

Feasibility of Developing a Pilot Car Training and Certification Program in Alabama

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University Transportation Center for Alabama

The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham,
and The University of Alabama in Huntsville

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UTCA Theme: Management and Safety of Transportation Systems

University Transportation Center for Alabama

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- Education – conduct a multidisciplinary program of coursework and experiential learning that reinforces the theme of transportation;
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- Research Performance – conduct an ongoing program of basic and applied research, the products of which are judged by peers or other experts in the field to advance the body of knowledge in transportation; and
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| 16. Abstract The State of Alabama does not currently require certification for the pilot car drivers who escort oversize/overweight vehicles. The Alabama Department of Transportation contracted with The University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) to investigate such certification, and this report summarizes the investigation. Efforts focused on three areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of escort requirements section of the <i>Overweight & Overdimensional Permits Office Rules & Regulations, § 32-9-29, Code of Alabama (1975)</i>. Proposed modified text for the Rules & Regulations has been prepared in consultation with ALDOT Permits Office personnel. • Compile a <i>Truckers Guide</i> educates truckers about the permit requirements and pilot car requirements for oversize/overweight loads, in addition to other trucking issues. This 28-page booklet has been completed. • Submit an implementation plan and budget to ALDOT for a pilot car driver certification course. A proposal has been submitted and funded that encompasses preparing training materials and teaching the first sessions of the course. | | | |
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Executive Summary

Only 11 states currently require certification for drivers of the escort vehicles (pilot cars) that accompany oversize/overweight loads. Alabama currently does not require driver certification, but The Alabama Department of Transportation has interest in establishing certification requirements and in teaching a certification course. This report describes investigations into three areas of pilot car driver certification to help determine if certification and reciprocity with other states is feasible in Alabama:

- Modifying the escort driver section of § 32-9-29, *Code of Alabama (1975)* to update them and to make them more uniform with other southeastern states. Suggested modifications have been written, but they will not take effect in Alabama without being adopted under the Administrative Procedures Act.
- Producing teaching materials and a plan to teach the certification course if it is authorized. The University Transportation Center for Alabama submitted a proposal to ALDOT to write/modify training materials and teach the first five to eight sessions of a pilot car driver certification course. The proposal has been funded, and the training courses will be ready to be taught before August 15, 2011.
- Educating truckers about the permit requirements and pilot car requirements for oversize/overweight loads, in addition to other trucking issues. The *Truckers Guide to Permits, Weights, and other Commercial Vehicle Regulations* has been completed electronically in Microsoft Publisher format. It is a 28-page document with input from five agencies essential to freight transportation and is ready for publication.

1.0 Introduction

In response to a devastating, early-morning crash involving an escorted, oversize/overweight load and a train in Glendale, California in January 2000, the National Transportation Safety Board produced a Safety Recommendation (Blakey 2001, 3). The Recommendation stated that pilot car drivers perform “a safety-sensitive function and are an integral component of many oversize/overweight vehicle movements; consequently, it is important that they be trained and qualified.” However, when the Recommendation was released in 2001, only eight states required pilot car escort driver certification for oversize/overweight loads.

The State of Alabama does not currently require pilot car driver certification. However, the Permit and Operations section within the Maintenance Bureau of the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) wishes to investigate certification within Alabama and reciprocity of certification with neighboring states. Accordingly, ALDOT retained the University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) to investigate these possibilities. This report summarizes the investigations made by UTCA personnel under ALDOT Project Number 930-669.

An abbreviated list of the initial project objectives follows:

- Review national level certification material developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Special Carriers and Rigging Association (SC&RA).
- Facilitate an update of the escort requirements section of the *Overweight & Overdimensional Permits Office Rules & Regulations, § 32-9-29, Code of Alabama (1975)*.
- Conduct a review of other states’ rules and regulations governing the transportation of overweight and oversized freight.
- Conduct a feasibility/implementation study aimed at developing an Alabama-specific certification program to be administered by ALDOT, including a test offering of the program.
- Investigate reciprocity with other states.
- Submit an implementation plan and budget for ALDOT’s approval if the program appears workable.

During the course of the research, some of the objectives were modified, eliminated, or included inside larger objectives. Eventually, efforts focused on three deliverables:

- Facilitate an update of the *Overweight & Overdimensional Permits Office Rules & Regulations, § 32-9-29, Code of Alabama (1975)*.
- Write a *Truckers Guide* to educate truckers about the permit requirements and pilot car requirements for oversize/overweight loads, in addition to other trucking issues.
- Submit an implementation plan and budget to ALDOT for a pilot car driver certification course.

2.0 Rules and Regulations

To help achieve reciprocity with other states, extensive research was done by UTCA personnel to compare Alabama and other southeastern states regulations with the *Pilot Car Escort (PCE) Training Manual: Best Practice Guidelines* (Specialized Carrier & Rigging Association 2003). UTCA and ALDOT personnel then worked together to recommend changes concerning pilot car operation in The Code of Alabama.

2.1 SASHTO

UTCA personnel reviewed other southeastern state's pilot car rules and regulations. The workers compared dimensional requirements, safety equipment, escort requirements, and other information from southeastern states with the *PCE Guidelines* from the Federal Highway Administration, the Specialized Carrier & Rigging Association, and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. These comparisons were performed in 2008 and reflect the requirements at that time. Table 2-1 shows the comparison of current Alabama requirements with the PCE Guidelines. Appendix A contains similar comparisons with Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Following the review, Dr. Lindly met with the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Multi-State Permit Group to discuss a potential "Regional Pilot Car Certification." He presented recommended treatments for 15 variables concerning pilot cars and received recommendations in return from the Multi-State Permit group. The product of his presentation would help develop the ALDOT program. The recommendations from Dr. Lindly and from SASHTO can be seen in Appendix B. To date, SASHTO has not taken action concerning regional certification, but ALDOT hopes that its work in this area will stimulate renewed interest in regional certification.

Table 1-1. Alabama escort requirements comparison

| | Alabama Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Height | Overall load height greater than 16' requires 1 front escort with height pole | Load height greater than 14' 6" requires 1 front escort w/ vertical clearance measuring device |
| Width | Overall load width greater than 12' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort, see notes 1 & 2 | 1)Load width greater than 12' requires one front escort (2 lane rd) 1 rear escort(multi lane rd) 2) Load width greater than 14' requires one front and one rear escort |
| Length | Overall load whose length is between 75' and 105' requires 1 rear escort Overall load length greater than 105' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort | 1)Load length greater than 90' requires one rear escort 2)Load length greater than 150' requires one front & one rear escort |
| Rear Overhang | Rear overhang greater than 5' requires 1 rear escort, see note 3 | |
| Front Overhang | Front overhang greater than 10' requires 1 front escort, see note 3 | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | Minimum of 1escort | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | When Escort is required, front & rear bumper or roof mounting | Top mount visible from front & rear for 100' |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 7' x 18", Width is 48" or more | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black Letters, 10" high x 2" wide black , 1.625" brush stroke, yellow or orange background | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Flags | Red 18" square, displayed front & rear corners | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Lights | Amber flashing or revolving lights, roof mount only. Visible @ 1,000 ft. 120 degree visibility. | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 1) Two 5" flashing amber lights mounted 6' from ground at rear corners of mobile homes. System controls in tractor cab w warning device for malfunction | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500' in daylight |
| Communication Equipment | Ability to communicate with oversize load driver or vehicles, CB or 2-way radio with at least ½ mile range | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | Loads that are greater than 150' in length are restricted to travel between 9am and 3pm, M-F in metro areas | |
| Railroad Crossings | Restricted to cross if traveling less than 10mph or clearance is less than 1/2" per ft of distance between 2 adjacent axles or less than 9" clearance above the surface | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |

Table 2-1. Alabama escort requirements comparison

| | Alabama Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|---|--|---|
| Pre Railroad Crossing | Stop not less than 15' nor greater than 50' from 1st track and check both ways | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | Do not cross if warning signal or flagman is present until signaled | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | Pickup truck or passenger vehicle, carryall or station wagon, Passenger vehicle or light truck under 10,000 lbs. GVW | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | Orange vest or jacket. Stop / Slow hand sign. 2 ea. 16" square hand flags. | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18" in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | | 1)Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | | 2)Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |
| Mobile homes | 1) Overall width greater than 12' requires one front escort and 1 rear escort (rear escort may be replaced by additional lighting system.) | |
| | 2) Overall length greater than 76-105' requires one rear escort which may be replaced by an additional lighting system. | |
| | 3) Two 5" flashing amber lights mounted 6' from ground at rear corners of mobile homes | |

