

The terms contain the main items in the laws and regulations that govern abnormal transportation and the permit conditions set for abnormal transport. With abnormal transport permits that were granted before 28 August 2017, either the laws and conditions in effect at the time the permits were granted or newer laws, regulations and conditions may be applied. The permit-specific special provisions must be adhered to. In these permit conditions, 'Trafi' together with a numeric reference to a section refers to Trafi's (nowadays Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom) Abnormal Road Transport Regulation, 'TLL' to the Road Traffic Act, and 'ANL' to the Vehicles Act. The Pirkanmaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment grants all abnormal transport permits in Finland, with the exception of Åland.

1. General conditions

Trafi 2.1, 3.1, Road Traffic Act (TLL) § 87c,94, 96, 97, Vehicles Act (ANL) § 62

Any vehicle used in abnormal transport must be approved for road traffic, as specified in the Vehicles Act. A vehicle has approval for traffic use if it fulfils the requirements for its specific vehicle type regarding traffic use. The masses approved by the abnormal transport permit, the masses permissible for the vehicle in traffic use or the masses in the coupling of a combination must not be exceeded. The coupling between a tow vehicle and a trailer that exceeds the generally permissible dimension or mass approved for abnormal transport for the road must pass a coupling inspection.

An abnormal transport permit is only valid on the route/routes identified in the permit. The general regulations on road traffic will apply to transport travelling away from its intended route. In a roadside check-up, a single permit must contain information on both the dimensions and masses of the load.

The permit or its copy together with any appendices must accompany the load and be presented to a traffic controller immediately upon request. An electronic form of the permit will also be accepted, provided that the controller's checkpoint has the equipment to read an electronic permit. The route clearance is not considered a copy of the permit, if the permit or its copy with all the related appendices for the route are not presented to the controller. In addition to the police, other traffic controllers include the road, customs and border authorities.

A permit may be cancelled temporarily or permanently if the permit holder does not comply with the laws and regulations concerning abnormal transport or the conditions specified in the permit, or if the permit holder no longer fulfils the permit requirements.

2. Other permits

Local administration and private roads

Permission is required from the owner of the street or private road in question for any street, road cooperative's private road or other private road that is not included in the ELY Centre's permit. The permit authority may require that the permit holder acquires permission from the road owner to use the street or road specified in the permit. In addition, the permit holder may independently seek to extend their permit to cover other streets or roads of their choice. However, permission from a municipality without an abnormal transport permit does not constitute actual authorisation for conducting the transport.

3. Restricting factors on transport

Roadside equipment

Any changes made to the road structure and roadside equipment due to the transport concerned require permission from the road owner prior to this sort of transport. Such changes include lifting portals, detaching electrified traffic control devices and lampposts, removing railings, making changes to intersections, constructing ramps to cross traffic islands, and strengthening the road structure. An unelectrified traffic sign or traffic control device may be temporarily removed without the road owner's permission if it is immediately returned to its place and the work does not require the use of machinery.

The portal work instructions must be adhered to when lifting portals. Portal work instructions or an abnormal transport permit do not grant the right to lift or detach a portal.

Level crossings

Abnormal transport must adhere to the Finnish Transport Agency's railway department's instructions when passing through level crossings.

Tramway wires

When intended that transport higher than 4.8 m is to cross a tramway, HKL must be contacted no less than two weekdays prior to the transport concerned.

Electrical cables and telephone lines

The permit holder must note the heights of electrical cables and telephone lines prior to transport and, if necessary, agree with their owners on any actions required by the transport.

Road works

The permit holder must note any roadworks taking place during the transport and take into consideration their effects on completing the transport.

Weight restrictions

Weight restrictions indicated with traffic signs must be adhered to, unless the abnormal transport permit grants individual exceptions. The route specified in the permit is not considered an individual exception.

Vehicle placement on the roadway

Abnormal transport must avoid using the shoulder areas. On motorways, dual carriageways, wide lane sections and places with at least two adjacent lanes going in the same direction, the use of shoulder areas is prohibited on bridges, unless otherwise stated in the permit.

4. Responsibility for costs and damage

Road Traffic Act (TLL) § 48, 87b

Abnormal transport must be completed with special care, taking road and weather conditions into account so that any hazards and inconvenience caused by the transport concerned can be sufficiently prevented. If necessary, the supervisory authority, road owner and permit authority may restrict the convoy's use of the road.

