

Guide

to the Regulation Respecting Special Permits



The *Highway Safety Code* stipulates that the owner or lessee of an outsized vehicle in terms of load or size, or the carrier responsible for such a vehicle, may not allow this vehicle to be driven before obtaining a special permit issued for that purpose.

The special permit is issued by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) in accordance with established conditions and rules, and on payment of the fees and costs determined by the *Regulation respecting special permits*. However, the permit may only be issued to authorize travel of a vehicle that was manufactured as an outsized vehicle or that is outsized because its load is indivisible. The Regulation prescribes that the permit holder is responsible for ensuring that travel on the road network is authorized for the load and size of the vehicle.

This brochure, with its quick-reference tables, provides a summary of the requirements of non-standard transport. It also includes the two main categories and seven classes of special permits.

General category:

Authorizes its holder to make trips with or without a specified route for not longer than one year.

Specific category:

Authorizes its holder to make a return trip with a specified route, for not longer than seven consecutive days.

Load and size limits are given for each of the classes. Traffic rules and a description of warning signals required are also provided.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Class 1 | Vehicles that are outsized due to width, height, length, or front or rear overhang |
| Class 2 | Transport of prefabricated buildings |
| Class 3 | Transport of swimming pools |
| Class 4 | Tow trucks |
| Class 5 | Travel with loaded mass in excess of limits |
| Class 6 | Travel with loaded mass in excess of limits, requiring an expert's report from the MTQ |
| Class 7 | Travel with size in excess of limits, requiring an expert's report from the MTQ |

The information in this document is for your guidance only. For the complete provisions, please refer to the *Regulation respecting special permits* (O.C. 1444-90, October 3, 1990).

Any information concerning road transport control may be obtained by calling the information centre of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

Montréal: 514 873-7620

Québec: 418 643-7620

Elsewhere in Québec: 1 800 361-7620

This brochure was produced by the Direction du transport routier des marchandises and published by the Direction des communications of the ministère des Transports.

To get copies of this document, or for further information, you can:

- go to the Ministère's website at: www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca;
- call **511** (in Québec) or **1 888 355-0511** (from anywhere in North America);
- send an email to: communications@mtq.gouv.qc.ca;
- write to the following address:
Direction des communications
Ministère des Transports
700, boul. René-Lévesque Est, 27^e étage
Québec (Québec)
G1R 5H1

DESCRIPTION OF WARNING SIGNALS

Amber light with a range of 360°



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Visibility | Minimum of 300 m in every direction |
| Size | Minimum lens diameter of 12 cm at a height of 10 cm above the base |
| Frequency | 60 to 90 cycles per minute |
| Installation | At least 1.5 m from the ground |

Flashing amber lights



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Visibility | Types A and C Minimum of 300 m |
| | Type B Minimum of 150 m |
| Size | Types A and C Minimum diameter of 17.5 cm |
| | Type B Minimum diameter of 10 cm |
| Frequency | Types A, B and C 60 to 90 cycles per minute |
| Installation | Type A At least 1.5 m from the ground and 2.25 m apart |
| | Type B At the widest place at the front and rear extremities of the load and at the front and rear extremities of overhangs extending beyond the width of the load by more than 30 cm, without widening the load or overhangs by more than 12 cm on each side |
| | Type C At least 2 m from the ground, at the widest part of each front and rear extremity of the building, excluding the roof: however, the front lights may be placed at the back of the side rear-view mirrors |

« D » Signs



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Colour | White and red obtained from a Type XI retroreflective sheeting (standard 14101) as specified in Chapter 14 of <i>Tome VII-Matériaux</i> from the Normes - Ouvrages routiers collection |
| Size | 240-245 cm x 30 cm (See Schedule 2 of the <i>Regulation respecting special permits</i> for size of bands and letters) |
| Mounting | Board or hard surface kept free of any object, material or dirt |
| Installation | At the front and rear of the vehicle or load |

Flags



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Colour | Red or orange |
| Size | At least 40 cm on each side |
| Mounting | Attached in at least two places, so that they wave |
| Installation | At the widest place at the front and rear extremities of the load and at the front and rear extremities of overhangs extending beyond the width of the load by more than 30 cm, without widening the load or overhangs by more than 12 cm on each side |

Red light



| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Visibility | Minimum of 150 m |
| Size | Minimum diameter of 10 cm |
| Installation | At the extremity of the rear overhang |

