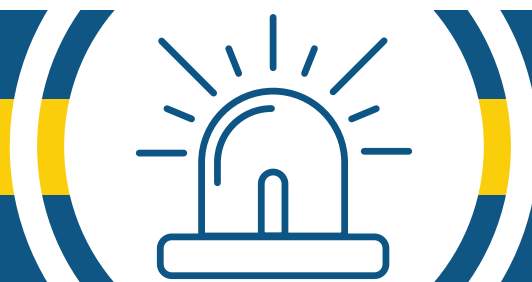


New York State Certified Escort Manual 2025



Department of
Transportation





FOREWORD

In August of 1995, legislation was signed to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law as it relates to flagpersons and escort vehicles. This legislation now allows for a person who holds a certificate issued by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to act as a flagperson while conducting an oversize vehicle escort. This bill, which became effective on January 1, 1996, would allow persons other than police officers to be trained and qualified to serve as escort drivers.

In a cooperative effort between the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Police, the Thruway Authority, and the Department of Transportation, this manual was published for those who wish to receive certification as oversize escort drivers. In recognition of the need to protect the public from unnecessary danger and inconvenience, this manual provides information, including rules and regulations, legal requirements, safety guidelines, and reminders, that should be helpful to those who conduct certified escort operations on the highways of New York State. The establishment of equipment and identification standards for escort vehicles and their drivers, uniform guidelines in traffic control, communications and accident prevention and response, will serve to maintain or improve the safe operation of motor vehicles throughout the state. Permit and oversize vehicle uniformity can now be established with the utilization of the Certified Escort Manual.

An understanding of the provisions of this manual is an essential requirement for certification as an escort driver and it is recommended that the manual be kept in the escort vehicle as a reference.

Comments concerning the contents were received from various industries, including the Trucking Association of New York, Associated General Contractors of America, New York Manufactured Housing Association, Construction and Industry Council, Nassau and Suffolk Contractors Association, and the Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association. Their input is gratefully acknowledged.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
I. PURPOSE OF ESCORT DRIVER CERTIFICATION	
1. Need for Certification	5
2. Purpose	5
II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION	
1. Applicability	5 - 6
2. Requirements for Providing Escort Services	6
III. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	
1. Where to Apply and Take the Written Test	6
2. What to Bring With You	6
3. Escort Drivers Test	7
4. Testing and Certification Fees	7
5. Notification of Test Results	7
6. Change of Address or Name	7
7. Replacement Certificates	8
8. Expiration and Renewal	8
9. Certificate Revocation and Suspension	8
10. Important Reminders	9
IV. SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES	
1. General Rules of the Road	9 - 10
2. Defensive Driving	10
3. Accident Prevention Formula	10



SECTION

PAGE

V. (A) HAULING PERMIT TRAVEL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MOVEMENT OF OVER-DIMENSIONAL LOADS

1.	General	11
2.	Days and Times of Travel	12
3.	Exceptions - Days and Times of Travel	12 - 13
4.	Load Overhang	13
5-12.	Speed Limit, Holidays, Flags, Flag Person, Lights, and Signs	13 - 16
13.	Mobile and Manufactured Housing	16 - 20
14.	Amber Flashing Lights - Over-Dimensional Vehicle and Loads	20
15.	Escort Vehicle Regulations	20 - 21
16.	Escort Driver Certification Required	21 - 22
17.	Operational Provisions - Conduct	22 - 23
18.	Police Escorts	23 - 24

V. (B) GEOGRAPHICAL REGULATIONS APPLICABLE FOR TRAVEL THROUGH CITIES AND TOWNS

1.	Geographical "Authority"	23
2.	Geographical "Times of Travel"	23
3.	Geographical "Dimensional Travel Restrictions"	23 - 24
4.	Bypass Routes	24

VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ESCORT DRIVERS

1.	General Duties	24
2.	Front Escorts	24
3.	Rear Escorts	24
4.	Authority of Escort Drivers	24



SECTION	PAGE
VII. ESCORT VEHICLES	
1. Size and Identification	26
2. Mandatory Equipment	26 - 27
VIII. PROPER ESCORT PROCEDURES	
1. Before the Trip Begins	27 - 28
2. During the Trip	28 - 30
3. After the Trip is Completed	30
4. Methods of Flagging Traffic	30
IX. DON'TS OF ESCORT DRIVING	30 - 32
X. EMERGENCIES	
1. Procedures in Case of an Accident Involving the Over-Dimensional Load or Escort Vehicles	32 - 33
2. Reporting an Accident	33
XI. STUDY QUESTIONS	34 - 35
XII. APPENDICES	
A - 1. Flag Location	36
A - 2. Lighting Location	37
A - 3. Warning Signs Location	38
B Escort Vehicle Insignia	39
C - 1. State Jurisdictional Names and Addresses	40
C - 2. Bridge Authority Names and Phone Numbers	41
C - 3 Listing of Telephone Numbers for New York State	42



I. PURPOSE OF ESCORT DRIVER CERTIFICATION

1. Need for Certification

In the past, the only requirement of drivers who provided escort services for over-dimensional loads in New York State was that they drive a vehicle clearly visible to the motoring public. There were no rules, regulations, or published guidelines that outlined desirable escort procedures. Based on the results of a study of the movement of 12-foot and 14-foot over-dimensional loads, the general performance of drivers who provided escort services was found to need improvement. In many cases, escort drivers created hazards by engaging in negligent, unsafe, and, sometimes, illegal driving practices. Most of the problems observed could have been eliminated if the escort drivers had been provided with an understanding of proper escort procedures, highway safety, and traffic control, and had been instructed in how to react in emergency situations.

2. Purpose

When properly conducted, escort services provide benefits to the public and to the manufactured housing, boating, construction and other industries that have an occasional need to transport over-dimensional loads. The purpose of this manual is to provide information concerning the duties and responsibilities of drivers who provide escort services. The purpose of testing and certifying escort drivers is to promote a clear understanding of proper escort operations. Specific objectives of the certification program are to:

- Enhance the safety of the traveling public;
- Enhance the safety of the people involved in the movement of the over-dimensional load;
- Prevent damage to the highway system;
- Prevent damage to the load being transported;
- Prevent undue delay to the normal flow of traffic;
- Prevent increases in insurance costs;
- Provide security from costly damage suits; and
- Encourage uniform escort operations.

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

1. Applicability

Certification as an escort driver is mandatory for all drivers, and those acting as flag persons, who escort over-dimensional loads on the highways of New York State, regardless of where they live. These are loads with a width that exceeds 12 feet, and/or length of 80 feet or greater, and/or a height of 14 feet or greater. Also included are loads that have an overhang of the load/vehicle which exceeds the main body of the vehicle by greater than 10 feet. Certified escorts are also required when speed restrictions are in effect because of the total gross weight of the vehicle or other concerns.



Escort drivers are not required to be certified if:

- a) The over-dimensional load is less than the requirement stated above;
- b) The escort service is performed by the military for military convoys, or state governmental vehicles.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING ESCORT SERVICES

In order to qualify as a certified escort you must:

- a) Be 21-years old;
- b) Have a valid New York State driver license or valid license in the state or jurisdiction in which you are a resident. (Those out of state drivers who do not have current New York State driving privileges are not eligible for escort certification);
- c) Comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and/or regulations set forth by the permitting agency in the State of New York; and
- d) Pass the New York State Escort Drivers Certification Test.

Failure to comply with any of these requirements may lead to the cancellation of your Escort Certificate. Depending upon the nature of the violation, you may be subject to fines and penalties as set forth in the New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law and/or Title 17 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Part 154 and/or Title 21 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Part 102.

III. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

To be certified as an Escort Driver in New York State, you must take a written test and score 70% or higher.

1. Where to Apply for Certification and Take the Written Test

You may take the test at any of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices. Below is a link and the website address to the DMV website to search for DMV locations. You do not need to make an appointment to take the test, but you may want to call the DMV office where you plan to take the test to ask about office hours.

DMV Office Locations | NY DMV (dmv.ny.gov/contact-us/office-locations)

2. What to Bring With You

To take the test, bring a valid driver license, your social security number and a \$40 test fee (check should be made payable to The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles). You will be asked to complete an application for Escort Service Certification before you take the written test.



3. Escort Driver Test

You will receive test forms at the Motor Vehicle Office. Notes, manuals, and other study materials are not permitted. The DMV associate who administers the test is not permitted to discuss questions or offer any assistance.

The test will include questions on safe driving, rules of the road, regulations governing the movement of over-dimensional loads, responsibilities of the escort driver, escort procedures, and New York State traffic laws. All information necessary to pass the test is in this manual, which can be obtained from any DMV office where the test is offered, Department of Transportation and the New York State Thruway Authority (See Appendix C-1). Study the manual carefully before taking the test. Applicants should also be familiar with the New York State Driver Manual (which is available at any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles).

Special questions regarding taking the test should be directed to the DMV office where you plan on taking the test.

Special questions regarding the material in this manual should be directed to the Permit Section (Phone 518-485-2999).

4. Testing and Certification Fees

You must pay a \$40 fee to take the written knowledge test (there are no additional fees for your initial certification).

5. Notification of Test Results

When you finish the test, the DMV associate will correct the test and tell you whether you have passed or failed.

If you pass the test you will be immediately certified to provide escort services for over-dimensional loads and will be given a 60-day interim Escort Driver Certificate. (Your permanent certificate will be sent to you by mail.) You must have this certificate in your possession when providing escort services.

Anyone who fails the test, may take it again when they are ready, but must pay another \$40 test fee.

6. Change of Address or Name

If you have a change of name or address, notify the Department of Motor Vehicles, in writing, within ten days. Send your certificate number, your former address/name and your new address/name to:

Bus Driver Unit
Department of Motor Vehicles
SB Rm 331
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12228



7. Replacement Certificates

If your Escort Driver Certificate is lost, stolen, or destroyed, you may apply for a replacement by completing the MV-65 Vehicle Escort Driver Application and mailing it to the Department of Motor Vehicles. You must send your name, address, driver license number, and certificate number, if available. Send the form and a check for \$5 (payable to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles) to:

Bus Driver Unit
Department of Motor Vehicles
SB Rm 331
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12228

8. Expiration and Renewal

If you have a New York State driver license, your Escort Driver Certificate will expire at the same time as your driver license. If you have a driver license from another state, your certificate will be valid for four years from the date it is issued. To renew your certification, you must send your renewal application, with a check for \$40 (payable to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles) and a photocopy of your valid driver license to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
207 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501-2874

If you do not renew your certification within two years of the expiration date, you will be required to retake and pass the written test prior to being recertified.

9. Certificate Revocation and Suspension

Your driver certificate is not valid if your driver license or privilege is revoked or suspended in the issuing jurisdiction or if you have lost your privilege to drive in New York State.

Your certification may be canceled if:

- a) You are convicted of violating traffic laws and safe escort procedures or Title 17, Part 154 of the NYCRR (New York Codes, Rules and Regulations); or
- b) You become physically or mentally unable to drive; or
- c) You are found to have given false or fraudulent information on the application for certification as an escort driver.



10. Important Reminders

- a) You are required to be a certified escort driver if you provide escort services in New York State for loads with a width that exceeds 12 feet, and/or length of 80 feet or greater, and/or height that is 14 feet or greater. A certified escort is also required whenever the vehicle must reduce speed to cross a structure, or when the overhang of the load/vehicle exceeds the main body of the vehicle by greater than 10 feet.
- b) You must have a valid driver license and have passed a written knowledge test before you can be certified as an escort driver.
- c) You may renew by mailing a renewal application form to the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles. Your renewal certificate is valid for four years.

IV. SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

Everyone with a valid driver license should be familiar with the general rules of the road and should know how to drive defensively; however, many of the hazards observed with escort operations were created when escort drivers violated state traffic laws and safe driving practices. The individual interested in escort certification should review the rules of the road section in the New York State Driver's Manual, with particular emphasis on the following areas.

1. General Rules of the Road

a) Traffic Signals and Signs

The traffic signals and signs, for all drivers must also be obeyed during escort operations. For example, escort drivers are required to stop for red lights and school buses and to drive strictly in accordance with all regulatory signing.

b) Road Markings

Road markings enhance highway safety by providing important traffic control information to motorists. Escort operators should carefully observe all road markings and never drive to the left of a solid double yellow centerline.

c) Driver's Signals

Escort drivers should give proper signals in advance of turning at intersections or when changing lanes.

d) Maintain a Safe Following Distance

As a general rule, the two-second rule should be used to assure that a correct following distance is being maintained. To determine if the following distance is proper, the driver should note when the vehicle ahead passes a definite point on the road (such as a tar strip or telephone



pole). Then the driver should count “one thousand and one, one thousand and two.” If the driver reaches the mark before completing the count, the following distance is too close and a greater interval is needed. The two-second rule is applicable regardless of vehicle speed. Escort drivers who follow the over-dimensional load or other traffic at distances less than a safe distance, are not giving themselves enough time or distance to respond to emergency situations.

e) Stopping Under Special Conditions

When the driver of the over-dimensional load or the escort operator is forced to stop (except momentarily) on any portion of the road, the drivers should immediately set out three warning flares, torches, or reflectorized triangular warning signals to warn approaching traffic of the hazard. Every precaution should be taken to remove the load and escort vehicles from the roadway.

f) Right-of-Way Rules

Escort drivers are required to obey all right-of-way rules, especially at intersections in urban areas and when entering or leaving an interstate or other limited access highway. The size of the load is not justification for assuming that other drivers must yield to the load or the escort vehicles.

2. Defensive Driving

A defensive driver is a person who is always alert, and takes every reasonable precaution to prevent traffic mishaps, over and above what is required by law. Because the movement of every over-dimensional load affects the normal flow of traffic on the highway, the escort driver must develop a positive attitude toward accident prevention. A defensive driver must anticipate possible problems by evaluating constantly changing situations and planning preventive measures. Escort drivers should adopt the accident prevention formula given below.

3. Accident Prevention Formula

a) See the hazard

Think about what is going to happen as far ahead of encountering the situation as possible. Never assume everything will be “all right.”

b) Understand the Defense

There are specific ways of handling specific situations. Learn these ways and be prepared to apply them when the need arises.

c) Act in Time

Once you have perceived the hazard and determined the defense, act immediately. Never take a “wait and see” attitude.



V. (A) HAULING PERMIT TRAVEL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MOVEMENT OF OVER-DIMENSIONAL LOADS

1. General

- a) Vehicles or combinations of vehicles, the weight or dimensions of which exceed the limitations provided for in Section 385 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, may be operated or moved on highways under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation for good cause when authorized under a permit (called a "Special Hauling Permit") issued by the Department of Transportation. A special hauling permit shall not be considered valid unless the vehicle or combination of vehicles is operated and maintained in accordance with New York State Law, the provisions of Part 154-1, Title 17, New York State Codes of Rules and Regulations and/or Part 102-1, Title 21, New York Codes, Rules and Regulations and with any other special requirements indicated on the permit. A Special Hauling Permit is only issued to the vehicle transporting the oversize/overweight load.
- b) A copy of any valid special hauling permit shall be kept with the driver of every such vehicle while the vehicle is in operation within the State of New York and any other sticker which may be used to identify the holder of such permit shall be affixed to the vehicle in accordance with the instructions of the Department. Failure of a vehicle to be identified as herein required shall render the permit void. Upon request, said permit shall be displayed to any peace officer, acting pursuant to thier special duties, or police officer, or any other officer authorized to enforce this Section, upon their request.
- c) The Commissioner of Transportation and/or Chairperson of the New York State Thruway Authority may revoke any permit issued without a hearing or the necessity of showing cause.
- d) Except as provided by any cooperative agreement and Subsection 15-a of Section 385 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, or under special circumstances involving public safety, potential damage to highways or bridges, or operational reasonableness, Special Hauling Permits authorize operation on the highways under the control of the Commissioner of Transportation or the New York State Thruway Authority, as applicable. Permits involving use of a non-State System shall apply to the local authority whose control the highway jurisdiction is under.
- e) Special Hauling Permits issued by the New York State Department of Transportation are only valid for roads under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. Special Hauling Permits issued by the New York State Thruway Authority are only valid for roads under their jurisdiction. Separate permits must be obtained from the jurisdiction having control over other highways and bridges when using their roads, except for Divisible Load Permits issued by the Department of Transportation which are honored on the New York State Thruway. See Appendix D-1 for other State jurisdictions.



2. Days and Times of Travel

a) General

A special hauling permit allows travel between the hours of one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Special hauling permits do not allow movements on Saturdays, Sundays, or on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas and from 12 noon the day preceding Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For the purpose of this section, the day preceding the above holidays only refers to normal working days, that is, Mondays through Fridays.

b) **LOADS/VEHICLES EXCEEDING: 13 FEET -11 INCHES BUT LESS THAN 16 FEET IN WIDTH, 89 FEET -11 INCHES BUT LESS THAN 100 FEET IN LENGTH, 13 FEET-11 INCHES IN HEIGHT.** In addition to the restrictions contained in (a) above, there is no travel allowed between the hours of 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM, and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM in Business Districts as defined in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

c) **LOADS/VEHICLES EXCEEDING: 16 FEET IN WIDTH OR GREATER, 100 FEET IN LENGTH OR GREATER, 14 FEET IN HEIGHT.** In addition to the restrictions contained in (a) above, there is no travel allowed between the hours of 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM in New York State.

d) **MOBILE/MODULAR HOMES EXCEEDING 14 FEET IN WIDTH BUT NO GREATER THAN 16 FEET WIDE.** In addition to the restrictions contained in (a) above, travel days are restricted to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and on Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Monday travel is prohibited on the following State Holidays: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Lincoln's Birthday; Washington's Birthday and Columbus Day.

3. Exceptions - Days and Times of Travel

a) General

Over-dimensional and overweight moves that are within 12 feet in width and 85 feet in length and which can maintain traffic flow speed are allowed to move until 12 noon on Saturday, unless such Saturday falls on a holiday, as set forth in Days and Times of Travel - "2 (a) General" above.

b) Overweight Only

When the weight exceeds legal weight limits by up to 125 percent and all other dimensions of the load are legal, travel will be allowed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



c) **Night Travel**

Night travel may be allowed upon request in counties in the Lower Hudson Region and Long Island. These counties are Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Nassau and Suffolk.

