

Vehicle escorts for oversize vehicles and abnormal loads - Guidelines for Hauliers

Guernsey has many narrow roads which are unsuitable for long, wide, high or heavy vehicles. Any abnormal load or oversize vehicle intending to travel on the Island's roads will require a permit and in some cases, may also require a vehicle escort.

Vehicle escorts warn other road users of the presence of oversize vehicles or abnormal loads and direct traffic so that these vehicles can safely negotiate a route.

An abnormal load means a large or heavy object which is indivisible into smaller parts and when placed on a vehicle results in the dimensions of that vehicle exceeding the normal legal restrictions on maximum vehicle dimensions.

An oversize vehicle is a vehicle which exceeds the normal legal restrictions on maximum vehicle dimensions.

Further information detailing the sizes and weights of vehicles that are permitted to circulate on Guernsey's roads without restrictions can be found in a document entitled 'Regulations on oversize vehicles' at this link

<https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=100999&p=0>

Escorts can be booked by telephoning Guernsey Outriders on 01481 723099.

A permit must be obtained before an escort is carried out

If the vehicle and/or load exceed the Island wide size or weight restrictions then, before an escort can be carried out, an oversize permit must be obtained from Traffic & Highway Services. The permit number will need to be given to the escort provider at the time of booking and the valid permit must also be displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle for the escort rider/driver to check prior to the escort commencing.

Applications forms for a permit can be found on our website at this link www.gov.gg/vehiclepermits or can be obtained from Traffic and Highway Services' Bulwer Avenue offices.

The application will need to be posted to Traffic and Highway Services or emailed to traffic@gov.gg We require a minimum of 3 clear working days from receipt of an application (with correctly completed details in all relevant sections) to process the application.

Time restrictions

The vehicle escort service is available 24 hours per day, with the exception of peak traffic times when undertaking of escorts is prohibited. Escorts are prohibited at the following times of the day (except on Sundays and Bank Holidays):

- Between 8am and 9am;
- Between 11.45am and 2:15pm
- Between 5pm and 6pm

Speed restrictions

The maximum speed limit for a motor vehicle exceeding 2 tons unladen is 25mph. However, there is also legislation governing the maximum speed limits for vehicles of the following types:

- 8mph Steam boilers, tar boilers, concrete mixers, material spreaders & other trailers of any kind whatsoever with metal wheels
- 12mph Four-wheeled heavy trailers of the low loader type
- 20mph Caravan homes, horse and cattle boxes & two-wheeled trailer of any kind whatsoever
- 25mph An omnibus
- 25mph An articulated vehicle

Load requirements

The oversize and abnormal load escort service is only intended for indivisible loads. This is loads/equipment that cannot be broken down into smaller loads to be carried in vehicles that fit within the Island size and weight restrictions.

Examples of indivisible loads include:- cranes, low-loaders, JCB's, boats, large items of equipment, energy plant etc.

Examples of divisible loads include:- furniture (i.e. removal vans from the UK), sand, cement, equipment for special events etc.

Special dispensation must be sought for divisible loads to be moved if there is a good reason.

Loads must be secured using ratchets, chains, tensioners, winch straps etc. Any of the above equipment must have the relevant current test certificates available for checking when required.

Escorted load

It is the responsibility of the haulier to ensure the escorted load is secure. In the event that the escort rider considers the load to be unsafe, the escort may be refused and the fee may not be refunded. Similarly, if the vehicle or load does not comply with Guernsey legislative requirements then the escort may be refused and the fee not refunded.

Removal of street furniture for very large vehicles and/or loads

If it is necessary for street furniture, such as bollards, to be removed for the escorted load/vehicle to pass through, **3 clear working days' notice must be given to Traffic & Highway Service** by the escort service provider to arrange for this to be carried out. A charge will be made to the haulier for this work.

Weather Restrictions

Escorts are prohibited from occurring during severe weather conditions - such as extremely heavy rain, heavy fog, icy road conditions, heavy snow, or any continuous condition which creates low visibility for drivers or hazardous driving conditions.

Motorcycle escorts may not take place in wind conditions of force 6 and above, including gusts.

Bookings

The haulier must provide to the service provider, as a minimum, the following information:

- The oversize vehicle permit number

- The time and date that the escort is required;
- The company/owner and registration number/s of the vehicle/s;
- The origin and destination of the vehicle/s being escorted. *All movements must be specified at the time of booking otherwise a separate charge will be enabled;*
- A description of the item/s being escorted;
- The overall width, length and, where necessary, weight and height of the vehicle/s and its load;
- In the event that a load is divisible, the reason that the escort is required. *Prior permission must be sought for movements that fall into this category;*

Apart for in exceptional circumstances, the above information must be provided a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the required escort. However, if the escort is required on a weekend or Bank holiday or if it will require a double escort (section 8) then 48 hours' notice is recommended.