The road owner is responsible for all ordinary road management. Application of sand, ploughing or similar works performed at the abnormal transport convoy's request are fee-based and must be requested well in advance.

Lifting, detaching and setting portals and control devices back in place shall be performed at the expense of the abnormal transport permit holder.

The permit's applicability for the transport in question must be ensured prior to transport. For example, road repairs and underpass construction can restrict or completely prevent the entire transport. An abnormal transport permit is not a guarantee that unhindered transport is possible, but is rather a permit to use the road network in a way that would otherwise be prohibited.

The abnormal transport permit holder or transporter is responsible for any damage done by the abnormal transport to the road, traffic control devices, road markings, ploughing signs and other road area devices and structures, such as bridge structures. Liabilities are governed by the Tort Liability Act (412/1974).

The permit holder must immediately notify the Road User Line at 0200-2100 if their abnormal transport damages the devices or structures in the road area or if a detached traffic control device cannot be replaced.

5. Loading

Trafi 4, Road Traffic Act (TLL) § 87b

When loading an indivisible object, excessive width of the transport should primarily be avoided and secondarily its height.

Multiple indivisible objects may only be loaded on the vehicle or vehicle combination if the objects when loaded alone cause a deviation from the generally permissible height, width or length for the road. The general permissible dimension or mass for the road must not be exceeded by placing

objects on top of each other, side by side or in a row. Objects loaded side by side or in a row must not reach beyond the outermost dimensions of an unloaded vehicle.

Individual pieces may be transported together with an indivisible object, if the load consisting of the other material does not exceed the generally permissible height for the road, the vehicle's width or its length. The other material must be loaded in a way that does not exceed the vehicle's generally permissible cargo base length for the road. When laden in this way, the generally permissible masses must not be exceeded.

6. Warning measures and the related equipment

Trafi 5,6,7, Road Traffic Act (TLL) § 49, 87c

Warning measures

The minimum requirements for the traffic control and warning vehicles is based on the dimensions of the transport. When two or more warning vehicles are used, one warning vehicle must drive behind the transport and the others in front of it. On motorways and other roads without oncoming traffic, the warning vehicle or vehicles will drive behind the transport. The permit may require the use of additional warning measures above the minimum level, if necessary.

The minimum number of warning or escort vehicles with an abnormal transport						
Height over 5.00 m, a warning or an escort vehicle must be used in front of the transport						
	Width (m)					
Length (m)	up to 3.00	over 3.00	over 3.50	over 4.00	over 5.00	** over 7.00
up to 30.00			1	2	3	4
over 30.00	*)	1	1	2	3	4
over 35.00	1	2	2	3	3	4
over 40.00	2	2	3	3	3	4
over 45.00	2	3	3	3	3	4
over 50.00	3	3	3	3	3	4

*) A warning vehicle must be used if the width of the transport is over 2.60 metres while its length is over 30.00 metres.

**) Abnormal transport, which is over 7 meters wide, must have at least 4 warning vehicles. One or more of these can be police car.

Starting from 1 January 2022 at the latest, the warning vehicle must be an escort vehicle if the transport width is over 4.00 metres, the length over 40.00 metres, or the height over 5.00 metres.

In addition to these, a warning vehicle must be used when driving against the direction of traffic or in breach of traffic signs, if the vehicle's or combination's turning circle requirement does not comply with Trafi's regulation, if the abnormal transport's maximum permissible speed is under 35 km/h, or if the distance between the rearmost axle of the vehicle or combination and the load's rearmost point is over 6.0 metres.

One extra warning vehicle must always be used on a motorway or a dual carriageway, if the maximum permissible speed for the transport is 50 km/h. The use of an extra warning vehicle on a motorway or a dual carriageway is not required if the minimum requirement for the transport is three warning vehicles.

Warning vehicle

A passenger car, van or lorry with a maximum mass of 7.5 tonnes without a trailer may be used as a warning vehicle.

Escort vehicle

The escort vehicle must comply with all the warning vehicle requirements and be at least 1.7 metres high. The escort vehicle's main colour must be signal yellow, golden yellow, traffic yellow or similar. The vehicle's registration information must include a marking that the vehicle is approved for escort use.

The escort vehicle requirements have been defined in the Abnormal Road Transport Regulation, Chapter 6.