4. Load Overhang

Front not to exceed 15 feet; rear not to exceed 1/3 length of load, 2/3 of which must rest upon truck or trailer bed.

5. Speed Limit

Unless otherwise specified within the permit, maximum speed is 55 MPH.

6. Holidays

- a) Travel of permit load prohibited on holidays listed under Days and Times of Travel -2 (a) General and 2 (d) Mobile/Modular Homes Exceeding 14 Feet in Width.
- b) Six holidays are restricted along with the half day adjacent to, as explained under Days and times of Travel -2 (a) General.
- c) Recognized holidays are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving day, and Christmas day. For Mobile/Modular Homes exceeding 14 feet in width, additional Monday holidays are: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Lincoln's Birthday; Washington's Birthday; and Columbus Day.

7. Flags

a) **General**

Required warning flags shall be in evidence during daylight hours for all over-dimensional loads. Red or fluorescent orange warning flags shall be at least 18 inches square. Flags shall be mounted on staffs and be securely fastened to the vehicle or load.

b) **Width**

Warning flags are required on vehicles and loads which exceed legal width. These vehicles and loads are required to bear flags at the extremities of the vehicle or load. (See Appendix A-1.)



c) **Length**

Flags are also required on vehicles and loads which exceed legal length or which have a rear or front overhang in excess of four feet. There shall be a single flag at the extreme rear if the overlength or projection portion is two feet wide or less. Two (2) flags are required if the overlength or projection portion is wider than two feet and shall be located to indicate maximum width. (See Appendix A-1).

8. Flag Person

When necessary to post a flag person(s) in order to warn and direct approaching traffic, each flag person must be wearing a vest that meets ANSI 3 standards and be equipped with a paddle reading "STOP" in white letters with red background. Flag person(s) shall not be less than 21 years of age and capable of carrying out flagging responsibilities. The flag person shall be a Certified Escort Driver.

NOTE: CERTIFIED ESCORT PERSONNEL ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STOP TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAYS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY.

9. Lights

All vehicle headlights and other steady burning exterior lights shall be turned on, including those of the escort vehicle(s), when operating under the authority of a permit.

10. Warning Lights for Permitted Loads

a) **General**

Whenever the rear running lights, stop lights, turn signals, or hazard warning lights are obstructed by the load on a vehicle, lighting equipment shall be displayed on the rear of the load equivalent to the obstructed lights or signals.

b) **Overwidth**

Warning lights shall be used for authorized night operations as shown in Appendix A-2 and Figures A-3

For overwidth loads uniform in width, place amber lights on the forward corners of the load and red lights on the rear corners of the load as shown in Figure A-3.

If the load is overwidth for its entire length with a wider portion near the middle of the load, place red and amber lights at the rear and front corners of the load, respectively, with amber lights on the sides and the extreme limits of the load as shown in Figure A-3.

If the load is nonuniform in width, place red and amber lights at the rear and front corners, respectively, of the overwidth portion as shown in Figure A-3.



c) **Overlength**

For loads of legal width that are overlength with a rear overhang exceeding four feet, place four red lights on the rear and sides of the overhang portion of the load. Amber lights are required at least every six feet on both sides of the overhang as shown in Figure A-4.

11. **Warning Lights for Escort Vehicles**

Warning lights for escort vehicles shall be located on the roof of the vehicle, perpendicular to the length of the escort vehicle.

The warning light bar shall be a minimum of 43 inches and a maximum of 52 inches long, a minimum of 10 inches and a maximum of 13 inches wide and a minimum of 4 inches with a maximum of 8 inches high, consisting of flashing or strobe lights. Each warning light bar shall consist of a minimum of four lights.

If a Flashing Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bar is used, the above height and width requirements are not applicable. There must be a minimum of two lights separated by at least 53 inches.

If flashing lights are used, they shall consist of at least two 95 and two 150 minimum FPM rotators, and mirrors shall be placed diagonally between lights (mirrors to be reflective on both sides).

All lights shall be amber in color and visible on a 360-degree basis from the vehicle for a distance of 1,000 feet and arranged with at least two lights in each end of the bar light.

12. **Warning Signs**

a) **General**

Warning signs shall be made of a durable material, such as wood, steel, aluminum or a flexible material. If the sign is made of flexible material, it shall be securely fastened to the vehicle so that it remains in a flat position and does not curl, wave or become illegible. Such sign shall be in evidence during all oversize movements. Warning signs shall not obstruct lights and other safety devices.

b) **Color**

The sign's background shall be highway yellow with black lettering. For night moves, the warning sign shall be of high-intensity reflective material for visibility purposes.

c) **Size**

1) **PERMITTED LOAD**

Warning signs shall be at least 7 feet long and 18 inches high. Letters shall be at least 10 inches high with a 1.41-inch brush stroke.

Note: If Series E Modified is used, the brush stroke is to be 2 inches.



2) ESCORT VEHICLE

Warning signs shall be at least 5 feet long and 12 inches high. Letters shall be at least 8 inches in height.

d) Legend

The legend of the sign shall read: "OVERSIZE LOAD." For escort vehicles, the legend shall be on both sides of the sign material.

e) Location

1) PERMITTED LOAD

Warning signs shall be at least two feet but no more than five feet from the top of the roadway surface to the bottom of the sign.

Vehicles and loads exceeding legal width shall display two signs. One sign shall be on the front of the vehicle. The other shall be on the rear of the load; however, if the sign cannot be attached to, or is not legible on the load, then the sign shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle itself, (See Appendix A-3).

2) ESCORT VEHICLE

The sign shall be mounted on the front and rear or on the roof of the escort vehicle. If mounted on the front or rear, the sign shall not obstruct vehicle identification (license plate), warning lights and other safety devices. If mounted on the roof, the sign must not interfere with the view of the light bar and legend "OVERSIZE LOAD" must be printed on both sides of the sign.

13. Mobile and Manufactured Housing

a) General

All requirements for signing, lighting and flags contained in Section V apply, in addition to this subsection.

b) Towing Units

The minimum length of the towing vehicle shall be ten feet, measured from the front bumper to the center of the connecting hitch of the towing vehicle. All towing vehicles must have break-away devices as prescribed by Section 393.43 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. Every towing vehicle shall have dual wheels on the drive axle.



The class of the towing vehicle is determined by the size of the mobile/modular unit being towed, as follows:

- 10' wide - 3/4 ton truck
- 12' wide - 1-1/2 ton truck
- 14' wide - 2 ton truck
- 16' wide - Manufacturer's minimum GVWR of 25,000 pounds

- c) No farm tractor or a vehicle commonly referred to as a tow truck shall be used to tow a mobile or manufactured house section upon the highways of this state. However, a tow truck may be used to remove a disabled vehicle/load from the highway. All requirements of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law shall apply to the tow truck operation.

d) **Open Sided Covering**

Open-sided units shall be covered by plywood, hardboard or other rigid material. In lieu of rigid material, suitable plastics, or other flexible material may be used. Billowing or flapping of plastic or flexible side covering in excess of six inches in any one place will not be permitted. Units open on both sides, such as those used for temporary schools, warehouses, offices, etc., may be moved empty with no side covering.

e) **Length of Unit**

The maximum overall length of the mobile/modular unit with trailer shall not exceed 80 feet.

f) **Width**

The maximum overall width of the mobile/modular unit and trailer shall not exceed 16 feet inclusive of roof overhang.

g) **Height**

The maximum height of any permitted mobile/modular unit shall be 14 feet 6 inches. For any movement of 14 feet or greater in height, a survey of height clearances, in the manner provided by Section 154-1.2(u) of Title 17 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations is required. For any movement greater than 13 feet 6 inches in height on highways under the jurisdiction of the New York State Thruway, a survey of height clearances, in the manner provided by Part 102-1 of Title 21 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations is required.

h) **Special Requirements for Mobile/Modular Units Greater Than 14 Feet in Width**

- 1) Travel is limited to selected corridor routes plus roads designated on the trip permit necessary to make pickup or delivery (see section V (A) 13. I. Corridor Routes).



- 2) Travel is allowed only on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and on Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon, but not during any of those periods excluded for travel in Section V (2) or Monday travel on designated State holidays.
- 3) For all highways, two escort vehicles with proper signing and lights, one in front of the permitted load, one behind it, with radio or telephone contact with each other and with the driver of the permitted load is required at all times during a movement. A third escort vehicle may be required when highway geometry or other factors dictate. A police escort may be used in place of the third escort vehicle. The front escort is necessary for traffic control at intersections while the load proceeds through the intersection.
- 4) A bond is required in the amount determined adequate to protect its facilities, but in no event less than \$25,000 per company.
- 5) Liability insurance as provided by Subsection 154-1.5 of Title 17 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations is required.
- 6) The undercarriage of the mobile/modular unit shall have at least four axles. Each wheel on the undercarriage shall be equipped with operable brakes, and no tire may carry a weight in excess of the manufacturers rating as marked on the sidewall unless authorized by the Department of Transportation.
- 7) A warning sign must be attached to the rear end of each mobile/modular unit and be a minimum of five feet but no more than seven feet from the roadway surface to the bottom of sign.
- 8) A flashing or revolving warning lamp at least six but no more than nine inches in diameter shall be attached to each side of each rear corner, at least five but no more than 7 feet above ground. Each such lamp shall consist of a lamp with an amber lens and not an uncolored lens with an amber bulb. No inscription shall appear across the face of the lens. Lamps shall not have a light greater than 50 candlepower. Such lamps shall not be of a spotlight type, nor be equipped with a magnifying lens. Each such lamp shall be of such design and construction as will provide a visible signal, under normal conditions, from a point at least 1,000 feet distance.
- 9) Each side of each corner of the mobile/modular unit shall have a one-foot-wide strip of prismatic lens retroreflective material, fluorescent orange in color, the full height of the unit.

