Department of Transportation - Oversize and Overweight Special Permits





Historical Note

New Illustration made by final rulemaking at 19 A.A.R. 2486, effective September 7, 2013 (Supp. 13-3).

R17-6-305. Escort Vehicles

- A. Service requirement.
 - 1. A permittee transporting an oversize or overweight vehicle or load shall use all escort vehicles required by the Department as a condition of special permit issuance under this Chapter.
 - The Department shall determine whether one or more escort vehicles must accompany an oversize or overweight special permitted vehicle by considering the following in relation to the proposed transport and route:
 - a. Roadway dynamics, including surface condition, grade, width, and height limitations;
 - b. Overall dimensions of the vehicle and load;
 - c. Need for frequent stops;
 - d. Concern for public safety; and
 - e. Time of transport.
 - 3. According to the criteria applicable under subsection (A)(2), the Department shall require two or more oversize or overweight special permitted vehicles traveling together to be accompanied by at least one escort vehicle per load.
- **B.** Vehicle, operator, and equipment requirements.
 - 1. A vehicle qualifies as an escort vehicle if it:
 - a. Is a passenger car or two-axle truck operating as a single unit,
 - b. Is currently registered, and
 - c. Meets insurance requirements as provided by law.
 - 2. An escort vehicle operator, except for a law enforcement

escort, while in service under this Chapter shall:

- a. Meet all requirements under A.R.S. § 28-1110, and maintain certification through a program that meets the escort vehicle operator training and certification standards of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance or an equivalent program, whether in this state or another state, that meets the same objectives;
- b. Carry in the escort vehicle the same emergency equipment required for a truck, truck tractor, or bus under A.R.S § 28-960 and 49 CFR 393.95, which shall include;
 - i. Fire extinguishers;
 - ii. Warning devices for stopped vehicles; and
 - iii. Emergency staff-mounted warning flags;
- c. Display an "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign:
 - i. Constructed for escort vehicles as provided under R17-6-303, Illustration 2;
 - ii. Mounted above the vehicle's roofline and visible to approaching traffic from the front and rear;
 - iii. Accompanied by two flags, one mounted on each side of the oversize load sign; and
 iv. Concealed when not in use; and
 - Ensure continuous communication by two-way
 - radio: i. Capable of transmitting and receiving a mini-
 - mum of 1/2 mile; and
 - ii. Compatible with the two-way radios used by

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the driver of the escorted vehicle, law enforcement escorts, and all other accompanying escort vehicles.

- C. Operation.
 - 1. Lighting requirement. While in service, an escort vehicle operator shall maintain continuous illumination of head-lights and overhead warning lights as prescribed under A.R.S. § 28-947.
 - 2. Lead and follow distance. An escort vehicle operator shall maintain a lead or follow distance from an escorted vehicle that generally does not exceed 1,500 feet on an open state highway or 250 feet in an urban setting. When determining the appropriate lead or follow distance, an escort vehicle operator shall:
 - a. Consider traffic density, road conditions, road type, speed, and type of load;
 - b. Ensure constant radio communication with all escorts and the escorted vehicle; and
 - Maintain visual contact with the escorted vehicle at all times.
 - 3. Stop provisions at an intersection with a traffic control signal.
 - a. When an oversize or overweight special permitted vehicle is required to stop, the lead-escort vehicle operator shall proceed through the intersection and stop safely off the roadway. The lead-escort vehicle operator shall resume an appropriate lead distance as soon as is safely possible.
 - b. When a following-escort vehicle is required to stop, the operator of an oversize or overweight special permitted vehicle shall proceed without stopping. The following-escort vehicle operator shall resume an appropriate following distance behind the oversize or overweight special permitted vehicle as soon as is safely possible after clearing an intersection.

Historical Note

New Section made by final rulemaking at 9 A.A.R. 665, effective April 8, 2003 (Supp. 03-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 866, effective March 6, 2007 (Supp. 07-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 19 A.A.R. 2486, effective September 7, 2013 (Supp. 13-3).

R17-6-306. Traffic Control Provisions

- **A.** The Department may require additional traffic control by a uniformed certified law enforcement officer to ensure highway safety. The Department shall consider the criteria under R17-6-305(A) when determining the need for additional traffic control.
- **B.** If the Department requires a law enforcement escort under R17-6-412, Table 4, or as necessary to promote public safety, the permittee or driver of the oversize or overweight special permitted vehicle shall:
 - 1. Contact the Arizona Department of Public Safety at least 12 hours before transport to request the appropriate number of uniformed certified law enforcement escorts required for the permitted activity; and
 - 2. Ensure continuous two-way radio communication during transport with all law enforcement and other escort vehicles required to accompany the permitted vehicle under R17-6-305 and R17-6-307.
- **C.** If the Arizona Department of Public Safety is unable to provide the appropriate law enforcement escorts requested as provided under subsection (B), the permittee or driver of an

oversize or overweight special permitted vehicle may use any uniformed certified law enforcement escorts if at least one officer is certified for enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Historical Note

New Section made by final rulemaking at 9 A.A.R. 665, effective April 8, 2003 (Supp. 03-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 19 A.A.R. 2486, effective September 7, 2013 (Supp. 13-3).

R17-6-307. Projecting Load or Vehicle

- **A.** The Department shall require a class A special permit for transporting a load or vehicle that projects:
 - 1. Two feet or less, if the projecting portion of the load or vehicle has a thickness of less than 12 inches; or
 - 2. Three feet or less, if the projecting portion of the load or vehicle has a thickness of 12 inches or more.
- **B.** The Department shall require a class C special permit for transporting a load that projects from either side of the vehicle: 1. More than two feet, if the height of the projecting portion
 - of the load has a thickness of less than 12 inches; or
 - 2. More than three feet, if the height of the projecting portion of the load has a thickness of 12 inches or more.
- **C.** A permittee of a projecting vehicle or load shall have escort vehicle accompaniment as follows:
 - 1. A front escort vehicle if the front load projection is longer than 20 feet, or
 - 2. A rear escort vehicle if rear projection is longer than 20 feet.
- **D.** A permittee or driver of a projecting vehicle or load with more than a four foot front or rear overhang shall:
 - 1. Attach warning flags to the load as provided under R17-6-302 and Illustration 1, for daylight operation; or
 - 2. Attach safety lighting to the load as provided under R17-6-304 and Illustration 4, for nighttime operation.
- **E.** An integral component removed from a loaded primary object may be transported on the same vehicle bearing the primary object provided the component does not cause the hauling vehicle to exceed a size or weight permitted for the primary object.

Historical Note

New Section made by final rulemaking at 9 A.A.R. 665, effective April 8, 2003 (Supp. 03-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 19 A.A.R. 2486, effective September 7, 2013 (Supp. 13-3).

R17-6-308. Permittee or Driver Obligation to Notify Utility Companies of Overheight Transport

A permittee or driver shall notify a responsible utility company of possible disturbance or damage, as provided under A.R.S. § 40-360.43, if overhead utility lines extend across a proposed route and the permitted vehicle or load exceeds 16 feet in height or any route-specific height restriction provided under R17-6-412, Table 4.

Historical Note

New Section made by final rulemaking at 9 A.A.R. 665, effective April 8, 2003 (Supp. 03-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 19 A.A.R. 2486, effective September 7, 2013 (Supp. 13-3).