

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

New Conditions for Overdimensional Moves

Effective October 13, 2009, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will be implementing new conditions for overdimensional moves.

The new conditions govern how loads exceeding 4.15m in height, 2.60m in width, and 23m in length move on our highways.

These new conditions will make special moves easier for industry, and harmonizes with the other Atlantic Provinces.

The highlights of the changes include:

- Single Trip Permits will now be valid for seven days.
- The responsibilities of the carriers are clearly defined (e.g. the carrier is responsible for obtaining permission from municipalities and utility companies before applying for a special move).
- Equipment specifications are defined for flags, flashing lights, d-signs, and lighted sign boxes.
- Permits the movement of loads between the hours 7:00 am to 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on all highways except those near Halifax Regional Municipality, and Cape Breton Regional Municipality.
- Escort vehicles are no longer required on vehicles with lengths less than 27.5 m.

Companies with existing annual special move permits will be issued new permits with the updated conditions. Permits issued as of October 13 will use the new conditions.th Full details of the new conditions are attached.

October 8, 2009

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Over-Dimensional Moves

Purpose

The roadway system is designed to accommodate vehicles of certain standard sizes and dimensions. As a result, restrictions are applied for oversized moves greater than 2.6 metres in width, or 4.15 metres in height or 23 metres (except 25 metres for 'B' Train and Pole trailers) in length. Measurements are to be taken at the widest part of the load (including eaves, top of hull, etc.). All vehicles that do not conform to the prescribed limits must be in possession of a special move permit

Procedure(s)

Special over-dimensional move permits are issued for indivisible loads only.

Loads are considered indivisible if:

- for width, the load does not consist of articles placed side by side or cross-wise,
- for height, the load does not consist of articles placed on top of one another, and
- for length, the load does not consist of articles placed one behind the other.

The load must be placed upon the vehicle in such a way that the load exceeds the dimension limit to the least degree.

Administration of over-dimensional moves is done by staff at Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal staff (Area Managers) are normally involved only for exceptional moves.

Single trip permits will be valid for seven days.

Escort Vehicles

Escort vehicles (pilot vehicles) must be used when required to by the permit conditions. Guidelines for escort vehicle use can be found in the Escort Vehicle Drivers' Handbook.

Exceptional Moves

The following "Exceptional Moves" conditions are to be attached to all "Special Move Permits" when the width exceeds 5.49 metres, the length exceeds 30

metres or the height exceeds 4.88 metres. These conditions are in addition to, and may supercede, the conditions noted on the Special Move Form.

Moves for widths of 7.9 metres (26 ft) or greater must be approved by the District Director for each district affected by the move.

Moves wider than 9.1 metres (30 ft) are not permitted on any roads. Permits for moves greater than 40 metres in length must be approved by appropriate TIR staff.

For vehicles that exceed the above limits, the mover must obtain approval from the Municipality who owns any road that the move is to take place. Written confirmation of the approval must be provided to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations before the permit will be processed. Confirmation is not required for roads that are owned by Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Failure to supply written notification to Service Nova Scotia by the applicant will result in a delay of the approval of the permit.

For loads with widths of 6.7 m or greater, or for lengths greater than 40 m, escorts may be required by RCMP or Municipal police in a marked car. Written confirmation from the escorting party is required before the permit will be issued. Any and all costs associated with provision of the escort are to be incurred by the movers. See condition 114 for more detail.

Moves in excess of 4.88 metres in height require the applicant to obtain written permission from NSP, Aliant and the applicable cable companies as part of the permit application prior to issuance of the permit.

Applicants are to allow ten (10) working days for exceptional move application processing.