I) Corridor Routes for Mobile/Modular Units Greater Than 14 Feet in Width

1) North-South Corridor Routes

- A. 90 to NY Route 9H from the intersection with the on-off ramps of Interstate



- B. NY Route 11 from NY Route 342 north of Watertown to Interstate 87 south of Champlain.
- C. US Route 9 from State Route 9H in Kinderhook to Interstate 84 in Dutchess County.
- D. State Route 12 from US Route 20 in Sangerfield to US Route 11 at Watertown.
- E. US Route 15 from the Pennsylvania State Line to State Route 17 near Corning.
- F. Interstate 81 from Canada to Interstate 481 in North Syracuse.
- G. Interstate 481 in North Syracuse to Interstate 81 in Syracuse.
- H. Interstate Rt. No. 81 from Interstate Rt. No. 481 in Syracuse to the Pennsylvania State Border.
- I. Interstate 87 from the City of Albany to Canada.
- J. Interstate 390 from State Route 17 in Steuben County to Interstate 490 in Monroe County.
- K. State Route 390 from Interstate 490 in Monroe County to State Route 104 in Monroe County.
- L. Interstate 590 from Interstate 390 in Monroe County to State Route 104 in Monroe County.
- M. US Route 219 from the Pennsylvania State Line to Route 17 in Cattaraugus County.
- N. US Route 220 from the Pennsylvania State Line to Route 17 in Tioga County.

2) East-West Corridor Routes

- A. State Route 17 from Pennsylvania State Line in Western New York to Interstate 84 in Orange County.
- B. Interstate 88 from Binghamton to U.S. Route 20 at Duanesburg (Schenectady County).
- C. Interstate 90 from Exit 24 of New York State Thruway to Exit B1 of the New York State Thruway.
- D. State Route 20 from Interstate 81 in Onondaga County to State Route 155 in Albany County.



- E. State Route 155 from Route 20 in Albany County to Washington Avenue Extension in the City of Albany.
- F. Washington Avenue Extension from Route 155 to Fuller Road, all in the City of Albany.
- G. Fuller Road from Washington Avenue Extension to Interstate 90, all in the City of Albany.
- H. Washington Avenue Extension from Fuller Road in the City of Albany to Interstate 90.
- I. Interstate 90 from Interstate 87 in the City of Albany to State Route 9 (Exit 12).
- J. Dix Avenue east from NY Route 254 to NY Route 32 in Glens Falls.
- K. NY Route 32 east from Dix Avenue to US Route 4 in Glens Falls.
- L. US Route 4 in Glens Falls to the Vermont Border.
- M. NY Route 342 north of Watertown between US Route 11 and Interstate 81.

14. Amber Flashing Lights – Over-dimensional Vehicles and Loads

One (1) amber revolving light shall be located on top of the towing vehicle. The revolving warning lamp shall be at least six but no more than nine inches in diameter. The lamp shall consist of a lamp with an amber lens and not an uncolored lens with an amber bulb. No inscription shall appear across the face of the lens. Such lamp shall not be of a spotlight type, nor be equipped with a magnifying lens. Such lamp shall be of such design and construction as will provide a visible signal, under normal conditions, from a point at least 1,000 feet distance.

15. Escort Vehicle Regulations

- a) No escort vehicles are required for oversized loads less than 12 feet wide, 80 feet long and 14 feet high. However, if the vehicle is a slow moving vehicle, or bridge speed restrictions are required or where the overhang is greater than 10 feet, then escorts will be required.
- b) A front escort vehicle will be required for travel on all two-lane highways when the vehicle/load exceeds 12 feet wide, and/or 80 feet long or greater and/or height of 14 feet or greater, or where the overhang is greater than 10 feet. For overheight vehicles with a width of 12 feet wide or less the front escort must be equipped with a height pole which is 3 inches higher than the overall height of the permitted vehicle/load. For overheight vehicles with a width greater than 12 feet the front escort must be equipped with a height pole that is 6 inches higher than the overall height of the permitted vehicle/load.



- c) A rear escort vehicle is required for travel on highways of more than two lanes when vehicle/load is greater than 12 feet wide, 80 feet long or greater, or if the vehicle is a slow moving vehicle, or bridge speed restrictions are required, or where the overhang is greater than 10 feet.
- d) Two escort vehicles are required for travel whenever the vehicle/load meets the criteria of (b) and (c) above dictate a front and rear escort.
- e) Three escort vehicles (two front, one rear) are required for travel whenever the vehicle/load is over 16 feet wide on two-lane highways, 18 feet wide or greater on four-lane highways, or 100 feet long or greater on two-lane highways, 160 feet long or greater on four-lane highways. If the vehicle/load is 160 feet long or greater and is traveling only on interstate highways, only two escorts will be required.
- f) Escorts(s) may be required if the roadway geometry or other circumstances dictate.
- g) Each oversize/overweight vehicle/load requires its own escort vehicle(s) when an escort is required. Escort vehicles(s) must maintain adequate distance in front or behind the unit (approximately 1,000 feet) to warn motorists of the oversize load. For escort vehicles that are required to have a height pole, the distance in front of the permitted load shall be 3,000 feet to allow for adequate stopping distance.
- h) All escort vehicle drivers and the oversize load driver must be in constant communications at all times.
- i) When an Over-dimensional movement is routed upon any highway which is too narrow for two-way travel at all points, the lead escort vehicle shall advance to a point where two-way traffic can be maintained, stopping oncoming traffic at that location. When the load reaches the location where traffic is stopped, the over-dimensional unit shall halt and allow traffic to clear from both directions, assistance being given by the escort driver. The lead escort vehicle shall then advance to the next point for stopping traffic.
- j) Traffic shall not be detained for more than ten minutes.

16. Escort Driver Certification Required

Certification as an escort driver is mandatory for all drivers regardless of their residency who escort over-dimensional loads with a width that exceeds 12 feet, and/or length of 80 feet or more, and/or height of 14 feet or greater, whenever a vehicle can't maintain highway speeds, there is an overhang of 10 feet or more or where there is a bridge speed restriction.

- a) Escort drivers are not required to be certified if the over-dimensional/overweight vehicle/load is less than the limits stated above or if the escorts are military personnel escorting military vehicles.
- b) Every person who wishes to escort over-dimensional/overweight vehicle/load must:



- 1) Have a valid New York State driver license or valid license in the state or jurisdiction in which they are a resident or have current driving privileges in New York State;
 - 2) Comply with the permit policy and regulations and all state traffic laws;
 - 3) Have passed the Escort Driver Certification Test; and
 - 4) Be fully certified by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.
- c) The New York State Escort Driver Certification Program consists of a written knowledge test which must be successfully completed before a certificate is issued. The important facts concerning the test are explained in this manual. Copies are available upon request.

17. Operational Provisions

- a) No travel shall be allowed upon any roadway having physical or geometrical restrictions that prohibit movement as determined by the permitting agency.
- b) No travel is allowed upon any public highway which exceeds the limits of Section 385 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law without a permit from the appropriate agency having control of said highway.
- c) No permit vehicle shall travel upon any highway when the visibility is limited by atmospheric or other conditions so as to make travel hazardous for any vehicle. No travel is allowed when any person, vehicle or highway is not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet. No travel is allowed when the surface of the highway is made hazardous by rain, sleet, snow or ice. No travel is allowed when movement is made hazardous by fog, flood or wind. Law enforcement officer determination to prevail without exception.
- d) Permit vehicles operating on four-lane or divided highways shall be driven in right-most lane for traffic, except when the right lane must exit. Vehicles on two-lane highways shall pull off of the pavement whenever possible to allow traffic from both directions to pass. Permit vehicles shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.
- e) Traffic shall not be detained for more than ten minutes in the event of a traffic stoppage by a certified escort driver.
- f) No vehicle operating under a permit may travel on a road or cross a bridge if the gross vehicle weight exceeds the posted limit.
- g) Overhead wires, cables, signal or traffic lights, limbs of trees or overhead structures shall not be disturbed without first obtaining permission from the owners thereof and movements shall not be commenced until after such consents are obtained.
- h) Permit vehicles will not be allowed to travel less than 2,000 feet apart unless specified on the permit.



