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**IDAPA 39  
TITLE 03  
Chapter 12**

**39.03.12 - RULES GOVERNING SAFETY  
REQUIREMENTS OF SPECIAL PERMIT**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

This rule, governing the movement of vehicles or loads which are in excess of the sizes or weights allowed by Sections 49-940, 49-1001, 49-1002 or 49-1010, Idaho Code, is adopted under the authority of Sections 40-312 and 49-1004, Idaho Code. (9-14-92)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

This rule states when pilot cars, oversize load signs, red warning flags, a flagman or special lighting requirements are required, and it states the specifications for these safety requirements. (10-2-89)

**002.-- 009. (RESERVED).**

**010. DEFINITIONS.**

Refer to Rule 39.03.01 for definitions of the terms used in this rule. (10-2-89)

**011.-- 099. (RESERVED).**

**100. ESCORT VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS.**

Escort vehicle(s) shall be furnished by the permittee and shall be either passenger car(s), light truck(s) or vehicles authorized by the Vehicle Size and Weight Specialist except that officers trained in traffic control may use motorcycles as a lead escort vehicle or as an advance escort. The light truck(s) used as escort vehicle(s) shall not be loaded in such a manner as to cause confusion to the public as to which vehicle is the one under escort. Vehicles towing trailers shall not qualify as escort vehicles. (8-25-94)

**101.-- 199. (RESERVED).**

**200. ESCORT VEHICLE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.**

01. Red Warning Flag. Escort vehicles shall carry in/or on the vehicle: (8-25-94)
  - a. A red warning flag on a staff. (8-25-94)
  - b. A non metallic height pole used for determining vertical clearances. (8-25-94)
  - c. Vehicle shall display an "Oversize Load" sign. (See Section 300) (8-25-94)
  - d. Be equipped with flashing or rotating warning lights. (8-25-94)
  - e. A two-way radio capable of communication with the escorted vehicle and with other escort vehicles. (8-25-94)
02. Valid Operators License. Escort vehicle drivers operating for hire shall have a valid driver's license. (8-25-94)
03. Two-Way Radio. (8-25-94)
  - a. On all movements requiring an escort vehicle, both the towing unit and the escort vehicle(s) shall be equipped with two-way radio equipment, licensed under Federal Communications Commission regulations adequate to provide reliable voice communication between the drivers thereof at all times during the movement of the escorted load. Transmitting and receiving capabilities of the radio equipment used shall be adequate to provide the required communication over a minimum distance of one-half (1/2) mile separation under conditions normally encountered along the proposed route. (8-25-94)

b. Radio communication shall be open and monitored between escort vehicle(s) and oversize load at all times during movement. (8-25-94)

**201.-- 299. (RESERVED).**

**300. ESCORT VEHICLE SIGN REQUIREMENTS.**

01. Oversize Load Signs. All escort vehicles while escorting an oversize load shall display a sign having the words OVERSIZE LOAD or other terminology approved by the Vehicle Size and Weight Specialist. Such signs shall not be displayed and shall be considered illegal except when the escort vehicle is actually escorting an oversize load. (8-25-94)

02. Size Specifications for Signs: (8-25-94)

a. On escort vehicle - ten (10) inches high by five (5) feet wide, type Standard Series B, eight (8) inch high letters, one (1) inch stroke width, black letters on yellow background. (8-25-94)

b. On motorcycles used as escort vehicles: A WIDE LOAD sign may be used with the word WIDE above the word LOAD, minimum six (6) inch letter height, minimum three fourths (3/4) inch stroke, overall size minimum eighteen (18) inches wide by fifteen (15) inches high, black letter on yellow. Motorcycles shall not be utilized as escort vehicles for those situations where a rear escort vehicle is being substituted for adequate rearview mirrors on the loaded vehicle. Section 49-940, Idaho Code, requires that when the escort vehicle is being substituted for the required mirrors, it shall be a passenger car or light truck. (8-25-94)

**301.-- 399. (RESERVED).**

**400. ESCORT VEHICLE LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS.**

01. Flashing Amber Lights. Flashing amber lights displayed on escort vehicles shall be mounted at each end of the required OVERSIZE LOAD sign above the roof line of the vehicle. These lights shall meet the minimum requirements outlined under oversize loads above except that they may be a minimum of four (4) inches in diameter. Motorcycles used for escort vehicles shall also display two (2) lights [one (1) at each end of the required OVERSIZE LOAD sign] having a minimum diameter of four (4) inches and also meeting the minimum requirements of SAEJ595b. (8-25-94)