Summary Table: Over-Height Move Conditions:

HEIGHT		CONDITIONS APPLICABLE	TYPE OF PERMIT
exceeding	up to and including		
4.15 m (13.6 ft)	4.27 m (14 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Annual or Single Trip
4.27 m (14 ft)	4.88 m (15.75 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 23	Single Trip Only
4.89 m + (15.75 ft+)		1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 23, 115	Single Trip Only

Summary Table: Over-Width Move Conditions:

WIDTH		CONDITIONS APPLICABLE	TYPE OF PERMIT
exceeding	up to and including		
2.60 m (8.5 ft)	2.75 m (9 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Annual or Single Trip
2.75 m (9 ft)	3.05 m (10 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 24	Annual or Single Trip
3.05 m (10 ft)	3.66 m (12 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 38	Annual or Single Trip
3.66 m (12 ft)	4.27 m (14 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 39	Annual or Single Trip
4.27 m (14 ft)	4.88 m (15.7 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 39, 104	Single Trip Only
4.88 m (15.7 ft)	5.49 m (18 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 39, 104	Single Trip Only
5.50 m + (18 ft+)		1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, 112 plus other applicable conditions from Section 2	Single Trip Only

Summary Table: Over-Length Move Conditions:

LENGTH		CONDITIONS APPLICABLE	TYPE OF PERMIT
exceeding	up to and including		
23 m (75 ft)	25 m (82 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Annual or Single Trip
25 m (82 ft)	27.5 m (90 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 23	Annual or Single Trip
27.5 m (90 ft)	30 m (100 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 23, 30, 31, 32, 34	Annual or Single Trip
30.0 m (100 ft)	40 m (130 ft)	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 22, 23, 30, 31, 32, 109, 112, 116	Single Trip Only
40 m + (130 ft+)		1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 23, 30, 31, 32, 109, 112, 114*	Single Trip Only

*Note: (114) Depending on circumstances surrounding the move, TIR may require the mover to obtain police escort for a portion or all of the moving route.

Summary Table: Front Over-Hangs Move Conditions:

FRONT OVER HANGS		CONDITIONS APPLICABLE	TYPE OF PERMIT
exceeding	up to and including		
1.0 m (3.2 ft)	2.0 m (6.4 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, 21	Annual or Single Trip
2.0 m + (6.4 ft+)		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, 21, 22, 23	Annual or Single Trip

Summary Table: Rear Over-Hangs Move Conditions:

REAR OVER HANGS		CONDITIONS APPLICABLE	TYPE OF PERMIT
front	rear		
2.0 m (6.4 ft)	3.05 m (10 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, 21	Annual or Single Trip
3.05 m (10 ft)	5.5 m (18 ft)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31, 32, 33	Annual or Single Trip
5.50 m + (18.5 ft+)		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30, 31, 32, 33	Single Trip Only

1 Standard Conditions

- 1 A valid permit, obtained from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations must be in the possession of the driver of the vehicle and is subject to revocation at any time.
- 2 For roads that are not owned by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, the mover must contact the Municipality who owns the road.
- 3 The vehicle is not permitted on any highway during adverse road and weather conditions, or when visibility is reduced as to create a hazard.
- 4 A distance between over dimensional vehicles must be no less than 500 metres while operating on a highway.
- 5 The vehicle must observe traffic and must, when traffic begins to accumulate behind the movement, pull off the road and allow traffic to pass.
- 6 The mover will be held responsible for all damages caused as a result of the moving of the special move permitted vehicle.
- 7 If the view to the rear is obstructed or interfered with by a trailer (either loaded or unloaded) attached to the vehicle, or by the loading of the vehicle, an outside rear vision mirror must be

attached to each side of the vehicle to afford the driver a clear view to the rear of at least 60 metres.

2 Operational Restrictions

- 10 The vehicle is not permitted to travel between sunset and sunrise as determined by the National Research Council at:
<http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/hia/sunrise-sunset.html>.
- 11 The vehicle is not permitted on any two (2) lane road and on any multilane highway in HRM and CBRM between the hours of 7:00 am to 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- 12 The vehicle must stop before entering all underpasses; safe clearance must be confirmed before proceeding at creep speed.
- 13 The mover must contact Nova Scotia Power (NSP), Aliant and local cable companies prior to the move.
- 14 If crossing the Canso Causeway, the mover must contact the RCMP 24 hours in advance to determine the time of the move.
- 15 The vehicle is not permitted on any highway after 3:00 pm on any Friday, and after noon hour on any Saturday, Sunday or public holiday. The statutory holidays in Nova Scotia are:
 - New Years Day
 - Good Friday
 - Victoria Day
 - Canada Day
 - Natal Day
 - Labour Day
 - Thanksgiving Day
 - Remembrance Day
 - Christmas Day
 - Boxing Day

3 Warning Devices

- 20 Square flags must be on the extremities of the overhang. Equipped flags must:
 - a be placed at each corner of the loads, and where applicable, at the extremity of a protrusion for an over-width load.
 - b be placed on the extremities of the rearmost point of the load for an over-length load.

