



# Escort Vehicles

**All escort vehicle operators are required to obtain an approved escort certification prior to performing the duties of an oversize/overweight load escort vehicle operator in North Carolina.**

**SIZE/WEIGHT**- a truck (single vehicle) of not less than a one-quarter (1/4) ton rated load capacity but not more than 17,000 pounds GVWR or a single passenger vehicle of not less than 2,000 pounds gross weight. Escort vehicle is not authorized to tow a trailer.

**IDENTIFICATION** - shall display placards or identification signs measuring at least 8" x 12" providing escort company's or individual's name and telephone number and shall be displayed on the right and left side of the escort vehicle.

**PLACEMENT** – the vehicle is to travel an average distance of 300' to 500' from the permitted vehicle whichever is appropriate for the geographic location.

## **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:**

**Banners** – yellow background to be mounted on bumper or roof bearing the legend "WIDE LOAD" or "OVERSIZE LOAD" in black 10" x 1 1/2" brush stroke lettering visible from the front or rear as required by location of the escort vehicle. The banner is required to extend the entire width of the escort vehicle or bumper.

**Flashing Amber Lights** – visible for 500' feet and 360 degrees.

**Headlamps** -must be burning during movement.

**Height Pole Indicator** - required for front escort vehicle for overheight moves in excess of 14' 5".

**Radio** - two way radio contact must be maintained with power unit of the permitted load.

**Certification** - escort vehicle operators must carry their certificate card while escorting a permitted load.

**No driver or passenger other than a certified escort vehicle operator will be allowed to travel in the escort vehicle.**

**USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES** - "Escort vehicle operators are prohibited from the use of any electronic devices except to communicate hazard-related information to the vehicle being escorted." This includes all electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, computers, MP3 players, video players or any non-factory installed device not used for routing.

## **RECOMMENDED SAFETY DEVICES:**

**Stop/Slow Paddle** - the sign shall be at least 18" x 18" with 6" high letters, octagonal, and should be mounted on a rigid handle. For more visibility, a 24" x 24" sign size or a high-intensity flashing stop/slow paddle may be used.

**Vest/High Visibility Clothing** - shall wear an approved safety vest, shirt, or coat while flagging. Approved colors are orange, yellow, yellow-green, or fluorescent versions of these colors.

**Channelization Devices** - at least three bi-directional retroreflective triangles, with minimum 17 inch arm length and minimum arm width of 2 inches.

**Fire Extinguisher** - minimum five lb., Type 'BC' or 'ABC'. It is recommended to use an extinguisher with a metal head, as plastic heads lose pressure more easily.

**The requirements for vehicles escorting 16' wide mobile homes are different than those indicated above, reference publication MH-2.**

## **TRAFFIC BUILD UP**

Escort vehicle/transporters shall monitor trailing traffic build-up and pull to the roadside periodically as the opportunity arises to allow lines of traffic to clear.

## **PERMIT POLICY REQUIRES:**

- front escort for width in excess of twelve feet (12') for all overwidth permitted movement on two (2) lane/two way traffic highways and as a rear escort on multi-lane highways or as determined and stated on the permit document by issuing agent.
- front pole escort vehicle equipped with a height pole indicator for overheight in excess of fourteen feet five inches (14' 5") entire route of travel.
- rear escort for length in excess of one hundred ten feet (110'). 2 escorts (1 front & 1 rear) for overall length in excess of 150 feet.
- escort for excessive overhang.
- front escort for weight of 150,000 lbs. or greater.
- multiple escorts may be required for a combination of over dimensions.

**Additional escorts may be required for any vehicle/vehicle combination with individual consideration of width, length height, weather, geographical location or route of travel as determined by issuing agent.**