery vehicle, this is considered part of the vehicle and is therefore bound by this legislation.



**Maximum overhang 60% of wheelbase**

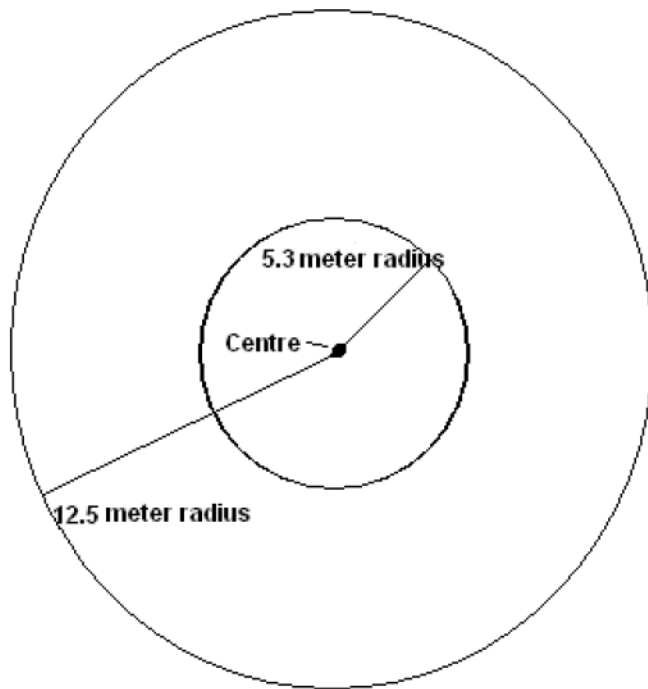
**Exception**

Vehicles which comply with paragraph 7.6.2 of Annex I of EC Directive 97/27/EC are exempt from the above requirement on overhang. This paragraph requires a vehicle to be capable of a standard 'roundabout'-type manoeuvre, safely navigating a circular path whilst remaining between an outer radius of 12.5m and an inner radius of 5.3m.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/documents/directives/directive-97-27-ec\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/automotive/documents/directives/directive-97-27-ec_en.htm)

An illustration is given in the diagram:

April 2010



**Further information**

If you require any further information regarding the content of this information sheet, please contact the DfT at the address below:

International Vehicle Standards  
Department for Transport  
Zone 1/34, Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

Telephone: 020 7944 2091  
Fax: 020 7944 2196  
Email: [ivs.enquiries@df.t.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ivs.enquiries@df.t.gsi.gov.uk)

**NOTE:** The information in this document is a summary of the Department's understanding of what the law requires. However, ultimately the interpretation of the law is a matter for the courts based on individual facts of any particular case. You are therefore advised to consult the relevant legislation and, if necessary, seek independent advice.