Warning signs

The warning signs are used on the warning vehicles. The warning signs are to be used in such a manner that the warning first refers to the transport's width, second to its length, and third to its height:

LEVEÄ
(Wide)

- the transport is over 3.5 metres wide (length/height has no effect)

PITKÄ
(Long)

- the transport is up to 3.5 metres wide, while its length is over 30 metres
- optionally on the warning vehicle used behind a transport that is over 3.5 metres wide if the length of the transport is over 30 metres

KORKEA
(High)

- the transport is higher than generally permissible for the road and does not require the use of sign texts WIDE or LONG

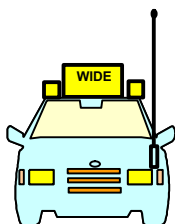
When making the route clearance, the warning sign must show the text MITTAUS (Dimension)

The use of a warning sign approved before 28 August 2017 can be continued, or the sign can be changed to comply with Trafi's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation without altering the warning sign dimensions. New warning signs must comply with the requirements of Trafi's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation.

Warning lamps

The warning vehicle, escort vehicle and the abnormal transport vehicle must be equipped with a minimum of two flashing brownish-yellow warning lamps, or at least one light panel emitting brownish-yellow light. A tractor must have at least one similar warning lamp. The flashing warning lamp and light panel must comply with ECE Regulation No 65.

Warning lamps must be used when the transport is travelling in breach of traffic rules or when other traffic must be warned to avoid obvious danger. When the transport is travelling according to traffic rules, warning lamps should not be used in the case of transport where only the height exceeds the normal dimensions, or on the warning vehicle travelling in front of a long load. A warning vehicle or an escort vehicle travelling behind the transport must use its warning lamp during the entire transport.



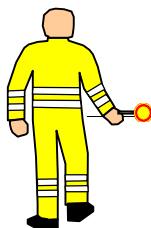
Device for measuring height clearances

Measurements are primarily taken when the transport height exceeds five (5) metres. Measuring is not necessary for repeated transports along the same route if the suitability of the route for the transport concerned has been ensured some other way without damaging road devices.

Traffic controller

Only a person with a traffic director permit may operate as traffic controller for abnormal road transport. A traffic controller card functions as proof of such permit. The traffic controller must hold a valid driving licence and be fit to drive. The driver of the abnormal transport vehicle cannot function as the traffic controller.

A traffic controller must always be used if the transport requires stopping the traffic, or if the use of an escort vehicle or a warning vehicle is required.



Communication devices

The drivers of the warning or escort vehicles and the abnormal transport vehicle must be in radio/telephone contact with each other and share a mutual communication language.



Traffic controller's clothing

The traffic controller must wear high-visibility clothing. The clothing worn must be high-visibility warning clothing that complies with standard SFS-EN 471 / SFS-EN ISO 20471 grade 3.

Stopping the traffic

A small-scale (Ø 200, Ø 400 mm or Ø 600 mm) 'No vehicular access' traffic sign must be used when stopping other traffic. In the dark or when there is limited visibility, a similar sign (Ø 200, Ø 400 mm or Ø 600 mm) illuminated from the inside or based on some other lighting technology must be used.

Lead traffic controller

If there are multiple traffic controllers, one must function as the lead traffic controller. Either the lead traffic controller or the police should determine the position of the traffic controllers in the transport.

The police as the traffic controller for abnormal transport

A police vehicle will replace the escort or warning vehicle. The judgment calls made by the police are governed by the special provisions on traffic control.

If the transport is intended to travel in breach of traffic rules on a dual carriageway, motorway or other road with four or more lanes between 6 am and 9 pm, the permit holder must contact the police when the transport is leaving its origin at the latest, in order to organise the necessary traffic control.

7. Abnormal transport group

Trafi 7.5.

Abnormal loads can only be transported as a group of four abnormal transports at the most.

The number of escort or warning vehicles must be at least:

- 1) as many as the dimensions of the group's largest load requires when transported alone;
- 2) one in front of the group and one behind it; however, one in a group of two or three transports, if the widths and lengths of all the transports do not exceed the generally permissible dimensions for the road;
- 3) one after two transports in a group of four transports if at least one of the transports exceeds the generally permissible width or length for the road;
- 4) one in front of and one behind every transport over 6.00 metres wide or over 40.00 metres long.

Only one transport in a group of abnormal transports may cross a bridge per time. The other transports may cross the bridge one at a time once the previous transport has crossed it.