- i) Loads must be adequately secured to the vehicle as prescribed by Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- j) The driver of the towing vehicle will be responsible for the least possible inconvenience to other traffic by using every opportunity to allow following traffic to pass. If traffic buildup behind the unit becomes heavy (considered to be six or more vehicles), the entire combination unit shall be removed from the traveled way to allow traffic to pass.
- k) All necessary safety precautions shall be employed. Extreme caution is to be exercised under conditions of crossing narrow structures, overtaking vehicles, or encountering pedestrians or vehicles along the roadway's edge. Special safety precautions shall be utilized during vehicle breakdown and the unit shall be immediately removed from the traveled portion of the roadway. The disabled unit shall be removed from the highway system at the earliest possible time after breakdown.
- l) Permit holders are required to report to the Department of Transportation, Highway Permit Office, located in Albany, or the New York State Thruway Authority, Office of Traffic Management, located in Albany (See Appendix D-1), any reportable accident under Section 605 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. A copy of the report filed with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall be submitted to the permit agent within 10 days of such accident.
- m) The driver of a permitted load is required to stop at an inspection station and present the highway hauling permit.
- n) Permittee is responsible for all horizontal and vertical clearances along each proposed route of travel to ensure that proper clearances exist. Travel shall not commence without proper clearances along all proposed routes of travel.
- o) Under no circumstances are bridge railing to be removed or adjusted, or any roadway structures, sign or temporary barriers are to be modified or changed to allow passage without prior written approval from the jurisdictional agency.
- p) Routes of travel as shown on the permit are to be used with NO EXCEPTIONS. Should the driver be on an unauthorized route, he or she must immediately remove the unit from the traveled roadway at a suitable location and contact the jurisdictional agency. Appropriate routing shall then be arranged so the unit may continue travel as soon as possible.
- q) Items shall not be loaded side-by-side to create overwidth condition; end-to-end to create overlength condition; or stacked to create overheight condition. When hauling more than one item at a time, gross weight and axle weights must remain legal.

18. Police Escorts

Police escorts, in addition to certified escorts, are required whenever the vehicle/load is of such dimension or weight or special conditions exist where the addition of a police escort is deemed necessary by the permitting agency. The following size and weight will require police escorts:



- a) Vehicle/load exceeds 160 feet in length, or 200 feet in length on a NYS Thruway controlled highway.
- b) Vehicle/load exceeds 16 feet in width.
- c) The vehicle/load exceeds 200,000 pounds or the vehicle must cross the centerline of a structure.
- d) The overall height of the vehicle/load is 16 feet or greater.

V. (B) GEOGRAPHICAL REGULATIONS APPLICABLE FOR TRAVEL THROUGH CITIES AND TOWNS

- 1. Except when authorized or further restricted on the permit, no travel is allowed in New York State between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM and between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM for any vehicle/load that is 100 feet or greater in length.
- 2. Except when authorized or further restricted on the permit, no travel is allowed in Business Districts between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM and between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM for any vehicle/load that is 14 feet or greater in width, 90 feet or greater in length, or 14 feet or greater in height
- 3. No travel is allowed for the following cities/counties between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM and between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM if the vehicle/load exceed the stated dimensions:
 - a) Binghamton - Wider than 10 feet and/or greater than 72 feet in length.
 - b) 10 mile radius of Syracuse - Wider than 10 feet and/or greater than 85 feet in length.
 - c) Hudson, Kingston, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie - Wider than 11 feet,
 - d) Utica and Amsterdam - Wider than 12 feet and contact police prior to move.
 - e) Albany and Rensselaer Counties on I-787, I-90 & I-87 - Wider than 13 feet.
- 4. Bypass routes to be utilized around cities/towns where bypass routes are available.

VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ESCORT DRIVERS

1. General Duties

The purpose of an escort vehicle is to alert the traveling public to the presence or approach of an over-dimensional load. Escort drivers are also responsible for assisting the driver of the load and should be courteous to the public and obey all traffic laws. Specific duties of front and rear escort drivers are given below.



2. Front Escorts

Responsibilities of the front escort operator include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Warn oncoming traffic of the presence of the over-dimensional load.
- b) Assist the driver of the over-dimensional load by using the two-way radio to provide notification of hazards, obstructions, low structures or overhead obstructions, pedestrians, and other potential problems that would affect the safe movement of the load and the traveling public.
- c) Assure the over-dimensional load driver that the route prescribed on the permit is being followed.
- d) Locate safe places to allow the over-dimensional load and the escort vehicles to clear the roadway so traffic following the load can safely pass.
- e) Warn motorists to stop at the end of narrow structures to permit safe passage of the load through the obstruction.
- f) Control traffic in advance of the permitted load at intersections, when necessary, to allow for necessary encroachment on opposing traffic lanes to allow for turning movements.
- g) Inform permitted load driver and rear escort that they are approaching a structure which will require a speed reduction as required by permit.

3. Rear Escort

Responsibilities of the rear escort operator include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Warn traffic approaching from the rear of the presence of an over-dimensional load ahead.
- b) Assist the over-dimensional load driver by providing notification of flat tires, objects coming loose from the load and other occurrences that the driver may not be aware of.
- c) Notify the front escort driver and over-dimensional load operator of traffic buildup and other delays to the normal flow of traffic.
- d) Notify the over-dimensional load operator of motorists attempting to pass the load.
- e) Warn motorists to stop at narrow structures and other roadway restrictions to permit safe passage of the load through the obstruction.
- f) Slow traffic where necessary to facilitate the permitted load to reduce speed over structures, where speed restriction is required.
- g) Assume lead escort position when front escort driver stops traffic on two-lane highways.



4. Authority of Escort Drivers

The purpose of the escort vehicle is to enhance the safety of moving over-dimensional loads by highway and to reduce delays and inconveniences to the normal flow of traffic. Certified Escort Drivers do have the powers to direct or control traffic, when necessary, while escorting an over-dimensional permitted vehicle. The escort driver must not operate a vehicle as an emergency vehicle, i.e., police, fire, rescue squad, etc. This requirement does not apply to official police escorts, military convoys, and vehicles of other federal and state agencies.

NOTE: CERTIFIED ESCORT PERSONNEL ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STOP TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAYS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY.

Special Hauling Permits are not issued to escort drivers, but every escort must comply with permit regulations pertaining to escort operations and this manual.

VII. ESCORT VEHICLES

1. Size and Identification

a) Size

Escort vehicles shall have a minimum wheelbase of at least 100 inches unless otherwise authorized by the Department of Transportation.

b) Identification

Each vehicle shall be identified by a proper insignia as mandated by the Department of Transportation. See Appendix B for insignia, size and color.

There shall be two insignias per car, one on each side of the vehicle. The insignia may be attached to the vehicle as a magnetized sign, a peel and stick sign or be painted.

2. Mandatory Equipment

Wherever escort vehicles are required, the following equipment is needed for each escort vehicle.

- a) The escort vehicle shall be in safe operating condition and capable of displaying signs and other warning devices as prescribed by Section V.(A) (pages 11-13) of this manual.
- b) All exterior vehicle lights must be turned on during escort operations.
- c) A two-way radio that meets Federal Communication Commission standards is required in each escort vehicle.
- d) A cellular telephone is required in either the escort vehicle or the permitted load vehicle.
- e) Three emergency triangles and/or flares. Triangles must be in accordance with FMVSS 571.125.



- f) Three emergency flares for permitted night moves.
- g) An ANSI 3 standards vest.
- h) A stop paddle.
- i) Two 18-inch-by-18-inch red or fluorescent orange flags on staffs.
- j) A class 5BC or larger rated fire extinguisher.
- k) Every front escort shall have a measuring device attached to the vehicle when escorting an over height load. If two front escorts are required, only one escort is required to have such a measuring device.

VIII. PROPER ESCORT PROCEDURES

The driver of an over-dimensional load is responsible for the overall movement of the load. Escort drivers should enhance the movement by properly performing their assigned duties. It is important to remember that the driver of an over-dimensional load and the escort(s) function as a team. Each person must contribute their skills and complete attention to accomplishing the safe movement of the load. Constant alertness is necessary to anticipate and avoid problems.

At all times, comply with all rules and regulations of State and Federal Laws and the conditions of Special Hauling Permit.

Escort drivers have specific tasks to perform during each phase of the over-dimensional load movement. A summary of the procedures that should be followed before, during, and after the movement is given below.

1. Before the Trip Begins

When escort services are required, the operator of the over-dimensional load and the escort driver(s) should arrange for an appropriate safe place to meet off the roadway and discuss various aspects of the move.

Specific items that must be covered include:

The escort driver(s) must review the permit with the operator of the over-dimensional road for any special requirements or instructions.

The escort driver is responsible for ensuring that the permitted load has the proper signing, lighting, and special requirements as designated on the permit, prior to escorting. **IF THE PERMITTED LOAD IS NOT IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE PERMIT, THE ESCORT VEHICLE WILL NOT ESCORT UNTIL SUCH REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.**



The routing prescribed on the permit should be carefully reviewed to make sure the directions are understood by everyone involved with the move. It is essential that everyone clearly understand the routes that must be followed during the move.

The position of each escort vehicle(s), i.e. front escort, etc. should be determined.

Mandatory equipment required for the escort vehicle should be checked prior to beginning the move. The sign should be mounted and secured, the vehicle mirrors should be properly adjusted, and the vehicle lights should be turned on.

