



ABNORMAL LOADS POLICY

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY

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This document provides a framework for the management and operation of Gloucestershire Constabulary's response to the administration and regulation of all abnormal loads.

To revise and set out the policy and procedures which Gloucestershire police will adopt in respect of the permitted routes, time and date of abnormal indivisible load movement.

Policy statement

Gloucestershire Police recognises the haulage industry must safely, successfully and efficiently transport abnormal loads on the highway network of the County.

An abnormal indivisible load is defined as 'a vehicle, or combination of vehicles, carrying a load, which without undue expense or risk of damage, cannot be divided into two or more loads, and is of such dimensions or weight that it cannot be carried on a vehicle that complies in all respects with the Construction & Use Regulations.'

Gloucestershire Constabulary will ensure a duty of care ensuring the suitability of roads and safety of other road users when accepting the proposed route of an abnormal load movement within the County.

Implications of the Policy

Within Force the Abnormal Loads Officer is responsible for managing the notification process on behalf of the Chief Constable, ensuring all movements within the force area are operated in accordance with this policy and procedure document.

The Abnormal Loads Officer will apply local knowledge or known history for the area when considering an abnormal load movement request. The suitability of the route will be assessed for the dimensions of the load, the topography of the roads, local traffic conditions, accident statistics, safety of others road users and police officers or other persons who may provide escort services during the movement.

Principles

The legislation which permits Abnormal Load movements is The Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations (as amended) 1986, and The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Type) (General) Order 2003

Hauliers

Hauliers are required to submit a notification of a proposed abnormal load movement to the Chief Officer of Police through whose area or County the load will pass. Within Gloucestershire these should be submitted via abloads@gloucestershire.police.uk

Gloucestershire Constabulary encourage hauliers to adopt the use of the Highways England's [electronic service delivery for abnormal loads \(ESDAL\)](#) to:

- plot your route
- notify the police, highways and bridge authorities of your abnormal load movements around the road network
- get advance notice of any possible route problems
- save vehicle details and routes for future use

Two clear working days are required for notification to the Police. Sunday's and Bank Holidays are not classed as working days, nor is Saturday relative to the Highways and Bridges Authorities.

Abnormal loads which exceed one or more of the dimensions contained in **Appendix B** will always require a self-escort.

General Movement restrictions

Gloucestershire Constabulary will consider the needs and safety of the general motoring public as well as those of the haulier.

This policy does not normally permit the movement of abnormal loads during peak traffic periods of 0730– 0930 and 1630 – 1830, Monday - Friday.

Night Time Movements

The movement of abnormal loads within Gloucestershire ARE NOT permitted during the hours of darkness, except with the prior agreement and permission of the Abnormal Loads Officer.

Police Responsibilities

We will only accept abnormal load notifications via email.

The Abnormal Loads Officer will examine the route and a risk assessment will be made to ensure that it is on the safest and most suitable roads having regard to the size and type of vehicle and/or load.

The time and date of the proposed movement will also be assessed to ensure that it is suitable.

The Abnormal Loads Officer will take into account any known road works on the proposed route.

We, the Police, reserve the right to reject or amend the proposed movement having conducted an assessment of the proposal.

In the event of the route being unsuitable the Abnormal Loads Officer will reject the movement and attempt to assist the haulier in suggesting an alternative route, together with all other concerned parties. It is the haulier's responsibility to survey any route discussed to assess its safety and suitability.

The haulier will then need to re-submit the new route to all parties concerned clearly stating that it is a re-route. Abnormal loads, which are deemed to propose a greater risk due to their size and or weight, should be considered for having an escort vehicle to warn other road users of the presence of the vehicle and load on the highway.

Criteria for the dimensions requiring escort and procedures are contained in **Appendix B** of this policy, but can be varied at the discretion of the VRLO where it is considered that the load poses a greater or lesser risk dependent on the load or roads to be used.

Where a load is of an exceptional dimension or the route poses greater risk to other road users, police escorts (Special Escort Services) may be provided at a cost to the haulier. The terms and conditions for this are contained in **Appendix C**

Types of approved escorts

*** Self or Private Escorts**

The escort will be provided for the purposes of giving warning to the driver of that vehicle or combination, and to any other person, of any danger likely to be caused by the presence on the road of that vehicle or combination. An escort driver or any other person or attendant to the Abnormal Load **does not** have any legislative powers to stop and control other road users.

Gloucestershire Constabulary will not accredit an escort driver or any other person with the power/authority to stop and control traffic to facilitate the movement of an Abnormal Load.

The self/private escort will at all times comply with any instructions issued by Gloucestershire Constabulary.

A reference number will be issued for every Abnormal Load that is required to be provided with a police escort. This incident number **must** be quoted when contacting the Police Force Control Room via 101.

The driver or escort will be required to contact the Force's Control Room 30 minutes prior to their arrival in Gloucestershire.

If the abnormal load is being moved from a depot in Gloucestershire, the driver or escort must contact the Control Room 30 minutes prior to leaving the depot.

The Control Room will advise the driver or escort of any restrictions or incidents on the proposed route that it likely to interfere with the movement.