8. Driving speed

Trafi 3.2,8

The driving speed of the abnormal transport may not exceed 60 km/h if the transport or part of it is on the oncoming lane or part of it. In the case of overmass abnormal transport, the mass on the vehicle's tyres and axle will result in restricting the driving speed, in accordance with Trafi's regulation. However, the transport must not exceed the generally permissible speed for transport vehicles on the road, the speed marked in the vehicle registration, or the speed indicated by a traffic sign.

9. Time restrictions on transport

A load that is over four (4) metres wide, over 30 metres long, or over five (5) metres high cannot be transported:

- between Monday and Friday 6–9 am and 3–5 pm. This restriction applies to all roads in the provinces of Uusimaa (excluding Kehä III and the areas inside it), Varsinais-Suomi, Pirkanmaa, Kanta-Häme, Päijät-Häme and Kymenlaakso, as well as the urban areas in Lappeenranta, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Vaasa, Oulu and Rovaniemi.
- During summer (1 May – 31 August), between Monday and Friday at 6–9 am and 3–5 pm, and on Fridays and Sundays 3–8 pm. This restriction applies to all the above mentioned provinces (excluding Kehä III and the areas inside it in Uusimaa), as well as the highways in the provinces of South Karelia, Etelä-Savo, Central Finland and Satakunta.
- In Uusimaa on Kehä III and the areas inside it, from Monday to Friday at 6–9 am and 3–6 pm, and during the summer (1 May – 31 August) on Fridays and Sundays 3–8 pm, in addition to the aforementioned.

- Added to these are Midsummer Eve and Christmas Eve, Good Friday, or the last day of consecutive holidays 3–8 pm. This restriction applies to all highways in Finland.

The time restrictions also apply to municipal street and road networks included in the abnormal transport permit. On motorways, the time restrictions apply to all vehicles with a maximum permissible speed of 50 km/h.

Time restrictions doesn't concern unladen vehicle combinations on state-owned roads.

For a justifiable reason, the supervisory authority may grant permission for a deviation from the time restrictions and determine when the transport may travel.

10. Signage for abnormal transport

Trafi 5

Loads are marked according to Trafi's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation, if

- a) the load exceeds the generally permissible width for the vehicle on the road on one or both sides by more than 0.10 metres;
- a) the load exceeds the vehicle's width on one or both sides by more than 0.10 metres;
- c) the load exceeds the vehicle's length at the front by more than 1.00 metres or at the back by more than 2.00 metres.

The identification lamps and signs directed forward must be visible from in front of the vehicle. The identification lamps and signs directed backward must be visible from behind the vehicle. The identification lamps and signs do not need to be placed higher than 4.40 metres.

General markings for wide transport and long transport

A motor vehicle and tow vehicle for an abnormal transport trailer that exceed the generally permissible width or length for the road must have at least two flashing warning lamps emitting brownish-yellow light, or one light panel equipped with at least two light sources emitting brownish-yellow light. One warning lamp is sufficient if the tow vehicle is a tractor with a maximum permissible speed of 60 kilometres per hour.

The flashing warning lamps must be placed so that at least one of the lamps is visible from all directions, even when the vehicle is laden. If the vehicle's structure or load prevents the flashing warning lamp on the towing vehicle from being visible from behind, the back of the transport must have a flashing warning lamp that is visible from behind. However, the flashing warning lamp need not be visible from behind the abnormal transport vehicle if a warning or escort vehicle follows behind the transport.

The identification lamp must emit continuous light and be brighter than the vehicle's rear lamp but not brighter than its breaking lights. The lamp's illuminating surface area must be at least 40 cm². The colour of the light visible from the front must be brownish yellow, and the colour of the light visible from behind must be red.

Markings for wide transport

An unladen vehicle that is wider than what is generally permitted must be marked with identification lamps and signs. Identification lamps are not required for a motor vehicle not intended for load transport and no wider than 3.00 metres.

A laden transport that is wider than generally permitted for the road must be marked with identification lamps and signs, if the load exceeds the width of the vehicle on one or both sides by more than 0.10 metres. The markings must be placed on either side of the transport to identify the widest part of the load at the maximum height of 4.40 metres.

The total surface area of the signs directed forward must be at least 0.30 m², and the surface area of the signs directed back at least 0.30 m². If the horizontal distance between the vehicle's outermost lamps and the transport's outermost identification lamps is greater than 1.00 metres, the identification lamps must be placed so that the horizontal distance between adjacent lamps is no greater than 1.00 metres. In addition, the load must be marked with additional identification lamps and signs if required, in order to ensure road safety.

