



# 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. Certification credentials shall be carried in the vehicle and shall be available for inspection by law enforcement officials with jurisdiction.

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

**Vehicle:** Escort vehicle shall be a truck of not less than one-quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) ton rated load capacity but not more than 17,000 pounds GVWR or a passenger vehicle of not less than 2,000 pounds gross weight. Escort vehicles are not permitted to pull a trailer of any kind.

**Yellow Sign/Banner:** Bearing the legend "WIDE LOAD" or "OVERSIZE LOAD" in black 10" x 1½" brush stroke lettering. The banner shall extend the entire width of the escort vehicle bumper. Front escorts shall mount the banner on the front bumper of the vehicle and rear escorts shall mount the banner on the rear bumper of the vehicle.

**Flashing Amber Light(s):** Rotating or strobe, positioned on top of the escort vehicle, visible for at least 500 feet in all directions by approaching traffic.

**Headlights:** Escort vehicle headlights must be burning at all times during movement.

**Height Pole Indicator:** Required for front escort vehicle for overheight loads in excess of 14'5".

**Radio:** Two-way radio contact with driver of oversize/overweight load and other escort driver(s).

**Stop/Slow Paddle:** The sign shall be at least 18"x18" with 6 inch 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/Highvisibility 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.

**Identification of escort vehicle:** Sign showing name and phone number of company and/or owner of escort vehicle must be displayed on each side of escort vehicle. Sign shall be a minimum of 8" x 12" and be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet.

**Fire extinguisher:** Minimum five lb., Type "BC" or "ABC". It is recommended to use an extinguisher with a metal head.

## SPECIAL RULES FOR 16' WIDE MOBILE/MODULAR HOMES

**Flashing Amber Bar Lights:** Mounted on top of the escort vehicle extending the full width of the vehicle's roof. The use of multiple bar lights will require the lights to be mounted continuously on the roof and connected at the base of the light.

**Clear Lens Strobe Lights:** Mounted in the front of the vehicle (EX: in grill or mounted with signal lights) operating while performing the duties of an escort vehicle operator.

**Yellow Sign/Banner:** Bearing the legend "WIDE LOAD" or "OVERSIZE LOAD" in black 10" x 1½" brush stroke lettering and include the width of the home (EX: OVERSIZE 16' LOAD). The banner shall be mounted on top of the escort vehicle and extend the entire width of the vehicle.

**Red or Orange Flags:** 18' x 18" mounted on top of the escort vehicle on either side of the banner.

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES AND SAFETY PROVISIONS**

**Allowing built-up traffic to pass:** Escort vehicles shall monitor trailing traffic and pull to the roadside periodically to allow lines of traffic to clear. Slow to a maximum speed of 25mph to allow traffic to pass.

**Passengers:** No passengers or animals will be allowed to travel in the escort vehicle. The only exception is a passenger with an approved escort vehicle operator certification.

**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.

### **OS/OW Loads Requiring an Escort**

Oversize/Overweight Permit Unit Policy requires:

- Front escort for width in excess of 12' for all over-width permitted movement on two lane/two way traffic highways and as a rear escort on multi-lane highways or as determined and stated on the permit documented by issuing agent.
- Front pole car escort vehicle equipped with a height pole indicator for overheight in excess of fourteen feet five inches (14'5") for entire route of travel.
- Rear escort for length in excess of 110'. Front and rear escorts are required for overall length in excess of 150'.
- Rear escort for rear overhang equal to or greater than 15'.
- Front Escort required for weights in excess of 149,999 pounds.
- Multiple escorts may be required for a combination of over-dimensions.
- A total of three escorts for permitted loads in excess of 16' in width, one of which must be from the NC State Highway Patrol.
- Front Escort required for weights in excess of 149,999 pounds

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.