

## SUPER LOADS AND OVERSIZE ESCORTS

### 10.01 PURPOSE

This regulation establishes duties, responsibilities, and procedures for Department personnel while escorting super loads and select oversize vehicles. All super load and select oversize vehicle escorts conducted by Department personnel shall be in accordance with this regulation, as well as 75 Pa.C.S., Chapter 49; 67 Pa. Code, Chapter 179; and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Special Hauling Permit Manual, Publication No. 31.

### 10.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to utilize marked patrol vehicles when escorting super loads and select oversize vehicles. The escort is to provide traffic control for the safe and convenient passage of the super load or oversize vehicle, and the safety of other motorists while traveling through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) will escort **designated** super loads and select oversize vehicles when:

- A. The load is a building in excess of 16 feet in width, and does not meet the requirements for exemption under 67 Pa. Code, Section 179.11(b).
- B. The load is a super load, as defined by 67 Pa. Code, Chapter 179.
- C. Movement of the load requires that a provision of 75 Pa.C.S. must be contravened.

### 10.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. **Oversize:** The length, width, or height of a mobile home or vehicle or combination of vehicles, including the load carried thereon, excluding mirrors or sunshades, exceeds the applicable maximum length, width, or height specified in 75 Pa.C.S., Chapter 49, Subchapter B (relating to width, height, and length).

- B. Super Load: A vehicle or combination or load having a gross weight exceeding 201,000 pounds, a total length exceeding 160 feet, or a total width exceeding 16 feet, with the following exceptions:
1. A building moved under 67 Pa. Code, Section 179.11(b) (relating to special vehicle load restrictions).
  2. A vehicle or combination moved across the highway under 75 Pa.C.S., Sections 4965 or 4966 (relating to single permits for multiple highway crossings, and permit for movement of quarry equipment).
  3. A dragline moved across the highway under a permit.

#### 10.04 PROCEDURES

- A. When an escort of a super load or oversize vehicle by Department members **or a certified escort vehicle is required**, the PennDOT Central Permit Office will notify the Bureau of Patrol at least 24 hours in advance. The notification will include a copy of the Special Hauling Permit.

NOTE: If a permitted escort cannot be completed within the authorized time period because of route changes, substitution of a truck tractor or semi-trailer due to a breakdown, a one-time extension of the permit, or a new vehicle registration change, the **motor carrier** must apply for a Supplemental Permit through the PennDOT Central Permit Office, and another 24-hour notice shall be given. If a size and/or weight discrepancy is identified on the permit, the **motor carrier** must apply for a new permit through the PennDOT Central Permit Office. When the postponement is at the discretion of the PSP, the 24-hour notice may be waived.

- B. The Bureau of Patrol shall notify the affected Troop(s), via CLEAN Message, of the following information pertaining to the permitted escort:
1. The date and time the escort is scheduled to begin.
  2. The Special Hauling Permit number or the Supplemental Permit number, when required.

3. The number of members, per assigned Troop, authorized to escort the permitted vehicle, and the number of Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) personnel authorized to inspect and/or weigh **the permitted vehicle**.
  4. The SAP Internal Order Code number to be used for entering all straight time and overtime hours associated with the inspection, weighing, and escort of the permitted vehicle into the Cross Application Time Sheet (CATS) module within SAP.
  5. A copy of the Special Hauling Permit has been sent, via fax, to each Station assigned to assist with the escort.
- C. The affected Troop(s) shall acknowledge receipt of the escort notification for all affected Stations of their command, via CLEAN Message, to terminals "XPAT55" and "XPAT67." The acknowledgment shall include the Special Hauling Permit number of the escort. Questions or problems concerning the escort shall be directed to the Bureau of Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Safety Division (CVSD).

#### 10.05 DUTIES

Members involved in escorting super loads or oversize vehicles shall comply with the following provisions:

- A. Prior to commencement of the permitted escort, members shall check the Special Hauling Permit to ensure its validity. No escort shall begin or continue until the vehicle(s), load(s), and driver(s) are in conformance with applicable laws, regulations, and conditions of the permit.
- B. At the point of origin within the Commonwealth, one or more Motor Carrier Inspectors (MCIs), Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers (MCEOs), or Motor Carrier Enforcement Supervisors (MCESs) shall be assigned to inspect and measure the permitted vehicle(s), unless otherwise directed by the Bureau of Patrol. The assigned MCI(s), MCEO(s), and/or MCES(s) shall conduct a Level 1 MCSAP inspection. If the driver of the super load or oversize vehicle is unable to be present during the inspection, the assigned MCI(s), MCEO(s), and/or MCES(s) shall conduct a Level 5 MCSAP inspection of the vehicle(s) and

load(s). **When a Level 5 MCSAP inspection is conducted in this manner, a Level 3 MCSAP inspection shall be completed prior to the start of the movement to ensure the driver is in compliance with the applicable laws/regulations.** A subsequent inspection should not be conducted once the move begins, unless an obvious violation is discovered or develops. Super loads in excess of 201,000 pounds shall be weighed by authorized personnel in conjunction with the required Level 1 or Level 5 MCSAP inspection, unless otherwise directed by the Bureau of Patrol, CVSD. Additional super loads may be weighed at the direction of the Bureau of Patrol, CVSD.

NOTE: Whenever operationally feasible, the MCSAP inspection shall be assigned to personnel from the Troop Headquarters/Station responsible for the specific geographic area where the inspection is to occur. Personnel assigned to weigh a super load shall also be responsible for conducting the Level 1 or Level 5 MCSAP inspection.