Each point defined above must have two identification lamps. A single identification lamp with a surface area of at least 80 cm² may be used instead of two identification lamps. The identification lamps must be placed on top of each other or along the contour of the load's outer edge. The identification lamp and sign must be directed forward when located in front of the transport's widest part, and backward when located behind the widest section of the transport.

These permit conditions must be kept together with the related transport.

Markings for long transport

If the load exceeds the vehicle's length at the front by more than 1.00 metres or at the back by more than 2.00 metres, the excessive section must be marked with an identification sign and lamp directed forward at the front and backward at the back, as well as with sidelamps, high-visibility tape or reflective tape.

When the load functions as the supporting structure of the transport combination, the section of the load in question must be marked with sidelamps, high-visibility tape or reflective tape. The sidelamp, high-visibility tape or reflective tape must be no farther than one metre lengthwise from the outermost part of the load exceeding the length of the vehicle or vehicle combination. The distance of side lamps placed in a row must not exceed three metres. The high-visibility tape or reflective tape must be continuous, and its lengthwise distance from the vehicle's sidelamps must not exceed one metre.

Either the provisions in the Abnormal Road Transport Decree or the regulations in Trafi's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation may be applied to transports completed before 1 January 2022.

PERMISSIBLE DIMENSIONS FOR ABNORMAL TRANSPORT WITHOUT A PERMIT

The Decree on the Use of Vehicles on the Road 24§, Trafi 9

An abnormal transport permit is required if the general permissible dimension for the road is exceeded. However, a permit is not required if the transport uses vehicles registered or first placed into use in an EEA country if the width/length of a laden/unladen vehicle or a combination used in the transport does not exceed the dimensions in the table below.

The generally permissible height on the road is 4.40 metres for vehicles from EU/EEA countries.

	Vehicle, vehicle combination and load	Width (m)	Length (m)
1	combination of a lorry and semi-trailer	4.00	40.00
2	combination of a lorry and an actual abnormal transport trailer if the length of the unladen trailer exceeds the generally permissible dimension for the road	4.00	30.00
3	a combination of a tractor and an unladen peat production trailer, or a tractor and a towed device	4.00	30.00
4	Combination of lorry and one or more trailers (other than items 1, 2 or 10)	4.00	34.50
5	a combination of a tractor and a trailer	4.00	20.00
6	a vehicle that moves on its own power engine and is not primarily intended to carry a load	4.00	20.00
7	a lorry ¹⁾	4.00	13.00
8	a van	3.50	12.00
9	a combination of a tractor and a vehicle transport trailer	3.50	20.00
10	a combination of a car and a centre-axle trailer	3.50	20.75
11	a vehicle transporter	3.50	16.00

¹⁾ the length of 13.00 metres may be exceeded when the load transported in a trailer is being transferred during on-/off-loading with a lorry equipped with a crane suitable for loading.

Governing laws and regulations

Road Traffic Act (TLL) 267/1981

Vehicles Act (ANL) 1090/2002

The Decree on the Use of Vehicles on the Road 1257/1992

Technical requirements for cars and their trailers (the Car Regulation) TRAFI/61749/03.04.03.00/2015

Abnormal transport and abnormal transport vehicles (the Abnormal Road Transport Regulation) TRAFI/4592/03.04.03.00/2015

TRAFI/4592/03.04.03.00/2015

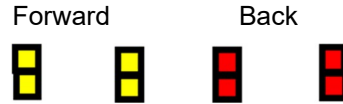
The structure and accessories of tractors, motor work machines and their trailers, with the exception of towable devices intended to be attached to automobiles and vehicles drawn by animals (the Tractor Regulation) TRAFI/9457/03.04.03.00/2012