LOAD AND SIZE LIMITS ACCORDING TO PERMIT CLASS AND CATEGORY

| CLASS | MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS AUTHORIZED | | CATEGORY | | MAXIMUM MASS AUTHORIZED |
|-------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | General | Specific | |
| 1 | Width | | 4.40 m | 5 m | Mass prescribed in Order in Council 1299-91 <i>Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation</i> |
| | Height | | 4.30 m | 5 m | |
| | Length | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single unit road vehicle • Two-unit vehicle, a combination of two road vehicles • Three-unit vehicle, a combination of three road vehicles • A crane | 17 m 27.50 m 30 m 21 m | 40 m 40 m 40 m 40 m ⁽¹⁾ | |
| | Front overhang | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crane and snow removal vehicle • Other | 4 m 2 m | | |
| | Rear overhang | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees loaded lengthwise • Other | 6 m 4 m | | |
| 2 | Width at base of building | | 4.30 m ⁽²⁾ | 5 m | |
| | Width at roof | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire building • Building in sections | 4.60 m 5.05 m ⁽³⁾ | 5.30 m 5.75 m ⁽³⁾ | |
| | Height | | 4.30 m | 5 m | |
| | Length | | 30 m | 30 m | |
| | Rear overhang | | 5 m | | |
| 3 | Width at base Width at upper part | | 4.40 m 5.40 m ⁽⁴⁾ | | |
| 4 | Sizes prescribed in Order in Council 1299-91 <i>Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation</i> | | | | Single axle tow truck: up to 15,000 kg Tandem axle tow truck: up to 30,000 kg |
| 5 | Sizes prescribed in Order in Council 1299-91 <i>Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation</i> | | | | Combination of two vehicles: 5 axles: up to 66,000 kg 6 axles: up to 72,000 kg 7 axles: up to 74,000 kg Combination of three vehicles: 7 or 8 axles: up to 76,000 kg 8 or 9 axles: up to 79,000 kg |
| 6 | Sizes prescribed in Order in Council 1299-91 <i>Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation</i> | | | | Loads in excess of Class 5 limits and travel on bridges with weight limits |
| 7 | Size in excess of Class 1 limits | | | | Loads prescribed in Order in Council 1299-91 <i>Vehicle Load and Size Limits Regulation</i> |

(1) For a combination of road vehicles consisting of a crane and a trailer.

(2) Plus an additional 10 cm of overhang.

(3) Provided that the additional 45 cm is located on the side of the right-hand shoulder of the highway and is at least 2.10 m from the ground and that the additional 30 cm on the left-hand side is at least 3.65 m from the ground.

(4) At a height of at least 3.65 m from the ground.

WARNING SIGNALS



| | WIDTH | LENGTH | | | OVERHANGS | | | HEIGHT | REMARKS |
|---|---|--------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|----------------|---------|----------|--|
| | | 1 unit | 2 units | 3 units | Front | Rear | Side | | |
| Lights turned on Amber light with a range of 360° ⁽¹⁾ | All vehicles travelling under a special permit of any class | | | | | | | | (1) The light must be visible in every direction. If one direction is obstructed, the light may be replaced by another light of the same type, by two type A flashing amber lights, or by an escort vehicle. |
| « D » signs ⁽²⁾ | > 3.04 m ⁽³⁾ | | > 25 m ⁽⁴⁾ | > 25 m | | | | > 4.30 m | (2) D signs must be removed or covered when not in use. (3) D signs are not required for snow removal vehicles if their width is less than 3.75 m, where the overhang on the driver's side is less than 60 cm and the overhang on the passenger's side is less than 130 cm. (4) D signs are not required for a vehicle subject to a Class 4 permit or for the transport of posts or trees loaded lengthwise. |
| Flags or flashing amber lights type B ⁽⁵⁾ | | | | | | | > 0.3 m | | (5) During the day, flags or flashing lights are permitted. At night, flashing amber lights are required. |
| Rear red light for daytime ⁽⁶⁾ and at night Red light and flag or reflective panel ⁽⁷⁾ | | | | | | > 2 m > 1 m | | | (6) For the transport of posts or trees loaded lengthwise. (7) Under the <i>Highway Safety Code</i> , a flag or reflective panel for daytime, and at night, a red light visible from behind and from the sides from a distance of at least 150 m. |