- C. Super load weighing and inspection activities by MCEOs and MCEs shall only be conducted when accompanied by an MCI or other Department member. This requirement shall not apply to weighing and inspection activities conducted at the facility of either a shipper or motor carrier. MCEOs and MCEs shall not participate in the escort of a super load or oversize vehicle.
- D. The permitted vehicle shall be escorted by a marked patrol vehicle with emergency lighting activated. Department motorcycles shall not be used to escort a super load or oversize vehicle. Members shall conduct the escort utilizing a vehicle position which allows for the safe and convenient passage along the designated route.
- E. Escorts of super loads and oversize vehicles should be conducted without delay whenever possible. Assigned members shall adequately prepare for transfer of escort duties when necessary. When the next member responsible for the escort is not immediately available, alternate arrangements should be made to facilitate efficient movement of the load(s)/vehicle(s). Alternate arrangements may include:
  - 1. Continuing the escort with the currently assigned member(s).
  - 2. Assigning a supervisory member(s) to assume responsibility for the escort.

3. Assigning a member(s) from another Section or Station within the Troop to assume responsibility for the escort.
  4. Requesting a member(s) from an adjacent Troop to assume responsibility for the escort.
- F. To facilitate transfer of escort duties, members shall contact the next assigned Station indicated on the CLEAN Message, via the Communications-Desk Unit. The affected Stations shall then coordinate the transfer. If for any reason the transfer cannot take place as scheduled **and the move cannot continue**, the escorted vehicle(s) shall be parked at a place of safety until the move can resume. Any significant delays or major problems shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of Patrol, CVSD.
- G. All super load and oversize permits are initiated by PennDOT and coordinated through the Bureau of Patrol. At no time shall personnel negotiate with a company or motor carrier to begin or modify an oversize or super load escort. Any such requests shall be directed to the PennDOT Central Permit Office, at 717-787-4680.

#### 10.06 RESTRICTIONS

- A. Members shall follow all restrictions listed on a Special Hauling Permit. It is critical that the route listed on the permit is used. In some cases, a listed route may direct the permitted vehicle to detour main highways because of bridge weight restrictions or restricted roadway clearances. Failure to follow the listed route could result in major damage to the roadway, bridges, vehicle, and/or load. Deviations from the permitted route for routine stops (e.g., food, fuel, rest breaks) are not authorized, unless specifically included in the route listed on the permit.
- B. Issued permits may include specific traffic-control plans that have been approved by PennDOT. These traffic-control plans are part of the permit and are intended to facilitate unique maneuvers along the permitted route. They show position requirements for the permitted vehicle(s), the carrier's pilot vehicle(s), police vehicle(s), and any required auxiliary equipment. Auxiliary equipment may include, but is not limited to, vehicle-mounted variable message signs, temporary highway signs, and/or other approved traffic-control devices.

Members responsible for the escort shall review these plans and comply with the positioning listed. If a plan contains positioning which is considered unsafe in the member's judgment, the member shall notify an appropriate supervisor prior to executing the maneuver. If the supervisor concurs with the escorting member's assessment, the supervisor shall contact the Bureau of Patrol, CVSD. The CVSD shall then work with the supervisor and the PennDOT Central Permit Office to resolve the matter.

- C. In accordance with the provisions of 67 Pa. Code, Chapter 179, the PennDOT Chief Engineer or Central Permit Office, or the PSP, Bureau of Patrol, may exempt an oversize or overweight move from travel restrictions when the move is:
  - 1. Essential to national defense.
  - 2. Required for the protection of life and property.
  - 3. Not feasible during authorized time periods, as determined by PennDOT, and there will be a public safety benefit by authorizing the movement (e.g., rescheduling the escort to minimize traffic congestion in an urban area).
- D. The PSP, Bureau of Patrol, and the PennDOT Central Permit Office may jointly agree to allow multiple super loads to travel with a single police escort.

10.07      **AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT LOAD ESCORTS**

- A. Requests for emergency oversize or overweight load escorts received by Department personnel during normal business hours (i.e., 0800 hours to 1600 hours) on weekdays, other than legal holidays, shall be referred to the PennDOT District Permit Office nearest the point of entry into Pennsylvania, or **nearest the** point of origin within the Commonwealth.

NOTE: Any travel on the Pennsylvania Turnpike requires an additional permit from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

- B. Title 67, Pa. Code, Section 179.12(a)(2), mandates that during hours when PennDOT permit offices are closed, the owner of the transporting equipment shall contact the PSP to request

approval of an emergency oversize or overweight load escort. Any calls received by Department personnel requesting approval of an emergency oversize or overweight load escort after normal business hours, during legal holidays, or on Saturdays or Sundays shall be directed to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), at 717-651-2001.

1. PEMA will review the request and determine if it meets the criteria for emergency after-hours approval. If it does, the PennDOT Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) will notify the proper personnel within PennDOT to review and approve an appropriate route.
2. Once authorization has been obtained in accordance with these procedures, the Department Watch Center (DWC) will be notified by PEMA or the PennDOT EPLO. The DWC shall then forward notification, via Department email and **the Computer-Aided Dispatch system/ Mobile Data Terminal application**, to all Troops and Stations along the approved route of travel.

10.08 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- A. The escort, inspection, and/or weighing of super loads and oversize vehicles may be conducted by personnel on an overtime basis, unless otherwise directed by the Bureau of Patrol.
- B. The Department recovers all straight time and overtime funds expended in association with the inspection, weighing, and escort of permitted vehicles, by billing the involved motor carriers. Therefore, it is critical that entry of these hours into CATS is applied to the SAP Internal Order Code number listed on the CLEAN Message sent by the Bureau of Patrol for the specific escort. Proper entry of this information into CATS will ensure the overtime is not charged to the affected Troop's overtime budget.