An appropriate two-way radio channel should be selected and a check made of each radio to assure clear communication.

Mobile telephones should be checked to ensure that they are operational and that no blocks have been placed on the phone which would prohibit their use for certain areas that the movement is required to travel through.

Each escort driver should check to be sure their driver license and escort certification are in their possession at all times during the trip and available for inspection by appropriate authorities. The operator of the over-dimensional load should also check to assure the escort drivers are certified.

2. During the Trip

Once the oversize load movement begins, the escort driver(s) and the load operator act as a team to ensure the safety of the traveling public is enhanced by conducting proper escort activities as listed below.

Traffic Laws

Escort drivers must obey all traffic laws and regulations.

Maintain Proper Following Distance

Front and rear escort drivers should maintain a safe distance between their vehicles and the over-dimensional load. Depending upon highway and traffic conditions, a distance of 1,000 feet is usually appropriate. In urban areas and at narrow bridges, shorter following distances are usually desirable. In rural areas on narrow winding roads, the front escort driver should maneuver their vehicle well ahead of the load in advance of narrow restrictions to warn oncoming traffic of the hazard. Also, the rear escort driver should position their vehicle well behind the load in advance of roadway restrictions to warn motorists following the load.

Traffic Signals

When traveling on a route where traffic signals control the movement of traffic, if the escort vehicle passes through the intersection and the load is required to stop for a red light, the escort driver should stop as soon as possible on the right-hand side of the road and not resume travel until the load approaches at the required following distance.



The escort vehicle has no authority to control traffic at an intersection to allow the permitted load to traverse the intersection if the traffic signal is red. However if traffic has already been stopped to allow the permitted load to negotiate a turn and the traffic signal turns red, then the escort vehicle will continue to control traffic until the turning movement is complete. When the escort driver following the over-dimensional load is required to stop at a traffic light after the load has passed through the intersection, the load operator should proceed with the move as planned and the rear escort driver should resume a normal following distance as soon as the driver can proceed through the intersection. The escort drivers must be alert and avoid sudden stops at signals.

Emergency Flashers

When stopped or slowing at a traffic hazard or when traveling at a speed of less than 40 miles per hour, the escort driver should use the vehicle turn signal emergency flashers. The flashers should not be used when operations are at or exceed 40 miles per hour.

Warning Lights

All warning lights for both the escort and permitted load shall be on and operational whenever the permitted vehicle is traveling on the highway system. Warning lights shall not be used for regular vehicular operation.

Two-way Radio Communication

Each escort driver and the over-dimensional load operator are required to maintain radio communication. The escort operators are responsible for advising the load operator of any condition that may require precautionary action such as reducing speed or pulling off the roadway. Escort drivers should use the radio to inform the over-dimensional driver of obstructions, pedestrians, and other problems that require advance warning. Appropriate Federal Communication Commission procedures should be followed during all transmissions. Special attention should be given to maintaining radio contact in mountainous areas by reducing following distances if necessary.

Reducing Traffic Buildup

When traffic following the unit exceeds six vehicles or when traffic is detained for more than ten minutes, the escort driver(s) should assist the over-dimensional load driver to find a suitable location where the load and the escort vehicles can be completely removed from the roadway to allow traffic to pass.

Passing

Unless roadway hazards exist, the driver of the rear escort vehicle should not prevent motorists from passing the over-dimensional load. The escort driver should inform the load operator that a motorist is attempting to pass so appropriate precautions can be taken. Advance warning is especially important when large trucks pass the load. On narrow roads or when hazards exist the rear escort driver should discourage passing by maneuvering their vehicle near the centerline of the road. When it is necessary for the load to pass other vehicles, the rear escort driver should clearly signal an intention to pass and move into the passing lane well before the load driver initiates the maneuver. The rear escort driver



should stay in the passing lane until the load completes the pass.

Inclement Weather and Mechanical Breakdown

During periods of unforeseen inclement weather and when mechanical, physical or other problems occur, the escort drivers should assist the load operator in locating a safe place to remove the load from the roadway until operations can again be initiated.

Narrow Structures

In some cases, including but not limited to narrow structures or obstructions near the road where sight distances are limited, one or more escort drivers should warn approaching and/or oncoming traffic of the presence of the over-dimensional load. The escort driver(s) should proceed to a point where the sight distance is adequate and use flags, the two-way radio or other methods to warn traffic. The escort vehicle should, however, be close enough to the load to be readily identified with the movement.

Stopping Traffic

When an over-dimensional load is routed upon any highway which is too narrow for two-way travel at all points, the front escort vehicle or a flagperson shall advance to a point where two-way traffic can be maintained and warn oncoming traffic to stop at that location. When the load reaches the location where traffic is stopped, the over-dimensional load shall halt and allow traffic to clear from both directions, with assistance being given by the flagperson. The front escort vehicle or flagperson shall then advance to the next point to warn traffic to stop. Traffic shall not be detained for more than ten (10) minutes. When flagging or stopping traffic is required, proper flagging requirements and methods outlined below should be followed.

3. After the Trip is Completed

When the escort operation is completed, the driver should turn off all exterior lights and amber flashing lights and must remove or cover the over-dimensional load sign.

4. Methods of Flagging Traffic

Duties and Responsibilities

The flagperson is responsible for safeguarding traffic and the over-dimensional load by warning motorists of danger ahead and guiding them safely through an area, always utilizing required equipment.

Flagging Devices

a) Flag

The flag should be red or fluorescent orange, not less than 18 inches by 18 inches on a staff at least 36 inches long and should be weighted at the bottom with a 3/16-inch rod, or some other adequate weight.



b) Sign Paddle

The sign paddle should be at least 18" wide with 6" letters.

Where to Stand

- a) The flagperson should be located far enough in advance of a problem area so that approaching traffic will have sufficient distance to reduce speed and come to a stop. Depending upon approach, speed, and physical conditions at the site, a distance of 200 to 300 feet is usually desirable; however, in urban areas where speeds are low and streets are closely spaced, a shorter distance is sometimes desirable.
- b) Stand facing traffic on the edge of the shoulder of the road just outside of the traffic lane.
- c) Always stand where you can see and be seen by approaching traffic.

How to Warn Traffic to Stop

- a) Stand facing traffic but keep out of traffic lane.
- b) To warn traffic to stop, hold the flagstaff in a horizontal position in the path of the vehicle. The free arm should be raised with palm of the hand toward approaching traffic.
- c) If time permits, drivers may be informed concerning the reason for the delay. (Be courteous. Be brief. Use, for example: "Over-dimensional load is being moved through this area.")

How To Move Traffic

- a) When signaling traffic to move ahead, lower the flag behind you and signal with the free hand, using a sweeping motion in the direction traffic is to move.
- b) Never use a flag or paddle to signal traffic to move ahead.

How to Slow Traffic

To slow traffic - but not stop it - extend flag into traffic lane. The flag must be lowered before traffic is completely stopped.

Never Wave Flag

- a) Signals must be clear and distinct.
- b) Don't make drivers guess what they should do.
- c) Never wave your flag, either to stop or slow traffic or to inform motorists to proceed.



Special Requirements

From time to time, the movement of over-dimensional loads necessitates that special escort procedures be followed. These special requirements are noted on the hauling permit. The driver of the load will call any special conditions to the attention of the escort drivers and advise them of any action necessary to enhance the safe movement of the load.

IX. DON'TS OF ESCORT DRIVING

1. If your operator's license or privilege to drive in New York State is revoked or suspended or you fail to pass the escort driver examination, or if your escort driver certification has expired, you are not permitted to escort over-dimensional loads.
2. Do not assume police powers or operate your vehicle as an emergency vehicle while escorting over-dimensional loads.
3. Never stop in the roadway. If emergency stopping is necessary, pull off the roadway and employ appropriate warning devices such as flags, flares, or reflectors.
4. Do not use the emergency flashing turn signals when escort operations are at or exceed 40 miles per hour.
5. Do not drive the escort vehicle with the sign displayed after the over-dimensional load movement has been completed.
6. Never run traffic lights or stop signs, cross a double solid yellow centerline, run motorists off the road, or commit any other violation of the state traffic code.

X. EMERGENCIES

1. Procedures in case of an accident involving the Over-dimensional Load or Escort Vehicles:

- a) Help prevent a second accident by pulling off the road as completely as possible.
- b) Turn on your flashers.
- c) Warn approaching traffic of the problem.
- d) Get help - use the cellular phone to dial 911 for police and ambulance. If you are in an area where no cellular phone connection is available, ask the next person who stops to phone for police and ambulance. Use the two-way radio but do not rely on it as a sole means of requesting aid.
- e) To reduce fire hazard, turn off ignition of wrecked vehicles. Keep smokers away.



- f) Don't move the injured unless they're in a burning car or other immediate danger. Unnecessary moving often complicates injuries.
- g) Search area for victims thrown from vehicle and hidden in the underbrush.
- h) When trained personnel arrive (rescue squad, police, fire, etc.) give a brief summary of what you've done and ask if you can be of further assistance, but do not interfere with their efforts to care for the injured.