02. Rotating Amber Beacon. As an alternate, a escort vehicle may display one (1) rotating amber beacon warning light mounted either magnetically or permanently on or above the roof of the escort vehicle. It shall rotate through three hundred sixty (360) degrees, have a frequency between sixty (60) and ninety (90) revolutions per minute, an approximate minimum size of eight and one half (8 1/2) inches in diameter and eight (8) inches in height. These units shall be equal to Grote Model SB-32, Dietz Model 240, Federal Model 14, or equivalent. (8-25-94)

**401. -- 499. (RESERVED).**

**500. ESCORT VEHICLE PLACEMENT.**

01. Front Escort. The movement of an oversize vehicle or load shall be preceded by a flagman or escort vehicle on those sections of highway where the vehicle or load cannot travel within its proper travelway lane. (8-25-94)

02. Rear Escort. As authorized by Section 49-940, Idaho Code, when the width of a load obstructs the driver's view to the rear or when traffic control is required, a rear escort shall be required to accompany the oversize load and to communicate with the driver of the permitted load concerning impeded overtaking traffic for the purpose of providing passing opportunity. (8-25-94)

03. Advance Escort. A third escort, with radio, slow/stop paddle, and flagman's vest may be required when the load is of such extreme dimensions for the route of travel as to require holding opposing traffic at turnouts and intersections to provide for passage of the load. (8-25-94)

04. First Movement from the Forest. An escort vehicle is not required on the first movement from the forest of tree-length logs or poles if the overall length does not exceed one hundred ten (110) feet. Secondary movements must comply with the requirements stated on the Escort Vehicle and Travel Time Requirements map. (8-25-94)

05. Spacing. Approximately one thousand (1,000) feet shall be maintained in rural areas between the escorting vehicle and any oversize load. This spacing may be reduced in urban areas when necessary to provide traffic control for turning movements. (8-25-94)

**501.-- 599. (RESERVED).**

**600. CONVOY OF OVERLEGAL LOADS.**

01. Convoying Oversize Loads. Oversize loads which individually would require an escort vehicle, except overwidth manufactured homes, office trailers, may be permitted to travel in convoy with escort vehicles in front of and behind the convoy, but such convoys shall not exceed four (4) oversize loads or vehicles between escort vehicles. Maximum width of units in a convoy shall be limited to fourteen (14) feet six (6) inches on the interstate system or on black-coded routes of the Escort Vehicle and Travel Time Requirements Map and to twelve (12) feet six (6) inches on red-coded routes of the Escort Vehicle and Travel Time Requirements Map. Oversize loads which do not individually require an escort vehicle may travel in convoy without escort vehicles. Maximum length of units in a convoy shall be limited to one hundred (100) feet on red-coded and black-coded routes of the escort vehicle and travel time requirements map and one hundred fifteen (115) feet on the interstate system. (8-25-94)

02. Convoying Manufactured Homes, Office Trailers. No convoy of overwidth manufactured homes and office trailers shall include more than two (2) units and two (2) escorting vehicles. On those routes where escort vehicles are required in front and rear of an overwidth manufactured home and office trailers, two (2) units may travel in convoy between such escorting vehicles. On routes requiring only a front escort vehicle, the manufactured home and office trailers mover may have the option of convoying two (2) units between front and rear escorts. At no time shall more than one (1) manufactured home or office trailer be escorted by one (1) escort vehicle. Minimum spacing of approximately one thousand (1000) feet shall be maintained between all units in a convoy except when an escort is required to control traffic in turning movements. (8-25-94)

**601.-- 699. (RESERVED).**

**700. LIGHTING REQUIREMENT FOR OVERSIZE AFTER DARK MOVEMENTS.**

Those overdimensional loads permitted by Rule 39.03.10, Subsection 400.05 and Rule 39.03.11, Section 200 to travel state highways during hours of darkness shall be required to display warning lights to mark the extremities of the load, and shall be in addition to those clearance lights required on legal size vehicles when traveling at night. If a load overhangs the trailer by more than four (4) feet two (2) red lights shall be mounted on the load overhang to indicate its maximum width. (8-25-94)