- c measure at least 40 cm on each side.
 - d must be mounted on staff and fastened at two consecutive corners of the flag.
 - e be made of fabric or flexible plastic.
- 21 Reflective tape must be on both sides of the overhang during night moves. Reflective tape must comply with CMVSS 108 Conspicuity Systems - Section S5.7 (available through Transport Canada <http://www.tc.gc.ca/acts-regulations/regulations/crc-c1038/sch-iv/108/menu.htm>).
- 22 The vehicle must display a revolving or flashing amber warning light on the top of the towing vehicle, and must:
- a be visible for a distance of 300 metres in all directions (if the light is blocked, it may be necessary to use more than one revolving light).
 - b flash 60 - 90 times per minute.
 - c be mounted a minimum of 1.5 m from the ground.
- 23 The overdimensional vehicle must display a "D" sign (Over-Dimensional Load Signs) on the front and rear of the vehicle. D-signs for load carrying vehicles must meet the following requirements:
- a 240 cm to 245 cm wide, 30 cm high, 20 cm high Letter Series E font.
 - b White level II reflectance and stop sign red (#712 3M or equivalent).
 - c The sign panel must be fabricated of retro reflective material.
 - d The "D" sign must not be used when not operating under special move conditions.
- 24 Square flags or flashing lights must be used at the extremities of the load during the day. Flashing lights must be used at the extremities of the load during the night. Equipped flags must:
- a be placed at each corner of the load, and where applicable, at the extremity of a protrusion for an over-width load.
 - b be placed on the extremities of the rearmost point of the load for an over-length load.
 - c measure at least 40 cm on each side.
 - d must be mounted on staff and fastened at two consecutive corners of the flag.

- e be made of fabric or flexible plastic.
- Flashing amber lights must:
- a be visible for a minimum of 150 m from the front, rear and sides of the vehicle.
 - b be mounted at each corner of the load, and where applicable, at the extremity of a protrusion.
 - c must flash at a rate of 60 - 90 flashes per minute.

4 Escort Vehicles

- 30 Vehicles used to provide escort services during the movement of overdimensional loads must:
 - a have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating no greater than 8000 kg
 - b have no more than 2 axles
 - c have a wheelbase of at least 2.5 m
 - d not carry cargo or tow a trailer. Only equipment and passengers related to the movement of the oversize/overweight load can be carried in the escort vehicle.
 - e have clear visibility to the rear from all mirrors.
 - f have a two-way radio which allows communication with the overdimensional vehicle, and other escort vehicles involved with the movement, at all times (cellular telephones are not to be used for this communication purpose).
 - g have a cellular telephone for communication with police and other emergency services. If two escort vehicles are required for movement of an overdimensional vehicle or load, one cellular telephone is acceptable.
 - h have a "D" sign on the front and rear of the vehicle or lighted signbox on the vehicle.
- 31 D-signs for escort vehicles must meet the following requirements:
 - a 180 cm wide, 30 cm high, 20 cm high Letter Series E font.
 - b White level II reflectance and stop sign red (#712 3M or equivalent).
 - c The sign panel must be fabricated of retro reflective material.