2.2 The Code of Alabama

UTCA then studied The Code of Alabama to determine the areas that need to be modified to incorporate the SASHTO recommendations. The Code of Alabama (1975) Section 32-9-29 regulates motor vehicles and traffic. ALDOT and UTCA worked together to update the escort requirements to make them more uniform with the southeastern states. Considering the recommended changes by the SASHTO Multi-State Permit Group and in coordination with Mr. Randy Braden, Assistant Maintenance Bureau Chief of Permits and Operations at the Alabama Department of Transportation, the following changes were recommended:

- Allowing over-width loads to travel on the Interstate.
- Increasing permitted load travel time from sunrise to sunset, instead of 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset.
- Adding Memorial Day as a no-travel holiday for permitted loads.
- Excluding special regulations for construction/off-road equipment.
- Requiring multiple assemblies to maintain a 500-foot interval between the last vehicle in the preceding assembly and the first vehicle of the following assembly, instead of a 500-foot interval between the permitted loads.
- Adding a clause requiring the permitted party to contact the Alabama Department of Transportation Permit Office for an alternative route if the permitted route becomes inaccessible.
- Requiring an escort with a height indicator for loads over 14 feet 6 inches instead of over 16 feet.
- Requiring loads 12'-14' wide to have one front escort on two-lane roads and one rear escort on multilane roads and one front and one rear escort on all roads for loads over 14' wide. Previously all loads over 12' wide required a front and rear escort.
- Requiring mobile homes to have one front escort on two-lane roads and one rear escort with approved lighting system for multi-lane roads instead of allowing the rear escort to be replaced with the approved lighting system.
- The approved lighting system now consists of rotating or strobe amber lights that are visible 360° instead of two 5" flashing amber lights mounted approximately 6' from the ground on the rear corners of the mobile home.
- Requiring rear escorts for lengths 90-150' inclusive instead of 76-105'.
- Requiring front and rear police escorts for loads over 150' instead of civilian escorts.
- Adding a clause allowing the Alabama Department of Transportation Permit Office to only require one police escort for some loads over 150'.

- Extending the rear overhang length from 5' to 10' for requiring a rear escort.
- Excluding special escort requirements for bulldozers and other construction equipment being transported with the blade intact.
- Adding that an escort vehicle must be a properly licensed vehicle and can be a sport utility vehicle. Carry alls and station wagons were excluded from the list of accepted vehicles.
- Adding that the escort vehicle must provide an unobstructed 360° view for safety.
- Requiring the escort vehicle to be equipped with two 18" square red flags mounted on the roof at 45° and two rotating or strobe amber lights that are visible 360° instead of no flags and just requiring flashing or revolving lights.
- Requiring the escort vehicle's light to be turned to low beam.
- Requiring that an "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign be placed on the front and rear of any overwidth or overlength vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads.
- Requiring that an "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign be mounted on the front of the escort vehicle (for a front escort) and on the rear of the escort vehicle (for rear escort).
- Adding the "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign should be five feet by 12" with black letters 10" high with 1½" brush stroke on a yellow background.
- Adding a clause stating front escorts should provide enough room between them and the load to be able to alert the load to stop and rear escorts should follow 3-4 seconds behind.

These recommended changes are currently under review by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

3.0 Pilot Car Driver Training Feasibility

During the course of the project, ALDOT and UTCA personnel investigated pilot car driver certification programs of other states to determine the feasibility of establishing a program in Alabama that could gain reciprocity with neighboring states.

3.1 Format Determination

Many states have reciprocity for pilot car certification with other states. Using several department of transportation websites and private contacts, UTCA compiled Table 3-1, which lists states that require certification and the other states with which they have reciprocity. As shown in the table, New York and Virginia do not accept any other certifications. Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, and Washington certifications are accepted in all states requiring a certification (with the exclusion of New York and Virginia).

Table 3-1. Certification reciprocity

| State | Acceptable Certifications |
|----------------|--|
| Arizona | Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, Washington |
| Colorado | Florida, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington |
| Florida | Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin |
| Kansas | All other states |
| New York | None |
| North Carolina | Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, New York, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, Washington |
| Oklahoma | Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington |
| Oregon | Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington |
| Utah | Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Washington |
| Virginia | None |
| Washington | Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah |

Considering Florida’s large number of reciprocal states, its close physical relation with Alabama, and its program’s structure of using the University of Florida’s Transportation Technology (T²) Center to manage the program, ALDOT and UTCA selected Florida’s certification program as a model. UTCA contacted the T² Center, which graciously shared its teaching materials. After examining the materials, UTCA proposed to the ALDOT Research Advisory Committee a project to initiate the program and teach the first five to eight certification classes in Alabama. The proposal was accepted and has been contracted as ALDOT Research Project 930-772, which extends from April 2010 to August 15, 2011.

The project will involve producing training materials and teaching the course, as well as establishing items such as appropriate fees, teaching schedules, and the appropriate number of

students per course. The project will determine the following administrative procedures for the course:

- Application forms
- Course eligibility (valid driver's license, etc.)
- Registration certificate
- Certified pilot car operators list maintenance

Once course materials have been approved and policies have been determined, UTCA will employ course trainers (probably Alabama State Troopers who deal routinely with pilot car escorts) and initiate the course using the following steps:

- Produce an attractive website that will provide clear information to the user and that will be easily modified when required.
- Advertise the course using the frequent contact the ALDOT Permits & Operations group has with trucking companies and pilot car operators.
- Present the course at five to eight locations around the state.
- Evaluate the program as a means of modifying the program if required.
- Produce an administration manual that will provide an easy transition of the course from UTCA control to ALDOT control.

4.0 Truckers Guide

During the project, ALDOT and UTCA agreed that some of the original project objectives should be curtailed or incorporated into remaining objectives. This agreement reduced the workload on the UTCA staff. To compensate, ALDOT and UTCA agreed that UTCA would coordinate the writing of a booklet that would contain useful information for freight haulers in Alabama. The document is called *Truckers Guide to Permits, Weights, and other Commercial Vehicle Regulations*. UTCA would supply the *Guide* in publishable format, and ALDOT would print an appropriate number of copies.

ALDOT suggested that five agencies provide information for the booklet:

- Alabama Department of Public Safety Motor Carrier Safety Unit
- Alabama Department of Revenue
- Alabama Department of Transportation Permitting Office
- Alabama Public Service Commission
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

The five agencies met and agreed upon a “frequently asked questions” format for the *Guide*, and each group supplied information for it. UTCA coordinated the effort, with highly-valuable editing help from ALDOT’s Mr. Randy Braden. The result is a 28-page document in Microsoft Publisher format. The first three pages of the completed document are shown in Appendix C as an example of the style and content. The handbook contains answers to many truckers’ questions, and a sample of the question topics is shown below:

- Commercial driver’s license
- Medical cards
- USDOT numbers
- Weight limits
- License plates
- International fuel tax agreement
- Oversize/overweight permits
- Required escorts
- Required insurance
- Interstate vs. intrastate operations

The completed document has been forwarded to ALDOT.

5.0 Summary

The State of Alabama does not currently require pilot car driver certification. However, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) wishes to investigate certification within Alabama and reciprocity of certification with neighboring states. Accordingly, ALDOT retained the University Transportation Center for Alabama (UTCA) to investigate these possibilities, and this report summarizes the investigation.

Efforts focused on three areas:

- Facilitate an update of escort requirements section of the *Overweight & Overdimensional Permits Office Rules & Regulations, § 32-9-29, Code of Alabama (1975)*.
- Compile a *Truckers Guide* that answers frequently asked questions from truckers about permits, escorts, and other topics.
- Submit an implementation plan and budget to ALDOT for a pilot car driver certification course.

Completed action has been taken in the three areas as follows:

- Modified text for the Rules & Regulations has been completed in consultation with ALDOT Permits Office personnel. The modifications will not take effect in Alabama unless they are adopted under the Administrative Procedures Act.
- The *Truckers Guide* has been completed electronically in Microsoft Publisher format. It is a 28-page document with input from five agencies essential to freight transportation.
- UTCA submitted a proposal to ALDOT to write training materials and teach the first five to eight sessions of a pilot car driver certification course. The proposal has been funded, and the training courses are to be taught before August 15, 2011.