2. Reporting an Accident

Report to police authorities as quickly as possible any accident:

- a) in which a person is killed or injured, or
- b) in which a vehicle or other property is damaged, if damage is in excess of \$1,000.

When all involved parties are able, an exchange of information is necessary so that you may make a complete and detailed report of the accident. Get the following information.

- a) Name of the other driver or drivers
- b) Address of the other driver or drivers
- c) The name, address, and policy number of the insurance company(ies) of the owner(s) of the vehicle(s) involved. (The police will need some insurance information at the scene of the accident. Carry insurance information when driving.)

Drivers of escort vehicles or associated commercial vehicles involved in an accident anywhere within the boundaries of this State in which any person is killed or injured, or in which damage to the property of any one person, including themselves, in excess of \$1,000 is sustained, shall within ten days report the matter in writing to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by filing an MV104 form as required under Section 605 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Make a reasonable effort to find the owner or caretaker of an unattended vehicle or other unattended property that may be damaged. If you cannot locate the owner or caretaker, you must leave a note that can easily be found at the scene of the accident. This information should include the driver's name, address, driver license number, license plate number, date and time of accident, and an estimate of the property damage. In addition, report the accident in writing within twenty-four (24) hours to the Superintendent of State Police, or the Chief of Police if the accident has occurred in a city or town.

Any reportable accident must also be reported to the appropriate permitting authority.

Accident Report Forms may be picked up at any Department of Motor Vehicles, New York State Police, local police, sheriff, or insurance company offices. Failure to file required reports may result in the loss of your driver license and vehicle registration and will result in sanctions on your ability to obtain future permits.



XI. STUDY QUESTIONS

The following questions are not necessarily the questions that will be given on the Escort Driver Test. The questions are designed to aid in studying the materials in this manual.

1. Under what conditions are you required to become a certified escort driver? See page 5.
2. Name at least three reasons for requiring the certification of escort drivers. See page 5.
3. Is it necessary to have a valid New York State driver license when applying for certification as an escort driver? See page 6.
4. Are you permitted to use the manual or other notes when taking the certification test? See page 7.
5. What information do you need to apply for an Escort Driver Certificate? See page 6.
6. When you change your address or your name, whom should you notify concerning your Escort Certificate? See page 7.
7. Are you required to take another test when you apply for a renewal of your Escort Certificate? See page 8.
8. Name two conditions which may lead to the revocation or suspension of your Escort Certificate. See page 8.
9. As an escort driver you are required to obey some, but not all, of the road markings, signs, and signals. True or false? See page 8.
10. Why is defensive driving important to escort drivers? See page 10.
11. Are special hauling permits issued to over-dimensional load operators and to every escort driver involved in the movement of the over-dimensional load? See pages 11.
12. Over-dimensional loads with a width exceeding 12 feet may be transported on Saturday mornings between the hours of 9:00 AM and noon. True or false? See page 12.
13. Are escort drivers required to display on their vehicles red flags 18-inches square and in good condition? See page 13.
14. When are flags required on a permitted vehicle? See page 13 and 14.
15. Whenever a flag person directs traffic, what article of clothing must be worn? See page 14.
16. What size sign should be on the escort vehicle? See page 16.
17. What size sign should be on the permitted vehicle? See page 15.



18. Is it permissible to use revolving, flashing yellow lights on top of the escort vehicle to attract motorists' attention? See page 15.
19. What equipment is mandatory on an escort vehicle? See page 26 and 27.
20. Name three items that must be checked before beginning an over-dimensional movement? See page 27 and 28.
21. Name three major responsibilities of escort drivers. See pages 27 and 28.
22. Is it permissible to use emergency flashing turn signals during escort operations if the average speed of the movement is 45 miles per hour? See page 29.
23. Is the front escort operator required to be in touch with the over-dimensional load operator by two-way radio communication? See page 29.
24. Do escort drivers have police powers to control and direct traffic during the movement of over-dimensional loads? See pages 28 and 29.
25. Should the escort driver ever permit a motorist to overtake and pass an over-dimensional load on a narrow road? See page 29 and 30.
26. Outline the proper method of flagging. See pages 30 and 31.
27. Under what conditions is it necessary to report a traffic accident? See page 33.
28. What procedures should be followed in case you are involved in an accident which occurs during the movement of an over-dimensional load? See page 32 and 33.



APPENDIX A-1

Warning Flag Requirements

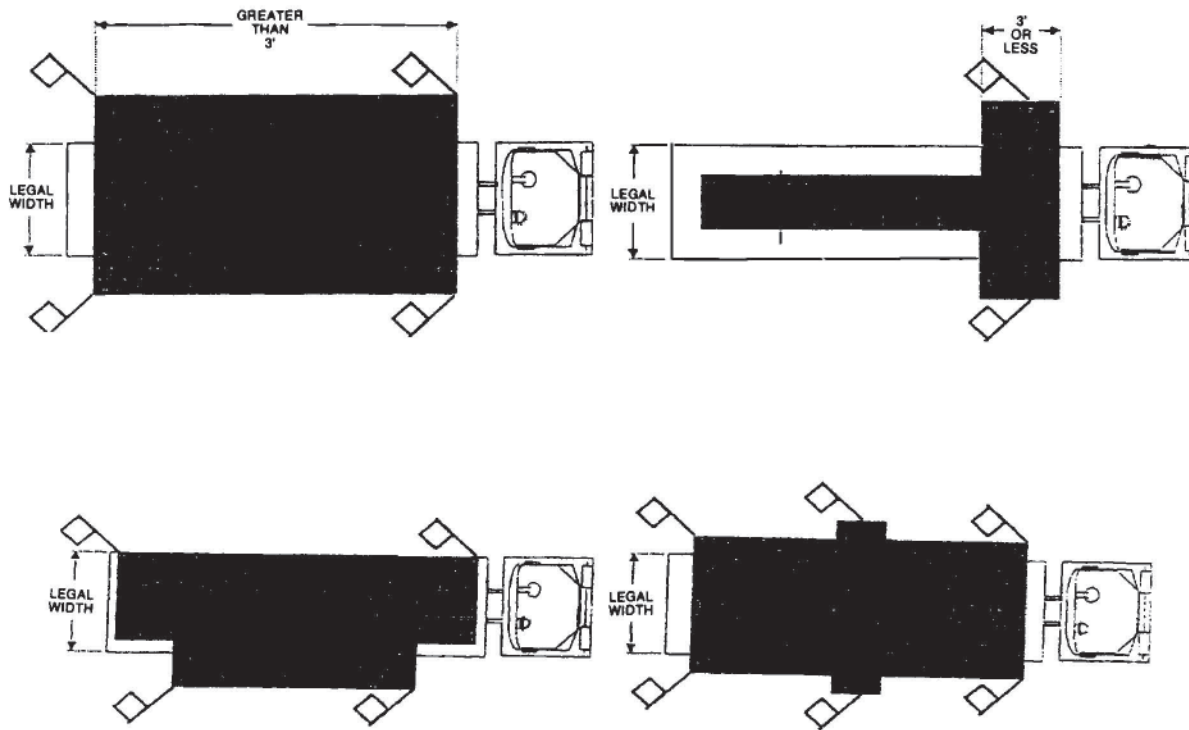


Figure A-1 Required warning flags on overwidth loads.

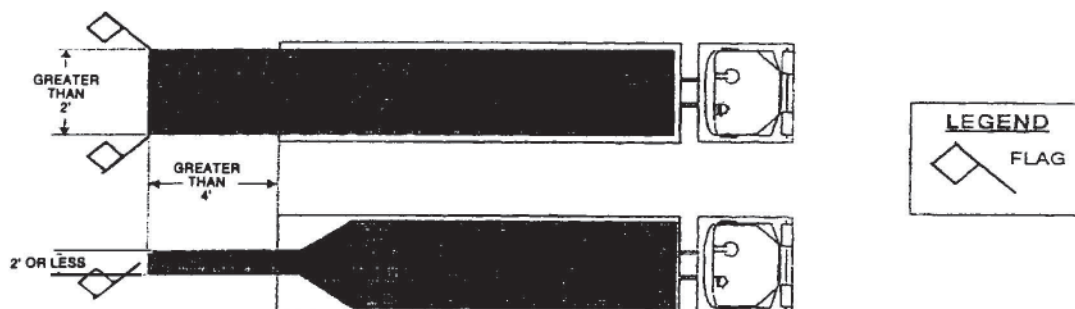


Figure A-2 Required warning flags on overlength load or loads with a rear overhang of more than four (4) feet.