An operator who cannot supply such escort, and/or requests the provision of a police escort, will be required to give at least eight days' notice of any proposed movement, and to pay for such services in accordance with the scale of charges listed at

Appendix C

Should an incident occur and criminal charges be laid against the driver and/or owner of the abnormal load or the escort driver and they were found to have breached the guidelines set out in this document, then this will be disclosed to the court in any subsequent hearing

Police Escorts

Gloucestershire Police may continue to play a role in escorting abnormal loads under the following circumstances:

- a. Any load which has to contravene road traffic legislation in order to reach its destination.
- b. Any load where its dimensions and/or road speed are such that the road network may be markedly disrupted. (VR1 and Special Movement Orders are most likely to fall into this category).
- c. Any load where the abnormal loads officer either individually or in conjunction any other appropriate person deems it appropriate.
- d. Any load falling into the self-escort criteria where the haulier is unable to provide an escort for a load. The load will require a Gloucestershire Police escort for which there will be a Special Police Service (SPS) charge. See **Appendix C**

A minimum of eight working days' notice will be required for the arrangement of a police escort.

Charges to be paid in full in the event of any cancellation or amendment to the travel date that occurs within seven days of the movement date.

Dispensations

*** General Dispensation**

Gloucestershire Constabulary can issue a Dispensation to move abnormal loads with dimensions up to 3.5m (11'6") wide, without prior notification, to hauliers who can demonstrate the movement of loads of a like nature on a regular basis. The roads permitted will be limited to Motorways and selected A and B class roads (Subject to meeting certain criteria)

*** Agricultural Dispensation**

Gloucestershire Constabulary can issue a Dispensation to farmers and agricultural contractors for the movement of agricultural tractors, machines and towed appliances, without the requirement to notify the movement of such equipment, up to 4.1m wide, within a 25-mile radius of its normal operating base, without prior notification, or for reduced notification period for all other loads up to 4.3m wide. (Subject to meeting certain criteria)

Related documents and Appendices:

Appendix A:

Legislation

Legislation which permits Abnormal Load movements is:

The Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations (as amended) 1986, and
The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Type) (General) Order 2003.

The Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations (as amended) 1986, are the primary legislation for the construction and maximum dimensions for all vehicles, and is the only legislation that can be used for prosecution purposes.

The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Type) (General) Order 2003 permits the use of vehicles and/or loads, which cannot comply with the maximum permitted weight, either gross or axle weight, for the class of vehicle being used for transporting a load. It also contains the regulations for loads, which exceed the maximum width permitted by Construction and Use, agricultural vehicles and many other miscellaneous vehicles.

The legislation is in the most part permissive, in that, providing the haulier complies with the requirements of notification procedures, an abnormal load can be moved without the need for any permit or authorisation.

The only exceptions are as follows:

- (a) Loads exceeding 5.1m wide which require a form VR1 from the department for transport. This authorises the movement, but not the route, day or date. Once the VR1 has been issued the haulier can then use the normal notification procedure, quoting the VR1 reference.

- (b) Loads exceeding 6.0m wide, 27.4m rigid length (C & U) 30m (STGO) or 150,000kgs weight require a special order from the secretary of state. A special order ensures that the route is negotiable and may lay down certain conditions. It does not, however, replace the notification procedure.

Appendix B:

Gloucestershire Constabulary Self – Escort Policy

TRAVELLING ON THE M5 IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

	Metres	Feet, Inches
Height	4.953	16'3"
Width	4.6	15'1"
Length	30	100'
Weight	130 tonnes	

TRAVELLING NON M5 WITHIN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

	Metres	Feet, Inches
Height		
Width	4.1	13'6"
Length	30	100'
Weight	100 Tonnes	

Agricultural machinery requires escort over 3.5m width

Appendix C:

Police Escorts

Terms and Conditions

1. Application

- 1.1 All applications must be received by the Constabulary at least 8 days prior to the proposed escort.

2. Cancellation

- 2.1 Cancellation must be made in writing at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.2 Cancellations made by yourselves within 7 days of the date of the escort will incur the minimum fee of four hours per officer.
- 2.3 In the event that the Constabulary has to cancel the escort we shall advise you of any cancellation at least 2 days prior to the proposed escort.

3. Pricing

- 3.1 Prices are based on the current South West Regional rate for Special Police Services and are as follows; £72.95 per hour per officer (minimum charge 4 hours per officer) Each escort shall require a minimum of two police officers.
- 3.2 Mileage will be charged at a rate of 65 pence per mile for each mile incurred by the vehicle from its base station until its return whilst undertaking the escort.
- 3.3 Prices are subject to annual review with effect from 1 September each year.
- 3.4 All prices are subject to Value Added Tax (VAT) at the standard rate.

4. Payment terms

- 4.1 Gloucestershire Constabulary will issue a tax invoice within 14 days of the escort duty has been completed.
- 4.2 Invoices will be subject to payment terms of 30 days.

5. General

- 5.1 Gloucestershire Constabulary reserves the right to cancel this agreement in the event of an accident or major incident affecting available resources or the approved route.

6. Force Majeure

- 6.1 Neither the provider nor the purchaser shall be liable to the other for any failure to fulfil its obligations under the contract if such a failure is caused by circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