TRAFFIC RULES



| | WIDTH | LENGTH | | | OVERHANGS | | | HEIGHT | REMARKS |
|--|---|------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|------|---------|---|
| | | 1 unit | 2 units | 3 units | Front | Rear | Side | | |
| FRONT ESCORT VEHICLE | | | | | | | | | |
| Roads with only one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle | > 3.10 m at night ⁽⁸⁾ > 3.75 m daytime | | | | > 2 m ⁽⁹⁾ | | | > 4.5 m | (8) The escort vehicle is not required for snow removal vehicles, if their width is less than 3.75 m, where the overhang on the driver's side is less than 60 cm and the overhang on the passenger's side is less than 130 cm. |
| Roads with more than one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle | | | | | > 2 m ⁽⁹⁾ | | | > 4.5 m | (9) For lifting devices, cranes and snow removal vehicles, the escort vehicle is required where the front overhang is more than 4 m. |
| REAR ESCORT VEHICLE | | | | | | | | | |
| Roads with only one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle | | > 17 m > 21 m crane | > 27.5 m | > 30 m | | > 4 m ⁽¹⁰⁾ | | | (10) The escort vehicle is not required for trees loaded lengthwise. (11) For transport under a Class 2 permit on a divided autoroute, the escort vehicle may be replaced by four type C flashing amber lights. |
| Roads with more than one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle ⁽¹¹⁾ | > 3.75 m | > 17 m > 21 m crane | > 27.5 m | > 30 m | | > 4 m ⁽¹⁰⁾ | | | |
| FRONT AND REAR ESCORT VEHICLE | | | | | | | | | |
| Roads with only one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle ⁽¹²⁾ | > 4.40 m | | | | | | | | (12) Two escort vehicles may also be required where one of the vehicle's dimensions require a front escort vehicle and another of the vehicle's dimensions require a rear escort. |
| Roads with more than one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle ⁽¹²⁾ | | | | | | | | | |
| NIGHT TRAVEL PROHIBITED | | | | | | | | | |
| Roads with only one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle ⁽¹³⁾ | > 3.75 m | > 17 m | > 27.5 m | > 30 m | | > 4 m ⁽¹⁴⁾ | | | (13) Does not apply to snow removal vehicles, tow trucks and cranes. Also does not apply when implementing emergency measures. |
| Roads with more than one traffic lane in the direction travelled by the oversized vehicle ⁽¹³⁾ | > 4.40 m | > 17 m | > 27.5 m | > 30 m | | > 4 m ⁽¹⁴⁾ | | | (14) Does not apply to the transport of posts and trees loaded lengthwise. |
| OTHER PROHIBITIONS | | | | | | | | | |
| Travel prohibited during peak hours ⁽¹⁵⁾ | > 3.75 m | > 17 m > 21 m crane | > 27.5 m | > 30 m | | > 4 m | | | (15) Autoroutes in the Québec and Montréal regions. |
| Travel prohibited: a) on Sundays and legal holidays ⁽¹⁶⁾ b) when visibility is insufficient or when roads have not been cleared of snow ⁽¹⁷⁾ c) when load and size limits are in excess of those established for public roads ⁽¹⁸⁾ | All vehicles travelling under a special permit of any class | | | | | | | | (16) Does not apply to snow removal vehicles, tow trucks and cranes. Also does not apply when implementing emergency measures. (17) Does not apply to snow removal vehicles and tow trucks. Also does not apply when implementing emergency measures. (18) Does not apply when implementing emergency measures. |
| Additional conditions prescribed in Schedule 3 of the <i>Regulation respecting special permits</i> ⁽¹⁹⁾ | All vehicles traveling under a class 6 or 7 special permit | | | | | | | | (19) Determined in the feasibility study of the MTQ. |

QUESTIONS CONCERNING TRUCKING?

Information available on the website of the ministère des Transports du Québec at www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca

- Bulk Trucking
- Cargo Securement
- Dangerous Substances
- Heavy Vehicles (Act)
- Information Bulletin
- International Trucking
- Shipping Document/Bill of Lading
- Special Permits
- Speed Limiters
- Trucking Network
- Vehicle Load and Size

Information available on the Québec 511 website at quebec511.info

- Hindrances Related to Load and Size
- Vertical Bridge Clearances
- New Roadwork Sites
- Load Limits on Bridges and Overpasses