6.0 Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank several individuals and agencies without whom the proposed modifications to the *Rules and Regulations* and the writing of the *Truckers Guide* could not have taken place. First, Mr. Randy Braden, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer at ALDOT, provided insight and working knowledge of the permits and pilot car programs that were indispensable to the project. Additionally, five agencies or units provided “frequently-asked questions” (and answers) that provide the basis of the *Truckers Guide*, and they are owed great thanks:

- Alabama Department of Public Safety Motor Carrier Safety Unit
- Alabama Department of Revenue
- Alabama Department of Transportation Permitting Office
- Alabama Public Service Commission
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

7.0 References

- Blakey, M.C. *National Transportation Safety Board Safety Recommendation, H-01-32 and -33*. National Transportation Safety Board. 2001. Retrieved April 3, 2010, from http://www.nts.gov/Recs/letters/2001/H01_32_33.pdf.
- Specialized Carriers & Riggers Association. *Pilot Car Escort Training Manual: Best Practices Guidelines*. Washington, D.C.: Specialized Carriers & Riggers Association. 2003.

Appendix A
State Escort Requirements Comparison (2008)

Table A-1. Florida escort requirements comparison

| | Florida Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Height | 1) Overheight vehicle and/or load whose height is greater than 14' 6" and up to 16' requires 1 front escort vehicle with a vertical height indicator | |
| | 2) Overheight vehicle and/or load whose height exceeds 16' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort vehicles and height pole, a minimum of one must be law enforcement. Appropriate utility personnel will also be required whenever the load will encounter low barriers, such as overhead structures, traffic signals, and low wires | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device |
| Width | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is greater than 12' and up to 14' requires min 1 escort vehicle. (See Note1) | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is greater than 14' and up to 16' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort vehicles | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width exceeds 16' requires same as criteria for "Over 14 Feet up to 16 Feet" except movement will be restricted to local moves | |
| Length | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is greater than 80' and up to 95' requires warning lights on the top of the vehicle and the rear of the load. | |
| | 2) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 95' requires escort vehicle(s), and warning lights on the top of the vehicle and the rear of load. | |
| | 3) Truck tractor semi-trailers with three points of articulation are allowed up to 105 feet without an escort vehicle. (See note 2) | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| Rear Overhang | When overhang exceeds 4 ft requires two red lamps and two red reflectors and on each side of the load shall be one red lamp visible from a distance of at least 500 ft | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Front Overhang | When overhang exceeds 4 feet, a warning light is required on the top of the vehicle visible from a distance of at least 500 ft | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | 1) All Escort vehicles shall display either a bumper mounted or a roof mounted (or may display both) sign, which must be visible from front and rear. | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |

Table A-1. Florida escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| | 2) All vehicles or loads exceeding 10ft in width, exceeding legal length, or exceeding legal overhang must display two warning signs. Voids (holes) can be cut in warning signs for lights. One sign shall be fastened at the front of the power unit and the other at the rear of the towed unit or at the rear of the load. Signs must not cover any vehicle light or reflector. | |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 18" x 7' | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | 1) Black letters, min 12" high, min 1.50" wide brush stroke, yellow background for load vehicle | |
| | 2) Black letters min 10" high and 1.50" wide on yellow background for escort vehicle | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | 1) All escort vehicles must be equipped with Class 2 amber warning lights | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 2) All vehicles or loads exceeding 10' in width or 14' 6" in height shall have warning lights. Lights shall be mounted at least one at the front and at least one at the rear of the load so as to be seen by approaching traffic at all distances between 50' and 500' under clear atmospheric conditions. | |
| | 3) When overhang exceeds 4 ft requires two red lamps and two red reflectors and on each side of the load shall be one red lamp visible from a distance of at least 500 ft | |
| | 4) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 80' requires warning lights on the top of the vehicle and the rear of load. | |
| Communication Equipment | Operable two-way electronic communications. Qualified escorts must be in radio contact with load drivers at all times during movements. | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | Escort vehicle(s) must be a single unit vehicle weighing more than 2,000 pounds with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating less than 15,000 pounds, must be properly licensed, and must be operated by a qualified escort | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |

Table A-1. Florida escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Flags | 1) Escort vehicle(s) shall have two flags, either red or fluorescent orange in color, which must be at least 12"x12", shall be mounted at approximately a 40 to 70 degree angle on the escort vehicle's roof rack | |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is less than 10' requires only flags and up to 16' requires flags, and warning lights | |
| | 3) Flags shall be clean, have high visibility, and be displayed so as to wave freely on four corners of over width loads and at the extreme ends of all 3 protrusions, projections, or overhangs | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Escort Identification | Identification signs or placards showing the name of the company or the owner or driver of the escort vehicle must be in a conspicuous place on both the right and left sides of the escort vehicle. The signs or placards shall be at least 8"x12", or contain the equivalent square inches, and shall also contain the telephone number of the owner or driver plainly legible and visible to the motoring public | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | Two 5-lb. fire extinguishers, "STOP" and "GO" or "STOP" and "SLOW" paddle (minimum 18 inches in diameter with 6-inch high letters), one hand-held flag (either red or fluorescent orange in color and at least 12" x 12"), two oversize banners, safety orange vest, shirt, or jacket, hard hat, 3 reflective triangles or 18 inch traffic cones, height indicator, i.e., height pole for over height loads | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | Qualified escorts shall operate no more than 300 ft in front of or behind the load unless road conditions dictate otherwise | 1)Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | | 2)Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |

Table A-1. Florida escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools</p> | <p>1) All manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools over 12ft up to 16ft requires min 1 escort and min 4 warning lights mounted two in the front and two in the rear at each corner of the towed or hauled unit.</p> | |
| <p>Travel Restrictions</p> | <p>Unless otherwise noted on the permit, movements are prohibited on weekends and holidays</p> | |
| | <p>1) No travel is allowed when road conditions, weather conditions, or horizontal visibility is less than 1,000 feet. Vehicles which are underway when inclement weather occurs must exit the road at the first available safe location and park in a safe place until the weather clears or until road conditions improve</p> | |
| | <p>2) Width up to 10', length of 65'-80', front overhang of 3'-9' on total length up to 40', front overhang over 9' on total length up to 50' and height up to 14'6". Movement permitted all days, all hours</p> | |
| | <p>3) Overall width between 12'-16' may be restricted in congested areas during peak traffic hours</p> | |
| | <p>4) Movement of empty truck tractor semi-trailers up to 11 feet in width, not exceeding 105 feet in length, traveling on or within five miles of limited access roadways, when operating with a valid permit will be allowed to travel nighttime hours</p> | |

1) On roadway lanes less than 12ft wide, bridges with less than 30ft curb to curb, and in rural areas with traffic volume greater than 12,000 Average Daily Traffic (hereinafter ADT) per lane or in urbanized areas (more than 50,000 population) with ADT greater than 8,000 vehicles per lane, 2 qualified escorts are required except on loads with a minimum of four warning lights mounted two in front and two in the rear at each corner of the towed or hauled unit

2) Movement over 85 feet shall have time restrictions in areas with traffic volume greater than 12,000 ADT per lane or in urbanized areas (more than 50,000 population) with ADT greater than 8,000 vehicles per lane

Table A-2. Georgia escort requirements comparison

| Criteria | GA Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Height | Overheight vehicle and/or load whose height is 15ft 6" or greater requires 1 front escort with Height Sensor, unless the hauler has a valid ticket from the Utility Protection Center | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12ft and 14' 8" requires 1 front escort and amber lights on the rear of the load vehicle on a 2 lane road; only 1 rear escort on a multi lane road; and 1 rear amber light on a limited access highway. | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road. |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 14' 8" and 16' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort on 2 lane road; only 1 rear escort on a multi lane road, or on a limited access highway | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width exceeds 16', the Department shall determine escort requirements on a case by case basis and may require a Police Escort | |
| Length | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is between 75"ft and 100' requires amber light on the load vehicle | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| | 2) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is between 100' and 125' requires 1 rear escort | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 125' requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. | |
| Rear Overhang | No information | |
| Front Overhang | No information | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | 1) Sign shall be mounted on the front of the escort vehicle (for a front escort) and to the rear of the escort vehicle (for a rear escort) | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| | 2) Sign shall be mounted on both front & rear of the vehicle or load which is over 8' 6" wide, 13' 6" high and 100' in length. Such signs shall be removed when an oversize load is no longer being transported by a vehicle that exceeds the legal dimensions. | |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 1' x 6' | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black Letters, 8" high, 4" wide, on orange or yellow background | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | Revolving or flashing amber warning light on top of the vehicle | Top mount two or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500 ft in daylight |

