

**City of Chehalis  
Department of Public Works  
Special Permit For the Movement of  
Oversized/Overweight Vehicles**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle/Load \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ be  
Transported: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Route Through the City of Chehalis (Map may be Attached): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicable Insurance (Attach Copies of Insurance  
Documentation): \_\_\_\_\_

Gross Vehicle Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle/Load Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle/Load  
Width: \_\_\_\_\_

*Approval of this form will allow the permit holder, following all applicable regulations and conditions, to move on, across, and over the streets and route specifically named and above. No permission is granted to move on, across, or over any other street or private property.*

Applicants  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Police Dept  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Dept  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Works Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regulations and Conditions**

**Movement of Oversized/Overweight Loads**

The Public Works Department may issue permits for movement of oversized or overweight loads on city streets when:

1. The proposed move has been determined to be consistent with public safety
2. The permit holder has the required minimum liability insurance to cover the cost of any accident, damage, or personal injury which may result from the operation of the permitted vehicle (\$750,000 for commercial carriers, \$300,000 for non-commercial carriers) and
3. The permit holder affirms that they will comply with applicable rules pertaining to the issuance of any special permit.

Except as provided for in RCW 46.44.140, the original permit or a certified copy must be carried in the power unit at all times. Tow truck operators who have received approval by telephone to operate under the permit are exempt from this requirement.

**Loading Restrictions and Requirements**

1. The vehicle, combination, or load must be reduced or disassembled to a practical minimum. Loads created by means of welding, bolting, or tying will be construed to be reducible. Reductions will be made even if the use of additional vehicles becomes necessary.
2. Tracked vehicles must be loaded longitudinally upon the hauling unit.

## Escort Car Requirements

Escort cars are required when:

1. vehicle(s), or load is over 11 feet in width, (escort vehicles (both front and rear) are required on two-lane highways).
2. vehicle(s), or load is over 14 feet wide, (one escort vehicle (rear) is required on multiple-lane highways).
3. vehicle(s), or load is over 20 feet wide, (escort vehicles (both front and rear) are required on multiple-lane undivided highways).
4. overall length of load, including vehicles, exceeds 100 feet or when rear overhang of load, measured from last axle, exceeds one-third of the total length, (one escort vehicle is required on two-lane highways).
5. overall length of load, including vehicles, exceeds 140 feet, (one rear escort vehicle is required on multiple lane highways).
6. height exceeds 14 feet 6 inches, by a pilot vehicle operator who is knowledgeable about height limits on the route to be traveled.
7. the Public Works Department determines when escort vehicles are necessary to protect the traveling public, for oversized and/or overweight movement across, upon, or along a highway.

## Type of Escort Vehicles

1. Escort vehicles to be furnished by the permit holder. They may be passenger cars or two-axle trucks.
2. Escort vehicles will be of such a design as to afford the driver clear and unobstructed vision, both front and rear. Escort vehicles will be in safe operational condition and properly licensed. Pilot vehicle operators will be properly licensed to operate the vehicle and will possess a flagging certification valid in the State of Washington.
3. Escort vehicle operators must be experienced in the operation of escort vehicles and no unnecessary passengers will be permitted. Pilot escort vehicles will travel at a distance of approximately 800-1500 feet in front of and to the rear of the load. This distance will be reduced in urban areas, at major intersections, and at structures less than 28 feet curb-to-curb width. In hazardous conditions, the pilot vehicle driver will act as a flag person for traffic control and will signal by hand or by radio to the towing vehicle driver when he can proceed.
4. The rear escort vehicle will travel far enough behind the load to provide adequate warning for overtaking vehicles and to provide a safe distance between the rear escort vehicle and the trailing unit for passing vehicles.
5. All escort vehicles will carry a minimum of 3 approved emergency flares and red flags.
6. When uniformed off-duty law enforcement officers act as escorts, using official police vehicles or motorcycles, the preceding requirements will not be applicable.

## Lights - Stop and Turn

Permits will be issued to move only vehicles equipped with brake lights and turn signals as required by RCW 46.37.200.

## Side Mirrors

Side mirrors will be mounted on vehicles hauling oversized loads to allow the driver to see the highway for a distance of 200 feet directly to the rear of the driver's side of the vehicle. Escort vehicles may be used in-lieu of this requirement.

All escort vehicles must be equipped with outside rearview mirrors on each side of the vehicle to provide vision to the rear to ensure that movement progresses safely.

## Flags

All flags will be clean, bright red flags, at least 16 inches square. They shall be displayed so as to wave freely on all four corners of oversized objects and at the extreme ends of all protrusions, projections, or overhangs.