- d The "D" sign must not be used when not operating under special move conditions.
- 32 A lighted sign box, if used, must meet the following specifications:
- a the sign must be upright when in use, and clearly visible from the front and rear of the vehicle. The sign must be folded flat when not in use or not required, or must be removed from the vehicle.
 - b the box must be 180 centimetres x 35 centimetres x 10 centimetres and must shelter all wire connectors, switches, flashers, etc.
 - c A sufficient number of lamps must be mounted in the box and spaced to give even lighting of the sign background across its full width.
 - d the sign panel must be constructed of white plexi-glass with red bars painted with transparent red paint. The letter "D" must be white in color and must be 20 centimetres high, Series E.
 - e must consist of two 175-millimetre (minimum) amber lights with reflectors, rated at 12.5 volts, 3 amps and 0.50 candela with a rated life of 300 hours.
 - f must consist of 2 standard 203-millimetre revolving or flashing amber lights, with 2 sealed beam units per lamp.
 - g The sign box must be deactivated, removed, or covered when not operating under special move conditions.
- 33 An escort vehicle is required at the rear of the vehicle
- 34 An escort vehicle is required at the rear of the vehicle on 2 lane roads.
- 35 During daytime travel an escort vehicle is required at the front of the vehicle on 2 lane roads.
- 36 During daytime travel an escort vehicle is required at the rear of the vehicle on multi-lane highways.
- 37 During daytime travel escort vehicles are required at the front and at the rear of the vehicle on 2 lane roads.
- 38 During nighttime travel an escort vehicle is required at the front of the vehicle on 2 lane roads and at the rear of the vehicle on multi-lane highways. Sunset and sunrise are as determined by the National Research Council at <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/hia/sunrise-sunset.html>.

39 During nighttime travel escort vehicles are required at the front and at the rear of the vehicle. Sunset and sunrise are as determined by the National Research Council at <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/hia/sunrise-sunset.html>

5 Exceptional Move Conditions

- 101 Prior to the move, the mover is responsible for contacting any Fire Department through whose territory the move is to travel.
- 102 Prior to the move, the mover is responsible for contacting Emergency Health Services Nova Scotia to notify them a special permitted move will be made.
- 103 The routing for each move is to be approved. The route is to be listed in order of travel and by road name, with the distance to be travelled along each road. The propose route must state the civic addresses of the origin and destination, and reference each section of the road(s) to be used in the order of travel. A copy of the route must be attached to the permit and kept with the vehicle at the time of the move.
- 104 One lane of traffic is to be kept open when moving on 100 Series highways. Bridges are generally not wide enough to allow one lane to stay open, therefore, moves must wait until there is a sufficient break in traffic to cross the bridge. For the Seal Island Bridge, the Canso Causeway, or other locations where it is required to close the road for a short period of time, an RCMP escort or full traffic control as per the NS Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual is required (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/tcm/>).
- 105 The mover must be insured for \$2,000,000.00 with the Crown named as co-holder of the policy.
- 106 When required, a scout vehicle is to be a sufficient distance ahead of the move, and in radio contact, to identify potential problems and allow the load to be pulled over as needed. A scout vehicle is required for moves exceeding:
- i. 7.9 metres in width on all divided highways
 - ii. 6.7 metres in width on non-divided controlled access highways
 - iii. 5.5 metres in width on all other highways.
- 107 The mover is to predetermine locations to pull over.
- 108 Stopping of special permitted vehicle is not allowed where a portion

- of the roadway would be obstructed.
- 109 Moves are to be made between 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. only (unless governed by #110).
- 110 Moves exceeding 5.5 metres in width must be made from 3:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Sundays only. (modification to general condition #15).
- 111 Escort vehicles, displaying D-signs front and rear and an amber warning light on top of the escort vehicle visible for a distance of 150 metres, are required to precede and follow moves on all but divided highways. On divided highways, an escort vehicle is to follow the move.
- 112 Escort vehicles, displaying D-signs front and rear and an amber warning light on top of the escort vehicle visible for a distance of 150 metres, are required to precede and follow the move.
- 113 A complete compliment of signs, cones and flares is to be carried at all times during a move, to provide sufficient warning in the event of a breakdown.
- 114 Written confirmation from the escorting party (police) must be received prior to the release of the permit. Escort must be provided by an RCMP or Municipal police officer in a marked vehicle. Any and all costs associated with provision of the escort are to be incurred by the movers. See following table:
- Divided highways
 - 5.5 m up to 6.7 m - N/A
 - 6.7 m up to 7.9 m - N/A
 - 7.9 m up to 9.1 m - Scout Vehicle Required
 - Undivided Controlled Access
 - 5.5 m up to 6.7 m - N/A
 - 6.7 m up to 7.9 m - Scout Vehicle Required
 - 7.9 m up to 9.1 m - Permitted only with police escort
 - Other highways
 - 5.5 m up to 6.7 m - Scout Vehicle Required
 - 6.7 m up to 7.9 m - Road closure or police escort, detour route required