Table A-2. Georgia escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Communication Equipment | Escort vehicle and load vehicles will be equipped with two-way constant radio, in good working order | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | Automobile or pickup truck | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | A red square 18" flag, on a side, shall be displayed at the corners (both side corners front & rear) of a vehicle or load which is over 8'6" wide, 13'6" high and 100' in length. | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Escort Identification | No information | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | No information | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | No information | 1)Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | | 2)Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |

Table A-2. Georgia escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools | No information | |
|--|----------------|--|

Table A-3. Kentucky escort requirements comparison

| Criteria | Kentucky Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Height | The max. height for each single-trip overdimensional permit shall be determined by the cabinet, based upon underpass and bridge heights along the designated route. | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 10' 6" and 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road. |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12ft and 14ft requires 1 front&1 rear escorts on 2 lane road; and only 1 rear escort on multi lane road | |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 14ft and 16ft requires 1 front and 1 rear escort. | |
| | 4) If over 16ft requires 1 front and 2 rear escorts. | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Length | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is between 75ft and 85ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| | 2) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 85ft requires 1 front&1 rear escorts on 2 lane road | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is between 110ft and 120 ft requires 1 rear escort on multilane road | |
| | 4) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 120ft requires 1 front&1 rear escorts on multilane road | |
| Rear Overhang | Overhang exceeding 10ft in rear requires an escort. | |
| Front Overhang | Maximum 10ft front overhang | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | A vehicle exceeding 10' 6" in width or having front overhang shall display 2 warning signs which shall be mounted at the front of the power unit and the rear end of the towed unit or at the rear of the load. | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 7' x 18" | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black Letters, 1.4" brush stroke, yellow background | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | 1) Amber strobe lights or flashing light on the escort vehicle | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 2) Escort vehicle shall keep its headlamps lit at all times the vehicle is on or beside a highway | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500 ft in daylight |

Table A-3. Kentucky escort requirements comparison

| | | |
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| | 3) If the front overhang exceeds 10ft, an amber strobe or flashing light shall be placed on the power unit of the towing vehicle and shall be in use any time the power unit is in operation. (See the same remark in criteria "Front Overhang") | |
| Communication Equipment | The towing vehicle shall maintain radio contact with each required escort vehicle. | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | No information | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | 1) Red or orange fluorescent flags which are a minimum of eighteen (18) inches square shall be displayed on each vehicle and load operating under the auspices of either an overlength or an overwidth permit. | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| | 2) Vehicles operating overwidth shall display four warning flags; one at each of the four corners, and if any portion of the load extends beyond the four corners, additional flags shall be displayed at the widest points of the load. | |
| | 3) Vehicles operating overlength or with a rear end overhang shall display two warning flags at the extreme rear of the vehicle or load. These flags shall be located to indicate maximum width of the rear end | |
| Escort Identification | Post appropriate signs on the vehicle. | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | As a special provision of the permit, the Department of Vehicle Regulation may require additional escort vehicles, lighting or warning flags. | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | 1) Required escort vehicles shall accompany the overdimensional vehicle at a distance of 300 feet on open highways | 1)Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |

Table A-3. Kentucky escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | 2) In cities or congested areas, the escort vehicle shall travel at a distance closer than 300 feet as necessary to protect other traffic. | 2) Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |
| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools | 1) A manufactured home with a combined length of manufactured home and towing vehicle greater than 120 feet shall not be towed upon any Kentucky highway. The manufactured home shall not exceed eighty-five (85) feet in length | |
| | 2) House moving permits shall not be issued unless the movement is done during off-peak hours when other traffic will be least affected. The mover shall be required to furnish all escorts and flagmen required in the interest of public safety. | |
| Speed | 1) Load traveling below the average speed of traffic on a 2 lane road requires 1 rear escort. | |
| | 2) Loads that do not maintain 45mph on a multilane road require 1 rear escort | |
| Travel Restriction | 1) The department may further prohibit movements in congested areas within the peak traffic hours. The additional restrictions shall be noted on the permit when issued. | |
| | 2) House moving shall be done during off-peak hours when other traffic will be least affected | |
| | 3) Travel on all overweight and overdimensional permits shall not be permitted in Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Fayette, Jefferson County (Louisville) or at the Owensboro, Kentucky 2155 bridge from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. | |
| | 4) Moves of overdimensional loads more than twelve (12) feet wide shall not be made on any highway if wind velocity exceeds twenty-five (25) MPH; or if adverse weather conditions or road conditions would cause these moves to be dangerous. | |

As a special provision of the permit, the Department of Vehicle Regulation may require additional escort vehicles, lighting or warning flags.

Table A-4. Mississippi escort requirements comparison

| Criteria | Mississippi Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Height | No information | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12ft and 16ft, 1 front escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load is required on 2 lane road; 1 rear escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load (multi lane road) | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road |
| | | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Length | Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 99ft requires at least 1escort; escorts may be increased to front and rear according to routes and or loads. | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| | No information | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Rear Overhang | Load vehicle with an overhang of 15ft or greater requires 1 rear and/or 1 front escort depending on the location of the overhang(s) | |
| Front Overhang | | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | 1) Sign shall be mounted on top of the vehicle and mounted on front and back of rear escort vehicles. | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| | 2) If the escort vehicle travels from front to back of load, escort must have an Oversize Load sign on front and rear of escort vehicle | |
| | 3) Sign is required on all loads in excess of 12ft. | |
| | 4) Earth Moving Equipment must have "Wide Load" signs on each unit and each escort vehicle. | |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 84" x 18" | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black Letters, 10" high with 1.625" brush stroke on yellow or orange background | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | 1) Amber flashing or revolving lights mounted on the top of escort vehicle | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 2) Load exceeding 10ft in width, towing vehicles, escorts, and trailers shall operate all legally required running lights including headlights | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500 ft in daylight |
| | 3) Earth Moving Equipment must have flashing amber lights | |
| Communication Equipment | Two way communication required on all loads requiring escorts. | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |

Table A-4. Mississippi escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | A single motor vehicle with flashing or revolving lights and 2 red flags | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | 1) Two (2) Red 18" square flags, displayed on top of the vehicle. | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| | 2) Loads between 10ft and 12ft in width requires the use of only red flags mounted on all corners of the load, at least 6ft above the pavement | |
| | 3) Loads exceeding 12ft in width must display red flags on the front corners of loads and mount flashing amber lights on rear corners | |
| Escort Identification | No information | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | No information | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | No information | 1) Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | | 2) Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |
| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and | 1) Earth Moving Equipment, motor cane and/or off-road self-powered equipment, and manufactured homes require escorts with a height pole and/or additional escorts due to particular loads and/or routes | |
| | 2) Earth Moving Equipment must have escorts 1 front& 1 rear, flashing amber lights, on load and radio contact with all units. Must have "Wide Load" signs on each escort vehicle. | |

Table A-4. Mississippi escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| swimming pools | 3) MDOT can require additional escorts for safety measures as deemed advisable due to particular loads and/or routes for manufactured homes. | |
| Speed | Must be able to travel with flow of traffic | |
| Time Restrictions | Monday through Saturday from 30 minutes after sun-rise to 30 minutes before sunset unless otherwise specified on the blanket | |
| | 1) 57 foot box van trailers, which are otherwise legal, are allowed seven day twenty four hour movement with a blanket permit | |
| | 2) Sealed containers which are allowed seven day twenty four hour movement with a permit | |
| | 3) Transports of loads in excess of twelve (12) feet shall time movements to avoid the major urban areas of Jackson, Memphis/Southaven and the Gulf Coast (excluding I-10) from 7:00 am to 8:30 am and from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm | |

Vehicles will need only flags if Vehicle total length is equal or less than 99ft and trailer, itself, is equal or less than 53 ft.