## Brakes

1. Every motor vehicle or combination of motor drawn vehicles will be capable, at all times and under all conditions of loading, of being stopped on dry, smooth, level road free from loose material upon application of the service brake within a distance of 50 feet decelerating from 20 mph.
2. Permits will not be issued to equipment "in tow" without brakes unless a three-axle truck with a minimum unladen weight of 15,000 pounds is employed as the power unit and is equipped

with sufficient brakes to control at all times the vehicle being towed in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

3. All vehicles must meet the requirements of chapter 46.37 RCW relating to brakes unless it is specifically stated on the permit that the vehicle is exempt from these requirements.

## Amber Lights on Vehicles

Two, 4-inch minimum, flashing amber lights or a single rotating amber flashing beacon will be displayed above the roof line of the escort vehicle(s) and plainly visible. The amber lights used for these purposes must meet SAE standard specifications (SAE-J59 5b) "Flashing Warning Lamps for Authorized Emergency, Maintenance, and Service Vehicles", and will operate at all times during the movement of the oversized/overweight vehicle/load.

## Signs

"OVERSIZED LOAD" signs (at least 7 feet long and 18 inches high with black lettering at least 10 inches high in 1.41-inch brushstroke on yellow background) will be mounted on the front of the towing vehicle and on the rear of the load or trailing unit. If the nature of the towing vehicle or the load is such that the sign cannot be mounted five feet above the roadway surface, it will be placed above the front bumper or as high as practicable on the vehicle or load. Such signs are to be displayed only while the unit is in transit and must be removed or retracted at all other times.

## Safety Chains and Devices

Special permits will not authorize the operation of any vehicle upon any public highway without having the load thereon securely fastened and protected by safety chains and/or other load securing devices pursuant to the code of federal regulations, title 49, part 393.100. Dragging of a load on the roadway will not be permitted. Vehicles with a boom or structural erection member attached thereto must have the boom or member secured in such a manner that it will not elevate or sway in transportation.

## Two-Way Radio

Both the towing unit and escort vehicles will be equipped with two-way radio facilities, licensed under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, adequate to provide reliable voice communication. The radio contact will be capable of being sustained over a distance of at least one-half mile under conditions normally encountered along the route. The selected radio channel will be monitored at all times the oversized unit is in motion by the drivers of the towing unit and the escort vehicle(s).

For the purpose of this requirement, radios designed for use under FCC Rules, Part 15, Subpart E - low power communications devices, will not be accepted.

## Drawbars - Towlines

The drawbar or other connection between vehicles in combination will be of sufficient strength to hold the weight of the towed vehicle on any grade where operated. No trailer will whip, weave, oscillate, or fail to follow substantially in the course of the towing vehicle. When a disabled vehicle is being towed by means of a bar, chain, rope, cable, or similar means and the distance between the vehicles exceeds 15 feet, there will be a white flag (no less than 12 inches square) fastened approximately in the center of such connection.

## Consideration of Traveling Public

When five or more vehicles line up behind an oversized load, the unit is to be moved off the roadway at the nearest place of safety and temporarily stopped until the traffic has cleared.

## Moves in Convoy

Vehicles traveling under permit authority requiring pilot vehicles may not travel in convoy unless they are moving farm implements.

## Times When Movements are Prohibited

Oversized movements are prohibited on Friday after 3:00 PM and after 12:00 noon on Sundays.

Oversized movements are also prohibited on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and during the afternoon of the day preceding said holidays. Should any of the holidays fall on a Saturday or Sunday then the preceding Friday or the following Monday will be considered a holiday.

## Nighttime Movements

Special permits will authorize oversized movements only during daytime hours under normal atmospheric conditions, except movements up to ten

feet wide that may be made by permit at night on fully controlled access highways.

Also, oversized nighttime movements may be authorized if it is determined that movement at night would substantially alleviate daytime traffic congestion. Oversized loads permitted to move at night will have lighting equipment as required by the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, part 393.11. No movements will be made when visibility is reduced to less than 1000 feet or when hazardous roadway conditions exist. "Daytime" is defined as one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, and "Nighttime" is any other hour. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to discontinue movement and remove the unit from city streets when any of the above, or any other, conditions exist that could create an unsafe movement.

**Adverse Weather**

Movement will not be made when visibility is reduced to less than 1000 feet or under hazardous conditions deemed unsafe by either the City of Chehalis Public Works or Police Departments.

If hazardous conditions are encountered after a move is undertaken, it is the responsibility of the permit holder to remove the oversized load from the highway. The permit holder will not continue movement until the adverse conditions have abated and clearance is obtained from the Public Works Department, Police Department, or the Washington State Patrol.

**The Use of City Streets and Right-of-Way**

The use of city streets is subject to approval by the jurisdiction that maintains the roadways. This permit in no way authorizes the use of roadways of other jurisdictions.

Any interference, interruption, obstruction, other involvement or action that may impact the street, roadway, traffic or use the city right-of-way must be listed, described and attached to or submitted with this form.

12/14/04