APPENDIX A-2

WARNING LIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR NIGHT MOVES

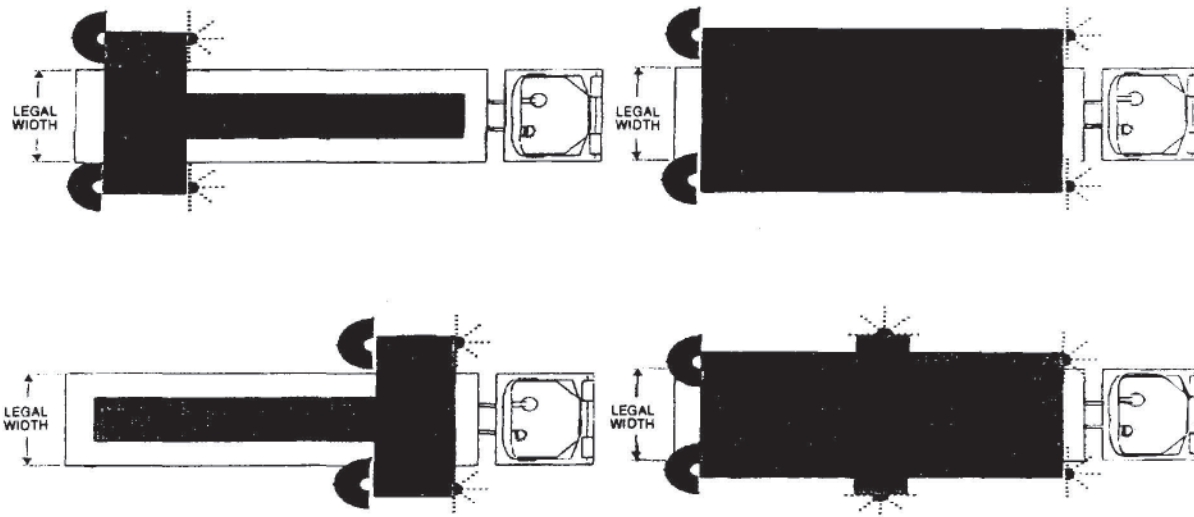


Figure A-3 Required warning lights on overwidth loads.

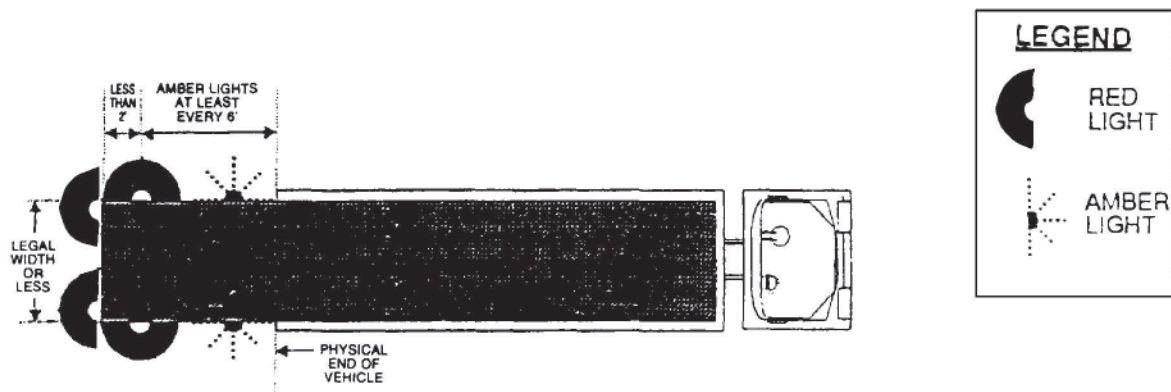


Figure A-4 Required lights on overlength load or loads with a rear overhang of more than four (4) feet.



APPENDIX A-3

SIGN LOCATION FOR PERMITTED VEHICLES

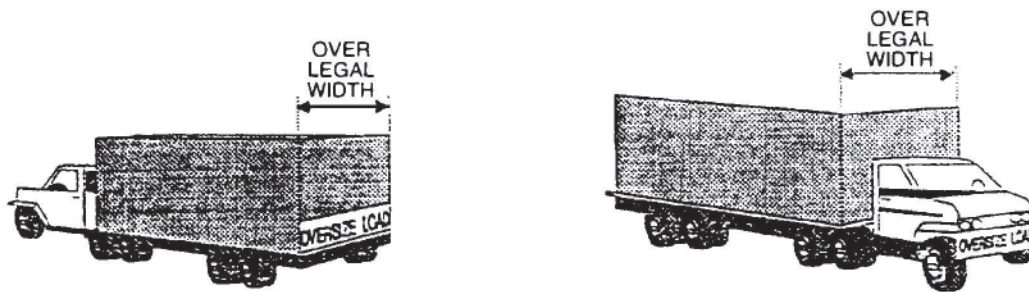


Figure A-5 Warning signs on vehicle or load overwidth

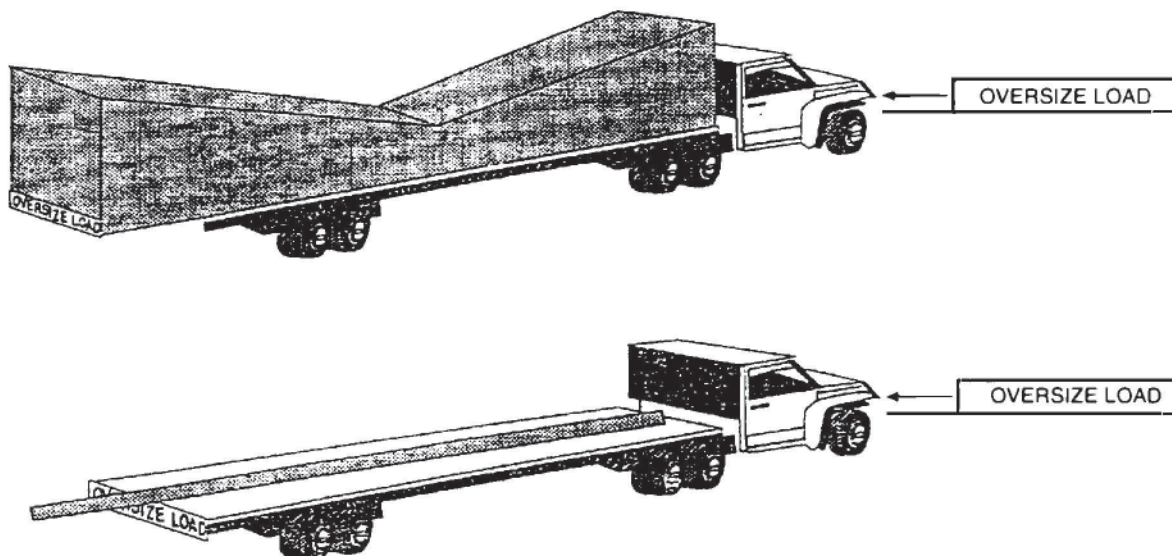


Figure A-5 Warning signs on loads overlength or with rear end overhang.



APPENDIX B

ESCORT VEHICLE INSIGNIA



PANTONE REFLEX BLUE
PANTONE YELLOW



APPENDIX C-1

STATE JURISDICTIONAL NAMES AND ADDRESS

**New York State Department of Motor Vehicles
Bus Driver Unit
6 Empire State Plaza, Room 331
Albany, NY 12228**

**New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232**

**New York State Police
Traffic Services Division
Building #22. State Campus
Albany, NY 12228**

**New York State Thruway Authority
Office of Traffic Management
200 Southern Blvd.
Albany, NY 12201-0189**



APPENDIX C-2

BRIDGE AUTHORITY JURISDICTIONAL NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Bear Mountain Bridge
U.S. Route 6 and State Route 202
Westchester County
(845) 446-4721

Kingston Rhinecliff Bridge
State Route
Ulster County
(845) 336-8181

Lewiston Bridge
Interstate Route 190
Niagara County
(716) 285-6322

Mid Hudson Bridge
U.S. Route 44 and State Route 55
Ulster County
Posted 50 Ton
(845) 691-7221

Newburgh Beacon Bridge
Interstate Route 84
Orange County
(845) 831-3700

Peace Bridge
Interstate Route 190
Erie County
(716) 884-6744

Rip Van Winkle Bridge
State Route 23
Green County
(518) 943-2360

Rouses Point Bridge
State Route 11
Clinton County
(802) 498-8263

Seaway International Bridge
State Route 37
Between Massena & Cornwall Island
St. Lawrence County
(613) 932-6601

Thousand Island Bridge Authority
Interstate Route 81
Jefferson County
(315) 482-2501

Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority
Ogdensburg, NY
St. Lawrence County
(315) 393-4080



APPENDIX C-3

LISTING OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR NEW YORK STATE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISIBLE LOAD, SPECIAL HAULING & PERMITS	(518) 485-2999
TRUCK INSPECTION PROGRAM (LOG BOOKS, ETC.)	(518) 457-6512
BUS SAFETY SECTION	(518) 457-6512
CARRIER CERTIFICATION (CAB CARDS, DOT NUMBERS)	(518) 457-6512

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

BUS DRIVER UNIT	(518) 473-9455
INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION BUREAU (IRP)	(518) 473-5834

NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY

SPECIAL HAULING PERMIT UNIT	(518) 436-2793
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NEW YORK STATE POLICE

TRAFFIC DIVISION, HEADQUARTERS, ALBANY	(518) 457-3258
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NEW YORK TAX & FINANCE

HIGHWAY USE TAX UNIT (HUT/TMT)	(518) 457-5735
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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PERMIT UNIT	(212) 839-6337
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF MOTOR CARRIERS, ALBANY	(518) 431-4145
REGULATORY SERVICE, DRUG TESTING	(518) 431-4145
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	(518) 431-4224 Ext 259