Table A-5. North Carolina escort requirements comparison

| Criteria | North Carolina Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Height | Overheight vehicle and/or load whose height exceeds 14'5" requires 1 front escort with 'Height Pole Indicator'. | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width | Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on a 2 lane/2 way traffic highways; and only 1 rear escort on a multi lane road. | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road. |
| | Loads whose width exceeds 14ft requires 2 escorts on 2 lane/2way highways. | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Length | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is between 110' and 150' requires 1 rear escort | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| | 2) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 150' requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 100' and whose weight exceeds 132,000lbs requires 1 rear escort. (See the same remark in "Weight" criteria) | |
| Rear Overhang | Excessive overhang requires 1 escort | |
| Front Overhang | Excessive overhang requires 1 escort | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | Sign shall be mounted on bumper or roof. ("WIDE LOAD" OR "OVERSIZE LOAD") | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | Sign is required to extend the entire width of the escort vehicle or bumper. | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black Letters, 10" x 1.5" brush stroke lettering, yellow background, visible from the front or rear as required by location of the escort vehicle. | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | 1) Flashing amber lights - rotating sealed beam or strobe light, min 5" diameter base/min 4" lens height to be mounted on the top of the escort vehicle | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 2) Headlamps must be running during movement | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500 ft in daylight |
| Communication Equipment | 2-way radio contact must be maintained with power unit of permitted load. | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |

Table A-5. North Carolina escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | A truck (single vehicle) at least 1/4 ton rated load capacity but no more than 17,000 pounds GVWR or a single passenger vehicle at least 2000 pounds gross weight. | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | No information | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Escort Identification | 1) Escort vehicles must display placards or identification signs measuring at least 8"x12" providing escort company's or individual's name, address and telephone number. Display on the right and left side of the escort vehicle. | |
| | 2) Escort vehicle operators must carry their certificate card while escorting a permitted load. No driver or passenger other than a certified escort vehicle operator will be allowed to travel in the escort vehicle. | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | No information | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | Escort vehicles shall accompany the overdimensional vehicle at a distance of 300ft to 500ft whichever is appropriate for the geographic location | 1)Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | | 2)Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |

Table A-5. North Carolina escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools | <p><u>The requirements for vehicles escorting 16' wide mobile homes are different than those indicated above, reference publication MH-2.</u></p> | |
| Weight | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 100' and whose weight exceeds 132,000lbs requires 1 rear escort. (See the same remark in "Length" criteria) | |
| | 2) Load whose weight of 150,000lbs or greater requires 1 front escort. | |

Multiple escorts may be required for a combination of over dimensions.

Additional escorts may be required for any vehicle/vehicle combination with individual consideration of width, length, height, weather, geographic location or route of travel as determined by issuing agent.

Table A-6. South Carolina escort requirements comparison

| Criteria | South Carolina Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Height | Overheight vehicle and/or load whose height exceeds 16' requires 1 front escort with height measuring device | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width (See Note 1&2) | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12'1 and 14' requires 1 front escort vehicle on 2 lane road, the Department reserves the right to require a rear escort where it is deemed necessary for safety purposes. | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 14' 1and 16' requires 1 front&1rear escort vehicles | |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width exceeds 16' requires at least 1front&1rear civilian and 1 rear police escort vehicles | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Length | Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 125' require 1 front and 1 rear civilian escort | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| Rear Overhang | Loads on expandable or pole trailers with more than a six (6) foot rear overhang shall be equipped with flags and a rotating amber beacon or strobe light on the rear of the load or flags and a rear escort with such warning devices as may be required by the Department. Overhang that exceeds 15 feet require one rear escort for interstate routes and one front and rear for intra state routes. | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Front Overhang | No information | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | All Escort vehicles are required to mount to sign reading "WIDE LOAD" or "OVERSIZE LOAD" on the front of the front escort vehicle and on the rear of the rear escort vehicle, on front and rear of all loads and mobile homes 12 ft wide and wider | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | No information | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | 12" high and 1.5" wide letters on all loads and mobile homes 12 ft wide or wider | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | A rotating amber beacon or strobe light must be displayed on top of all escort vehicles | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 1) Rotating amber beacon or strobe light on the rear of the mobile home or load 12'-14- in width | |
| | 2) Rotating amber beacon or strobe light on each outer rear corner of all loads or mobile homes over 14ft wide up including 16 ft wide. | |

Table A-6. South Carolina escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Communication Equipment | Radio contact between the escort vehicles and the towing vehicles at all times | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | must comply with SC Code of Law 56-5-2725 | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | No information | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Escort Identification | No information | |
| Flags | Red flags must be displayed at each outer four corners of the load or mobile home exceeding 12ft in width | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Escort Identification | No information | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | No information | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | No information | 1)Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | No information | 2)Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |

Table A-6. South Carolina escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools</p> | <p>The maximum speed on the Interstate highways of this State for a new mobile home shall be 10mph less than posted, not to exceed 55mph. All other mobile homes are not to exceed 45mph. Loads shall not exceed 55mph on the Interstate.</p> | |
| <p>Time Restrictions</p> | <p>Travel shall be made between one-half (1/2) hour after sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour before sunset Monday through Saturday.</p> | |
| | <p>1) No movement shall be allowed during inclement weather such as heavy rain or fog when visibility is restricted to less than 1,000 feet. Movement shall also be prohibited during periods of high winds or when highways are slippery or hazardous due to ice, snow or sleet. The South Carolina Department of Public Safety Transport Police may direct or escort a vehicle off the highway to a place of safety</p> | |
| | <p>2) No loads or mobile homes over 12 feet wide up to and including 14 feet box width plus a maximum 12 inches top overhang for mobile homes and 15 feet wide for all other loads are to move over the States highways in and in close proximity of large urban areas between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 A.M. or 3:00 and 6:00 P.M. during school days or 7:00 and 9:00 A.M. or 4:30 and 6:00 P.M. other days</p> | |
| <p>3) All loads over 15 feet wide and mobile homes over 14 feet box width up to and including 16 feet wide must be moved Monday through Saturday between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. during school days and 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. other days</p> | | |

1)All loads and mobile homes over 14 feet wide up to and including 16 feet wide must travel on four-lane highways. Travel on two-lane highways will be restricted to 12 foot wide or wider lane width where possible

2)All loads or mobile homes over 14 feet wide up to and including 16 feet wide must be the only vehicle on any bridge that is 18 feet wide or less.

Table A-7. Tennessee escort requirements comparison

| | Tennessee Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | Overheight vehicle and/or loads whose height exceeds 15' require 1 front vehicle with height indicator pole. | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width (See note1&2) | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 10' and 12' 6" requires no escort vehicle on four-lane highways and 1 front escort vehicle where the min pavement width is less than 24' on 2 lane road | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12' 6" and 14' requires 1 rear escort vehicle on four-lane highways and 1 front escort vehicle on two-lane highways | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 14' and 16' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort vehicles on all highways | |
| Length | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length is between 85' and 120' requires 1rear escort vehicle | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| | 2) Overlength vehicle and/or load whose length exceeds 120' requires 1 front&1rear escort vehicles | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Rear Overhang | No information | |
| Front Overhang | No information | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | 1) All movement exceeding 10 ft in width and/or seventy-five (75) feet in length shall bear signs mounted on the front and the rear of the load. | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| | 2) Signs shall be durable wood or metal construction. Heavy canvas or cloth signs, otherwise meeting same requirements, will be permitted if they can be securely fastened to the movement against a flat surface backing up the entire area of the sign. | |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 10' and 16' requires load vehicle and escort vehicles be signed with "OVERSIZE LOAD" | |
| | 4) Escort vehicles shall display bumper mounted or roof mounted yellow sign(s) reading "OVERSIZE LOAD" with black letters a minimum of 10" high, one and 1.5" wide brush stroke, which must be visible from front and rear. | |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 7' x 18" | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black Letters, 10" high with 1.625" brush stroke on yellow background, durable wood or metal construction for load vehicle | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |

Table A-7. Tennessee escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Lights | 1) All escort vehicles must be equipped with a rotating amber light or a strobe type amber light which is visible from at least 500 feet and has a horizontal placement which shall be visible from all directions, 360 degrees. | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 2) Any motor vehicle having a load or vehicle component which extends more than 4' beyond the sides of the vehicle or more than 4' beyond the rear of the vehicle shall have a red flag and a lamp at each point.(See same remark in the 'Flags' criteria) | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500 ft in daylight |
| Communication Equipment | Two way communication device with the permitted load | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | The escort vehicle must be a vehicle weighing more than 2,000 pounds with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating less than 10,000 pounds and must be properly licensed, which is to be used to escort one or more other vehicles, when required, due to the vehicle(s) size or character or load, in accordance with the conditions set forth in a permit issued by the appropriate state agency. | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | A solid red, min 18" square flag | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| | 1) Red flags shall be fastened to the load (front and rear) at the top and bottom of each side which is widest. If the widest part of the load is between the top and the bottom, flags shall be placed at this point both front and rear. | |
| | 2) Any motor vehicle having a load or vehicle component which extends more than 4' beyond the sides of the vehicle or more than 4' beyond the rear of the vehicle shall have a red flag and a lamp at each point. (See same remark in the 'lights' criteria) | |
| | 3) Flags must be fastened to extreme rear of overlength loads. | |
| | 4)Two flags, either red or fluorescent orange in color, which must be at least 18" in size, shall be mounted at approximately a 40 to 70 degree angle on the escort vehicle's roof rack | |

Table A-7. Tennessee escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Escort Identification | Identification signs or placards showing the name of the company or the owner or driver of the escort vehicle must be in a conspicuous place on both the right and left sides. The signs or placards shall be at least 8" x 12" and shall also contain the telephone number of the owner or driver plainly legible and visible to the motoring public | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | 2lbs fire extinguisher; stop and go paddle (18" with 6" letters); safety orange vest, shirt, or jacket; hard hat; reflecting triangles or 18" traffic cones | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | No information | 1) Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | No information | 2) Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |
| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools | 1) All proposed site-built house movements over state highways shall be inspected by a representative of the Department within that region. | |
| | 2) 1 front & 1 rear escort vehicles which are marked with "OVERSIZE LOAD" shall be required for movement of Site-Built Houses | |
| | 3) Mobile home, based on its height and width, may be met by the use of a front escort vehicle having protrusions equal to the height and width of the mobile home. | |
| | 4) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12' 6" and 14' requires 1 rear escort vehicle on four-lane highways and 1 front escort vehicle on two-lane highways which is marked with "OVERSIZE LOAD" | |
| | 5) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 14' and 16' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort vehicles which are marked with "OVERSIZE LOAD" on all highways | |
| | 6) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 16' and 17' requires 1 front & 1 rear escort vehicles which are marked with "OVERSIZE LOAD" on all highways | |

Table A-7. Tennessee escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| | 7) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 17' and 18' requires 2 front & 1 rear escort vehicles which are marked with "OVERSIZE LOAD" on all highways, the towing vehicle must be at least 14' 6" in length | |
| Travel Restrictions | Permits will normally be issued for movements during daylight hours only from sunrise to sunset on Monday through Saturday. Time of movement may be restricted upon, among other things, type of load, traffic volume, roadway conditions, and route of move. | |
| | 1) Movement under special permit will not be allowed during inclement weather when conditions prevail which would make the movement unsafe. | |
| | 2) Movements eight-five feet (85') or greater in length and/or movements in excess of twelve feet six inches (12'6") in width will not be allowed within any city limits or any heavily traveled adjoining commercial or residential area between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (local time) from Monday through Friday. | |
| | 3) Houseboat movements over 14'-16' shall only be made Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. (local time) on Saturday from sunrise to sunset | |
| | 4) Houseboat movements over 16' may be issued special permits for movements Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (local time) | |
| | 5) All vehicles permitted for movement of overweight sealed containerized units are authorized 24 hours continuous movement Monday through Sunday with normal travel conditions. | |

1)The permitted vehicle shall follow the escort vehicle at such a distance and at such a speed as will permit stopping on receipt of advice that any vertical clearance is less than the height of the permitted vehicle.

2) Movements in excess of sixteen feet (16') will not be permitted. A movement needed in the interest of the public welfare, safety, health or defense may be permitted upon submission of proof of necessity, provided the movement is not considered to be detrimental or unsafe to the traveling public and the highway can accommodate the movement.

Table A-8. Virginia escort requirements comparison

| Criteria | Virginia Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Height | 1) Overheight vehicle and/or load whose height exceeds 15ft requires 1 front escort vehicle equipped with a hot-pole. The hot-pole must extend three inches above the specified overall height of the permitted load. | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width | 1) Loads whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front certified escort on all highways. | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road |
| | 2) Loads exceeding 14' in width must have certified escort on all roads. | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Length | Overlength vehicle whose length exceeds 85ft requires 1 rear escort required | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| Rear Overhang | Escort required on all routes - 15 ft or greater | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| Front Overhang | Front escort required on all roads when exceeding 10 feet of front overhang | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | 12ft wide or less can remain attached to bulldozer. Blade must face to rear of the trailer. | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | "Wide Load", "Oversize Load", "Overdimensional Load" or "Overweight Load" displayed on the vehicle and visible to approaching motorists during day and night. | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | | 1' x 5' |
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | 1) At least one amber high-intensity flashing, blinking or alternating light must be located on top of the escort vehicle. The light must be visible for a distance of 500 feet or more. | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | 2) High intensity amber flashing lights must be used on any vehicle operating when either the vehicle or the load is more than 12 feet wide or more than 75 feet long. However, an overdimensional vehicle does not need amber lights if it is accompanied by escort vehicles with amber flashing lights mounted on the top of each escort vehicle. | |
| | 3) The escort vehicle's headlights and any other steady burning exterior light must be turned on while escorting an overweight or oversize vehicle | |
| | 4) One amber flashing light must be located on top of the towing vehicle plus one amber flashing light must be located on the upper rear of vehicle or load being hauled, towed or self-propelled. | |

Table A-8. Virginia escort requirements comparison

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| Communication Equipment | Two-way radio and maintain communication with the permitted vehicle driver and any other escort vehicles in the convoy. | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | Case by case. Contained within the body of the permit | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | No information | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | Red or highly fluorescent orange flags must be displayed at each of the four corners of any vehicle configuration that is overlength. Flags must be placed at the extremes of the width or length. Flags must be 18" square and in good condition. | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Escort Identification | Certification required to be on person and required when escorting loads > 12' in width. | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | 1) The escort vehicle's headlights and any other steady burning exterior light must be turned on while escorting an overweight or oversize vehicle. | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| | 2) A red or any highly visible fluorescent colored jacket or vest and red flags or fluorescent orange flags and paddles reading "STOP" in white letters with a red background. | |
| Distance | Front Escort - Far enough to alert permitted truck to stop if required, usually 1/4 to 1/2 mile in front of load max. | 1) Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |
| | Rear escort - 3 seconds or more behind the load. | 2) Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |

Table A-8. Virginia escort requirements comparison

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| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools | Hauling or towing a mobile home requires an oversize/overweight permit | |
|--|--|--|

Table A-9. West Virginia escort requirements comparison

| | West Virginia Escort Requirements | PCE Training |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Height | Overheight vehicle and/or loads whose width exceeds 15' requires 1 front escort vehicle with height indicator pole on all roads | Load whose height exceeds 14' 6" requires 1 front escort with vertical clearance measuring device. |
| Width | 1) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 10' 6" and 12' requires 1 front escort vehicle on 2 lane road; none on multilane road | 1) Load whose width exceeds 12ft requires 1 front escort on 2 lane road, only 1 rear escort on multi lane road |
| | 2) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 12' 1" and 14' requires 1 front&1rear escort vehicles on 2 lane road; 1 rear escort vehicle on multilane road | 2) Load whose width exceeds 14ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 14' 1" and 15' requires 1 front&1rear escort vehicles on 2 lane road and on multilane road. (Districts and Parkway may require additional escort or time restrictions) | |
| | 4) Overwidth vehicle and/or load whose width is between 15' 1" and 16' requires 2 front&1rear escort vehicles on 2 lane road; and 1 front&2 rear escort vehicles on multilane road | |
| | 5) Overall width of 16'1" and above decided by permit | |
| Length (See note 1) | 1) Overlength vehicle and/or load (tractor & trailer) whose length is between 75' and 95' requires 1 rear escort vehicle on 2lane road; and none on multilane road. | 1) Load whose length exceeds 90ft requires 1 rear escort |
| | 2) Overlength vehicle and/or load (tractor & trailer) whose length is between 95'1" and 100' requires 1 front&1 rear escort vehicles; and 1 rear escort on multilane road. (Districts and Parkway Authority may require additional escorts) | 2) Load whose length exceeds 150 ft requires 1 front & 1 rear escorts. |
| | 3) Overlength vehicle and/or load (tractor & trailer) whose length exceeding 100' 1" requires 1 front&1 rear escort vehicles; and 1 front&1 rear escort vehicles on multilane road. | |
| Rear Overhang | Rear overhang exceeds 10' requires 1 rear escort vehicle | |
| Front Overhang | Front overhang exceeds 10' requires 1 front escort vehicle | |
| Bulldozer Blade Overhang | No information | |
| Oversize Load Sign Required @ | All Escort vehicles are required to mount to sign on bumper or roof of the vehicle and sign must be visible from front and rear | Sign shall be top mounted and visible from front & rear for 100 ft |
| Oversize Load Sign Size | 5' x 12" | 1' x 5' |