MODEL ILLUSTRATIONS FOR MARKING THE LOAD

Identification signs



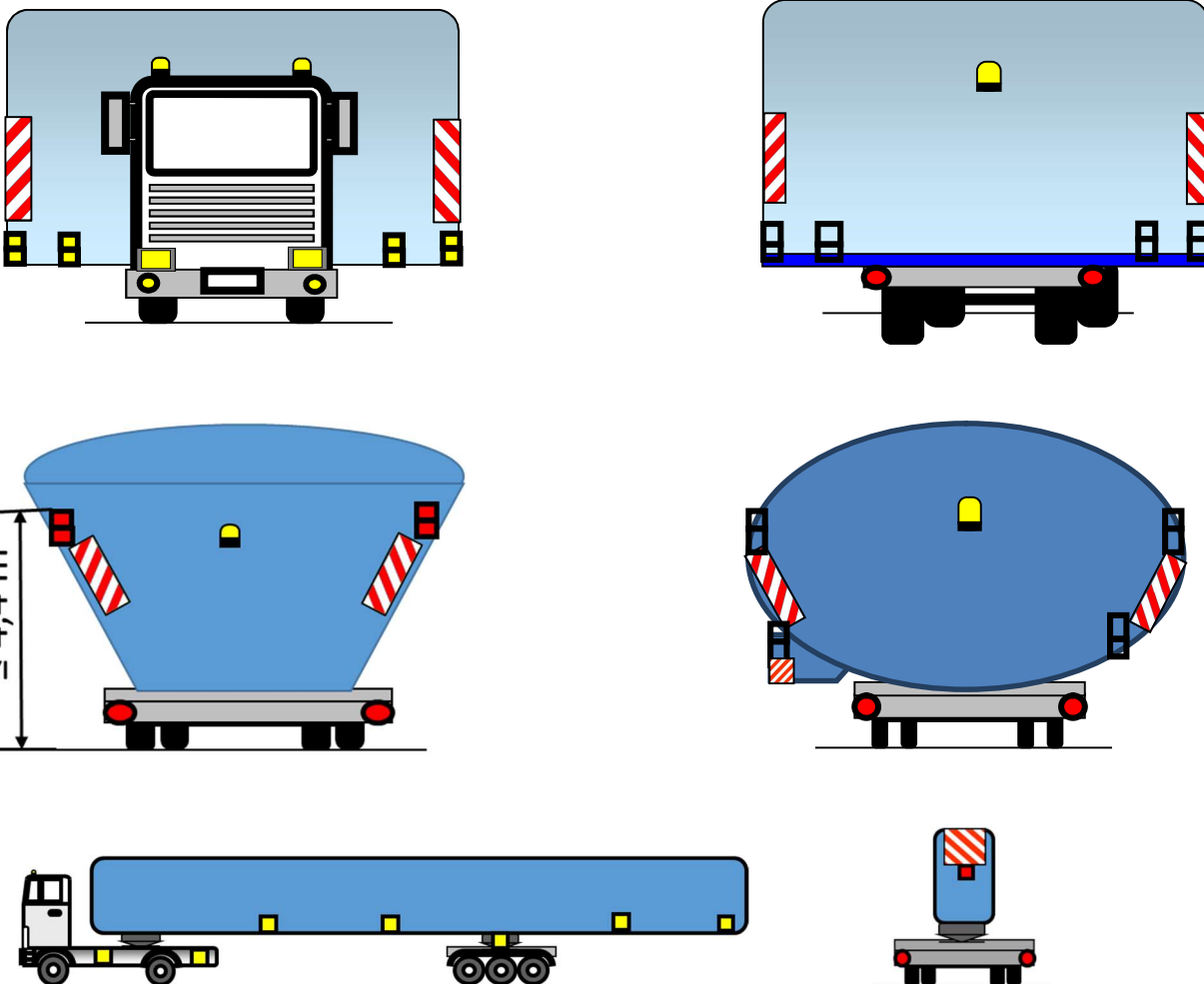
Identification lamps



<p>The identification sign must be square/rectangular in shape, with a minimum surface area of 0.15 m². The minimum side dimension for a square is 400 mm and 140 mm for a rectangle. A sign directed forward must not reflect red colour.</p>	<p>The identification lamp's illuminating surface area must be at least 40 cm². The marking area should have either two lamps or one, with a minimum surface area or 80 cm². The light must be brighter than the vehicle's rear light, but no brighter than the breaking light.</p>
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EXAMPLES OF LOAD MARKINGS

When marking the width, the total surface area of the signs directed forward must be at least 0.3 m², and the surface area of the signs directed back must be at least 0.3 m².



Instead of sidelamps, reflective tape or high-visibility tape may also be used.

Unlike the markings on a wide load, a single identification sign and lamp at the front and back are sufficient for a portion of the load narrower than the vehicle or the rest of the load.