- 7.9 m up to 9.1 m - Road closure or police escort, detour route required
- 115 For moves in excess of 4.88 m in height, the applicant is required to receive written permission from NSP, Aliant and the applicable cable companies, and submit it as part of the permit application prior to issuance of the permit.
- 116 Mover must notify RCMP and/or local police agency with schedule and timing of move.
- 117 When the move takes place after daylight hours, load must be equipped on the rear left and rear right with flashing amber lights visible for a distance of 150 metres.
- 118 Over-height loads that are also over-width are required to move at night unless otherwise noted by the Area Manager. Over-width moves that exceed 4.88 metres in height are not allowed on divided highways if more than 7.9 metres wide, or on undivided controlled access highways if more than 6.7 metres wide or on other highways if over 5.49 metres wide except as outlined in the following:
On non-controlled access highways, moves which are both overwidth (greater than 5.5 metres) and over-height (greater than 4.88 metres) may be allowed when the total move is 7.5 kms. or less. Full traffic control is required for each leg of the move (as per Section 4 - Road Closures) and there must be sufficient time between legs to remove traffic backlogs. There must also be a detour around each leg (as per Section 5 - Detours).

6 Other

For moves involving boats which have a hull width greater than 5.5 metres and are moved locally, the Area Manager, depending on the conditions surrounding the move, may waive the requirement for a police escort and determine the timing of the move.

All of these are general rules; stricter requirements may be imposed by the Area Manager.

Any requested movements of oversize non-divisible loads which fall outside this procedure may be taken under consideration only under

exceptional circumstances. In these cases, approval MUST come from the Executive Director Maintenance & Operations.

In cases where the Department indicates to an applicant that it may be willing to consider an oversized move request which falls outside the maximum limits outlined in this policy, and before a formal review is undertaken, a complete and fully detailed Traffic Management and Physical Move Plan must be submitted by the applicant to the Department. The Department may require that the applicant provide further clarification and or details regarding this plan. Any and all costs associated with the preparation of the Traffic Management and Physical Move Plan and its review will be at the applicants expense. The applicant must be cautioned that agreement by the Department to review a Traffic Management and Physical Move Plan does not imply in any way that the move will be permitted.

Only after such a review is completed will a final decision be made on issuing a permit.

7 Additional Conditions which may also be specified for any move

200 Spacing of between 100 metres to 500 metres between pilot vehicles and the laden vehicle must be maintained while moving along highways.

201 A police escort or traffic control as per the NS Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual is required at intersections where the load is involved in turning movements that require traffic to be stopped.

8 Road Closures

Full road closure is required as per the NS Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual. The maximum length of a road closure is 3 kms. as per the NS Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual. Moves greater than 3 kms. must be done in a series of “legs” each of which conforms with the above.

9 Detours

A detour with a maximum length of 40 kms. must be available around the section of road to be closed.

Accountability

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations is responsible for the issuing of permits. TIR, through the Vehicle Compliance Division, is responsible for enforcement. Area Managers are responsible to review over-width moves in excess of 5.5 metres and under 5.5 metres if requested by administrative staff, as well as over-height moves in excess of 4.88 metres. The Manager Highway Maintenance & Operations is responsible to review over-length moves in excess of 30 metres.

Monitoring

This procedure is to be monitored by the Director of Driver and Vehicle Safety, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, in conjunction with the TIR District Directors.

References

Canadian General Standards Board Specifications 62-GP-11M
Special Moves Permit Form
Nova Scotia Workplace Traffic Control Manual
Escort Vehicle Drivers' Handbook

Appendices

Escort Vehicle Drivers' Handbook

Enquiries

Highway Maintenance & Operations