Table A-9. West Virginia escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Oversize Load Sign Lettering | Black letters, 10" high with 1.5" brush stroke on yellow background | Black letters at least 10" w 1" brush stroke on yellow background |
| Lights | A rotating or strobe amber yellow plastic, acrylic or glass covered flashing light | Top mount 2 or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights |
| | Light shall be visible from at least 500ft and have a horizontal placement which is visible from all directions 360 degrees | visible for a full 360 degrees for at least 500 ft in daylight |
| Communication Equipment | CB radio or any other two way communication device with the permitted load. | Permanently mounted operable CB radio & backup unit |
| Restricted Travel | No information | |
| Railroad Crossings | No information | Include railroad crossing analysis in route survey |
| | | Evaluate approach rise, descend slope, length of crossing |
| Pre Railroad Crossing | No information | Evaluate and comply with advance railroad notification requirements |
| | | Evaluate approach & descend demographics |
| Escort Vehicle | The escort vehicles must weigh more than 2,000 pounds and have manufacturers gross weight rating less than 26,000 pounds and must be properly licensed. | Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color & size |
| | | Size to transport required equipment, affix required signage, lighting |
| Flags | Two (2) Red or safety orange, min 18" square flags, shall be mounted at a 40 to 70 degree angle on the escort vehicle's roof rack or flags may be mounted on all four corners of the vehicle. | Top mount 2 or more red or orange 18" square flags @ 45 degrees |
| Escort Identification | Identification signs or placards showing the name of the company or the owner or driver of the escort vehicle shall be displayed on the escort vehicle in a conspicuous place on both the right and left side. The signs shall be at least 8" by 12" and shall contain the telephone number of the owner or driver plainly legible to the motoring public. | |
| Escort Vehicles Miscellaneous Equipments | Fire extinguisher (type a-b-c); a slow sign with a handle with the work "STOP" on one side and "SLOW" on the other of not less than 18" in diameter with 6" letters suitable for directing traffic; a safety orange vest, shirt or jacket; a red hand held sign 18" in size; 2 oversize load banners, yellow with black lettering; three reflecting triangles or 18" traffic cones | Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves and a hard hat, stop/slow paddle at least 18in in diameter, the stop face must be red with white letters and the slow face must be yellow with black letters, 10 lb multi-purpose ABC rated fire extinguisher, three reflective triangles or cones and two red flags |
| Distance | No information | 1) Rear escort - 3 to 4 seconds distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load |

Table A-9. West Virginia escort requirements comparison

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | 2)Front escort - the greater of 4 seconds or 1 second distance between the pilot car escort and the overdimensional load for each 10 feet or portion of 10 feet of the load length. Add another second when the load speed exceeds 40 mph. Adjust spacing for hazardous or congested scenarios; however, do not extend the spacing beyond 1/2 mile. |
| Manufactured buildings, manufactured homes, mobile homes, modular buildings, sheds, and swimming pools | No information | |
| Speed | No information | |
| Travel Restrictions | 1) Travel for oversize vehicles which are 14' 0" or less wide, 75' 0" or less length, 10' 0" or less overhang and 14' 0" or less high is allowed where appropriate from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. | |
| | 2) Vehicles traveling only on Interstate or APD routes can travel with dimensions which are 14' 0" or less wide, 95' 0" or less long, 15' 0" or less overhang and 14' 6" or less high from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Oversize vehicles exceeding these dimensions up to and including 16' 0" wide can travel from sunrise to sunset, Monday through Friday. | |
| | 3) Travel for vehicles exceeding 16' 0" wide is allowed only on Sunday mornings. | |
| | 4) Travel for vehicles that are overweight up to and including 110,000 pounds but not oversize is allowed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. | |
| | 5) Overweight vehicle exceeding 110,000 pounds can travel from sunrise to sunset, Monday through Friday. | |
| | 6) Mobile homes up to and including 14' wide can move from sunrise to sunset, Monday through Friday and sunrise until noon on Saturday. | |
| | 7) Mobile homes greater than 14' wide up to and including 16' can move sunrise to sunset, Monday through Thursday and sunrise until 3:00 pm on Friday. | |

Table A-9. West Virginia escort requirements comparison

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| | West Virginia Parkway Authority restricts all vehicles in excess of 14 feet width to movement on Monday through Thursday and Sunday morning daylight until noon. No movement Friday. Loads greater than 16' wide must be able to clear 2' 9" high concrete barriers. | |
| | 15' 1" to 16' width can move Monday through Friday and Sunday morning until noon on two lane highways. | |

1) Pole or extendable trailer can legally carry a load of 80' in length (without permit) not inclusive of front and rear bumpers. Escorts are not required but are encouraged for safety

Escort requirements must be stated within the permit. Districts and Parkway Authority may require additional escort or movement requirements, but never less than those listed.

Appendix B
Regional Pilot Car Certification Recommendations

SASHTO Multi-State Permit Group Meeting
October 23, 2008
Audience Responses to “Regional Pilot Car Certification Update” Presentation

Jay Lindly from the University of Alabama presented “Regional Pilot Car Certification Update” on October 23 to the SASHTO Multi-State Permit Group Meeting. He brought forward recommended treatments of 15 variables that Southeastern states have concerning pilot cars. This follow-up document describes the recommendations and gives the responses from the Multi-State Permit Group. These responses will help form the final list of recommendations. In the descriptions below, PCE stands for *Pilot Car Escort Training Manual: Best Practices Guidelines* by FHWA, SC&RA, and CVSA. MSA stands for the *Multi-State Permit Agreement for Oversize and Overweight Vehicles* dated August 21, 2003.

Escort Vehicle Sign Size

- PCE Recommendation: 5’ x 1’
- MSA Requirement: No information
- Our Recommendation: Follow PCE
- Comments: Will it be top mounted or side mounted? (PCE specifies top mounted.) Where will flags be placed (at each end of sign?) Will sign be mounted at 90° or will it be slanted back to lower wind resistance? Will it be “louvered” (presumably to let air through and create less drag).

Signage Letter Dimension and Colors

- PCE Recommendation: 10” x 1” black lettering with yellow background
- MSA Requirement: 10” x 1.5” black lettering with yellow background
- Our Recommendation: 10” x 1.5” black lettering with yellow background (no orange)
- Comments: Standard for 1 foot tall signs is 8” x 1.25”. Should it be reflectorized for night? Should it just be a painted background?

Load Vehicle Front Overhang

- PCE Recommendation: No recommendation
- MSA Requirement: No information
- Our Recommendation: >10 feet, use 1 front escort.
- Comments: Is this for all routes? Some utility companies have 5 foot long poles that stick out and could be dangerous. Is this getting too picky; should we let each state decide?

Load Vehicle Rear Overhang

- PCE Recommendation: no recommendation

- MSA Requirement: no information
- Our Recommendation: >10 ft, use 1 rear escort.
- Comments: Rear overhangs are not as serious as front. All states are different; that's why PCE made no recommendation. Industry comment, "We just hang a light off it unless overall length says to use an escort."

Distance of Pilot Car from Escort

- PCE Recommendation: Rear escort should be 3-4 seconds behind. Front escort distance is provided by a formula based on speed and load length.
- MSA Requirement: No information
- Our Recommendation: Rear escort should be 3-4 seconds behind. Front escort should give enough room to alert the load to stop (1/4 mile to 1/2 mile is typical).
- Comments: Common sense should prevail. On rear escort, why not say, "Provide enough room to alert load to stop" and leave off the distances.

Pilot Car Lights

- PCE Recommendation: Top mount two or more high intensity amber flashing or rotating lights.
- MSA Requirement: Rotating or strobe amber light. Must be visible for ≥ 500 ft and 360° . Low beam headlights on at all times.
- Our Recommendation: Top mount two or more high intensity, amber, strobe or rotating lights. Escort car headlights on. 360° visibility.
- Comments: Take out the 500 feet; no one knows how to define "visible" at 500 feet. We should specify an "AAMVA approved" light, instead.

Pilot Car Flags

- PCE Recommendation: Top mount two or more red or orange 18" square flags at 45° .
- MSA Requirement: Top mount two red or fluorescent orange flags ≥ 18 " square on each side of roof rack at 40° - 70° .
- Our Recommendation: Same as PCE but eliminate orange color.
- Comments: FMCSA says red or orange, now, says Jay Thompson of Arkansas.

Load Height Requiring Pilot Car

- PCE Recommendation: >14'-6" requires 1 front escort with height indicator
- MSA Requirement: Not applicable: MSA agreement does not include vehicles over 14 feet.
- Our Recommendation: Follow PCE.
- Comments: Industry rep said, "I like a pole car at 14'-6"."

Time Restrictions on Travel

- PCE Recommendation: No recommendation
- MSA Requirements: M-F 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset and Saturday from 30 minutes after sunrise to noon. Travel not allowed on six specific

holidays. Special state restrictions for urban areas (these are specified in Appendix J of the MSA). Travel not allowed in inclement weather.

- Our Recommendation: Same as MSA
- Comments: Industry might not like the MSA time frame; it might like longer hours. On inclement weather, judgment is required. VA: we use 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset to avoid high crash times. Arkansas rep said, “Use sunrise to sunset”. Mississippi is changing to sunrise to sunset. Teamwork is needed between the escort and the carrier so that everyone knows when sunrise is in various states. Majority opinion: change hours to sunrise to sunset (note taker wasn’t certain whether this meant 5 days per week or 6 days per week.)

Load Length Requiring Pilot Car

- PCE Recommendation:
 - 90-150 feet long, use 1 rear escort
 - >150 feet long: 1 front and 1 rear escort
- MSA Requirement: Not applicable because maximum allowable length is 100 ft.
- Our recommendation: Follow PCE
- Comments: There seem to be more and more moves requiring rear escorts these days. In Louisiana, one (police?) escort can escort 2 different load vehicles. Sometimes, there are not enough police to escort loads.

Load Width Requiring Pilot Car

- PCE Recommendation:
 - 12’ – 14’: 1 front on 2-lane roads; 1 rear on multi-lane
 - >14’: 1 front and 1 rear on all roads
- MSA Requirement:
 - Minimum of 1 escort for widths over 12 feet. States may be more restrictive for high volume roads and lanes < 12 feet wide.
 - Maximum allowable width is 14 feet for the MSA agreement.
- Our recommendation:
 - 12’ – 14’: 1 front on all 2-lane roads; 1 rear on multi-lane
 - >14’ – 16’: 1 front and 1 rear on all roads
 - >16’: meet individual state’s requirements
- Comments: Industry rep said, “Leave it to states’ discretion over 16 feet.” Mississippi said there is too much geographic, lane width, etc. variables to allow uniformity. Route specific exceptions should always be allowed. Some states may require law enforcement officer when load is over 16’ wide.

Escort Vehicle Type

- PCE Recommendation: Select vehicle to create maximum contrast in color and size. Select vehicle to transport required equipment and affix signage and lighting.
- MSA Requirements; Vehicle 2,000 lb to 10,000 lb. GVW.
- Our recommendation: Properly licensed pickup truck, carryall, or passenger vehicle 2,000 lb. up to 10,000 GVW.

- Comments: The 10,000 lb GVW tries to eliminate flat bed trucks that have so much equipment loaded on the bed that the driver can't see behind. If you use a weight maximum, then cap it with GVWR, also; not just GVW. Crane industry representative: he'd like to use the truck carrying the counterweight as the escort car. Industry comment: "Why not just say what you mean: you want a properly licensed vehicle that has an unobstructed 360° view for safety".

Communications Equipment

- PCE Recommendation: Permanently mounted operable CB radio unit and backup
- MSA Requirement: Operable two-way electronic communications with the escorted vehicle.
- Our Recommendation: Permanently mounted operable electronic communications and backup.
- Comments: None

Onboard Equipment

- PCE Recommendation: Reflective vest or jacket, orange gloves, hard hat, stop/slow paddle (size and color requirements given) and supplemental hand-held red or orange flag, 10-lb multi-purpose ABAC rated fire extinguisher, first aid kit, 3 emergency reflective triangles and 3 reflective emergency cones, a traffic wand, and spare/replacement equipment.
- MSA Requirement: Safety orange vest, shirt, or jacket, hard hat, stop/go paddle (18" w/ 6" letters), 2 five-lb. fire extinguishers or equivalent, reflecting triangles or 18" traffic cones, 18" red hand-held flag, 2 oversized load banners (yellow w/ black lettering). Additionally, hand held 2-way communications with ability to talk to driver of escorted vehicle is recommended, along with flares and maps.
- Our Recommendation: Use PCE recommendation and add MSA recommendations.
- Comments: If law enforcement officers are involved, the escort vehicle should supply hand-held communications to the police officer so that all parties can stay in communication. If an individual state allows escorts to act as traffic controllers, the apparel, hard hats, etc. must comply with the FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Mobile Homes, Swimming Pools, Sheds, Etc.

- PCE Recommendations: No recommendation
- MSA Requirement: No additional information
- Our Recommendation: Follow standard escort vehicle requirements.
- Comments: Alabama asked if it was alone in allowing extra light systems to replace rear escorts in some situations; all other representatives present except Texas said they allowed no such replacements.

Other General Comments: The note taker received the impression that most state-specific exceptions should be avoided (such as the AL exception for mobile homes). Exceptions that will

be allowed should be contained in one or more lists such as the one in Appendix J of the Multi-State Agreement.

Appendix C
Truckers Guide Sample

THE TRUCKERS' GUIDE TO PERMITS, WEIGHTS, AND OTHER COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGULATIONS

**Answers to Frequently-Asked Questions
Provided by**

Alabama Department of Public Safety Motor Carrier Safety Unit
Alabama Department of Revenue
Alabama Department of Transportation Permitting Office
Alabama Public Service Commission
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration



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**Alabama Department of Public Safety
Motor Carrier Safety Unit**

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1. **I don't have to have a CDL to operate my vehicle. Why did a trooper pull me over and inspect my vehicle?**

If you operate a vehicle in connection with your business, you will be considered commercial and inspected if your vehicle or combination of truck and trailer together, are over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating for all companies that have vehicles that cross state lines and 26,001 pounds or more if you never leave Alabama.

2. **The trooper wrote me a ticket for no medical card and no logbook. Why? My truck does not weigh enough to have a CDL.**

If you meet the criteria in Question #1, even though you do not have to have a CDL, you are still required to have a current medical card. A logbook is required if you do not qualify for the 100 air-mile exemption.

3. **How do I qualify for the short haul exemption?**

You can qualify for the short haul exemption if all of the following conditions are met:

Short Haul Driver

A driver is not required to make out a log if the following criteria are met:

- The driver operates within a 100 (CDL drivers)/150 (non-CDL drivers) air-mile (49 CFR 395.1) radius of the normal work reporting location
- The driver (except a driver salesperson) returns to the work reporting location and is released from work within 12 consecutive hours
- At least ten consecutive hours off duty separate each 12 hours on duty
- The driver does not drive more than 11 hours
- The motor carrier maintains time records for six months showing:
 - ◊ The time the driver reports for duty each day
 - ◊ The time the driver is released from duty each day
 - ◊ Total number of hours on duty each day
 - ◊ Total time on duty for the preceding seven days for drivers employed for the first time or intermittently