**701.-- 799. (RESERVED).**

**800. STANDARDS FOR FLASHING OR ROTATING WARNING LIGHTS.**

Flashing or rotating lights used in the operation of oversize vehicles or loads shall meet the following minimum requirements: (8-25-94)

01. Oversize Load. Amber lights displayed on the rear of an oversize load, shall meet the requirements of SAE Standard Specifications (SAE J595b) for flashing warning lamps for authorized emergency, maintenance and service vehicles except that the minimum diameter shall be six (6) inches. Two (2) such lights shall be displayed on the rear of the load, mounted at the same height and at the outside edges of the load at a minimum height of eight (8) feet (or as high as practical for loads less than eight (8) feet in height). (8-25-94)

02. Towing Vehicle. Amber flashing lights displayed on a towing vehicle operating at night, shall be mounted above the cab and meet the following requirements: (8-25-94)

a. Flashers frequency sixty (60) to ninety (90) revolutions or flashes per minute. (1-3-92)

b. Option 1 - Rotating beacon, frequency sixty-ninety (60-90) revolutions per minute, three hundred sixty (360) degrees, minimum diameter eight and one half (8 1/2) inches. (1-3-92)

c. Option 2 - Strobe lights mounted at each end of oversize load sign, minimum diameter six (6) inches. (1-3-92)

**801.-- 899. (RESERVED).**

**900. OVERSIZE LOAD SIGNING REQUIREMENTS.**

Oversize load signs shall meet the following minimum specifications: (8-25-94)

01. Dimensions. On oversize vehicle or load - eighteen (18) inches high by seven (7) feet wide, letter height ten (10) inches, letter type Standard Series C, stroke width one and five-eighths (1 5/8) inch, black letters on yellow background. (8-25-94)

02. Displaying Signs. Oversize load signs shall always be displayed on both the towing vehicle and the towed unit in the movement of fourteen (14) foot wide mobile homes. Such signs may also be displayed, but shall not be required, on other oversize loads not requiring an escort vehicle. (8-25-94)

**901. -- 949. (RESERVED).**

**950. OVERSIZE LOAD FLAGGING REQUIREMENTS.**

01. Warning Flags. All overwidth and overlength vehicles and/or loads, excluding extra-length vehicle combinations, shall be marked by red or orange fluorescent flags in good condition with a minimum size of eighteen (18) inches by eighteen (18) inches and located as follows: (8-25-94)

a. Front. Fastened to each front corner of the vehicle or load if it exceeds legal width. (8-25-94)

b. Rear. Fastened to each corner of the extremities of the load at the rearmost part of the vehicle or load if it exceeds legal width. (8-25-94)

c. Side. Fastened to mark any extremity of size if wider than the front or the rear. (8-25-94)

d. Rear overhang. If rear overhang exceeds four (4) feet one (1) flag is required at the extreme rear if the width of the projection is two (2) feet wide or less. If the projection exceeds two (2) feet in width then two (2) flags are required at the extreme rear to indicate the maximum width. (8-25-94)

02. Flagman. A flagman shall be required, or may be used in lieu of an escort vehicle, at particular locations on a route of travel where a hazard to traffic is created by the overlegal vehicle or load, due to: (8-25-94)

a. Overweight. If an overweight load is required to cross on the centerline of a structure, and/or when necessary to flag other traffic off a structure while the overweight load is crossing. (8-25-94)

b. Overheight. If necessary to stop in the line of traffic to clear an overhead obstruction or if necessary to cross lane lines because of reduced vertical clearance when crossing structures. (8-25-94)

c. Overlength. If load interferes with traffic by crossing lane lines while negotiating turning movements. (8-25-94)

d. Overwidth. When crossing narrow bridges. (8-25-94)

**951. -- 959. (RESERVED).**

**960. ESCORT VEHICLE AND TRAVEL TIME REQUIREMENTS MAP.**

Color-coded maps on escort vehicle and travel time requirements for overwidth loads are available from the Headquarters Special Permit Office and all Highway District offices for the information of enforcement officers and

the trucking industry. The routes chosen as depicted on the Map are based on ability of the road to carry the over-all maximum width of load (not just base width) and character of the route of travel. (8-25-94)

**961. -- 999. (RESERVED).**