Pricing

Charging is on a per whole or part hour basis.

- 0700 – 1800 £38.50 per hour or part thereof
- 1800 – 2200 £41.00 per hour or part thereof
- 2200 – 0700 £76.00 per hour or part thereof

For full pricing details (including prices for multiple movements and/or multiple vehicles per hour or part thereof) and cancellation charges please contact the service provider.

Double Escorts

On certain routes, or for exceptionally large vehicles/loads, the service provider may consider that a double escort may be more suitable to ensure the safest possible execution of the escort. Double escorts must be used for vehicles/loads that are more than 3m wide (9.84 feet).

Prior permission from Traffic & Highway Services will be required for double escorts.

Convoys

On certain routes, the service provider may consider that a convoy may be more suitable to ensure efficient movement of oversized vehicles around the island.

The haulier will be required to gain prior permission from Traffic and Highway Services for vehicles to be escorted in convoy.

Escorted Vehicle (haulier) specification

The vehicle being escorted must be legal and roadworthy. In the event that the escort rider considers the vehicle to be un-roadworthy, the escort may be refused and the fee may not be refunded.

The vehicle's braking systems must be correctly connected and must be in good working order.

The trailer must be equipped with an efficient braking system which conforms to the requirements of section 5(2) of the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971.

The braking system must be capable of being applied to all the wheels of the trailer by the driver of the drawing vehicle. The trailer brakes must be designed and constructed to have the highest braking efficiency of any of the brakes of any braking system with which the drawing vehicle is equipped.

In the event that the escort rider considers the vehicle brakes to be un-roadworthy, the escort may be refused.

Escorted vehicle (haulier), markings and Identification

It is the haulier's responsibility to ensure that escorted vehicles are correctly marked. All escorted vehicles must be fitted with rear markings as indicated by the Highway Code.

Escorted vehicles over 7500 kilograms maximum gross weight and trailers over 3500 kilograms maximum gross weight.

The vertical markings are also required to be fitted to all escorted vehicles or combinations which are longer than the Island wide limit.

Where appropriate projection markers and hazard warning plates must be fitted as advised by the Highway Code.



Such marking must be fully reflective vehicle signs, conforming to B.S. AU152.

Additional markings such as “wide load” or “long vehicle” are also permissible.

WIDE VEHICLE

WIDE LOAD

LONG VEHICLE

In the event that the escort rider considers the vehicle ineffectively marked and therefore presenting a hazard to other road users, the escort may be refused.

Insurance

Motoring insurance must be in accordance with relevant motoring laws and cover must be appropriate to the vehicles operated by the haulier.

General guidelines to hauliers

Driving standards must be maintained. It is the driver’s responsibility to drive safely. The escort rider cannot account for the actions of every other road user.

The load should be driven at a speed which allows the escort to perform its duty safely and in good time. The fact that a vehicle is under escort is not an excuse for it to be driven at a speed above what it would be driven without an escort.

In some circumstances it may be necessary for the vehicle to pass through a red traffic signal. Prior to this, the junction will have been controlled by the escort, but the driver must still exercise care and control.

The driver will be informed of any problems en route.

Where a road needs to be closed or traffic management measures introduced for a vehicle to be escorted along or parked on that road, it is the responsibility of the Hirer to arrange for the closure or traffic management measures to be installed by Traffic & Highway Services in advance of the escort. If these measures are required out of office hours (in the event of an urgent escort) then the Hirer must apply to the Guernsey Police.

It is recommended that hauliers also make themselves familiar with the planned and agreed road works on the Island. The IRIS web site allows public view of the Island Road Works Information System which shows planned and agreed road works. www.iris.gov.gg

The escort rider will inspect the vehicle and load prior to the escort commencing.

In the event of bad weather, an un-roadworthy vehicle or any other factors which, in the opinion of the escort rider, affects the safety of road users, the escort may be refused. If the escort cannot be undertaken due to the fault of the haulier, then the fee may be forfeited.

Customer complaints/feedback

If you do not feel that the escort service provider a service as set out in these guidelines then please direct complaints/feedback to Traffic & Highway Services.

PO Box 145
Bulwer Avenue Office
Bulwer Avenue
St Sampson
GY2 4LR
Telephone: 01481 243400
Website: www.gov.gg/vehiclepermits
Open 8.45am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday