



These permit conditions include the most relevant sections of the statutes and other conditions laid down for abnormal transports. Permits issued before 9 March 2015 may use these conditions or the ones that were valid at the time the permit was issued. Any amendments to the statutes must, however, be complied with. The permit may also have specific conditions. In this document, LVMaEk is used as an abbreviation of the Decree of the Ministry of Transport and Communications on abnormal transports and abnormal transport vehicles. Similarly, TLL is used as an abbreviation for the Road Traffic Act. The centre for economic development, transport and the environment for Pirkanmaa is the sole issuer of abnormal transport permits in Finland, with the exception of the Åland islands.

1. General conditions

LVMaEk 16, 38 and 39 §, TLL 87c

The vehicle or vehicles must be approved for operation in traffic. The axle, bogie, or total weight specified on the vehicles' registration books or transport permits must not be exceeded. The hitching of an overweight or oversized abnormal transport trailer to the towing vehicle must pass a Finnish coupling inspection

The abnormal transport permit is valid only on the route/routes mentioned in the permit. If a transport deviates from its route, it must comply with normal regulations for vehicle traffic. During an official inspection, the dimensions and weights of the transport to be inspected must be included in the same permit.

The permit, or a copy of it, including all attachments, must be kept with the transport and presented immediately to a traffic director upon request. Electronic versions of the permit will be accepted if they can be read at the inspection point. The entire permit must be presented to the authorities; the route description alone does not suffice as a copy of the permit. In addition to the police, other traffic authorities include road, customs and border officials.

The permit may be cancelled temporarily or permanently if the permit holder fails to comply with statutes and regulations for abnormal transports or permit conditions, or if the conditions under which the permit was issued are no longer fulfilled.

2. Other permits

Municipalities

The abnormal transport permit is valid only on the roads and streets of the municipality in which it has been granted. The issuer of the permit may require that the permit holder obtains consent from the municipality for the use of its road network. The permit holder may also independently extend the permit to roads they require with the consent of the municipality. The consent of a municipality is not sufficient for performing the transport without an abnormal transport permit.

Private roads

The approval of the road owner must be obtained for transportation on a private road if that road is not specified in the permit.

3. Restrictions affecting the transport

LVMaEk 34 §

Traffic control devices

The road administrator's approval is required before performing the transport if any changes to the road structure or road devices are necessary. Such temporary changes may include the raising of traffic sign portals, removal of railings, lamp posts or electric traffic signal devices, making changes to an intersection, building ramps to cross traffic islands or strengthening the road structure. Non-electrical traffic signals or other traffic control devices may be temporarily removed without approval if they are reinstalled immediately and the removal does not require the use of machinery.

Raising traffic sign portals must be performed in accordance with the traffic portal instructions. An abnormal transport permit and the traffic portal instructions do not alone constitute permission to perform work on portals.

Railway crossings

Abnormal transports must comply with the guidelines of the Finnish Transport Agency' railway department.

Tramline wires

When a transport exceeding 4.8 metres in height is moved across the tram network, Helsinki City Transport must be contacted at least two working days prior to the transport.

Electric and telephone cables

Before the transport, the permit holder must discover and take note of the height of electric and telephone cables and, if necessary, contact the owner of the lines to make arrangements for measures required by the transport.

Roadwork

The permit holder must find out if there is any roadwork on the transport route, take note of them and consider their effect on the transport.

Weight limitations

Unless specific exceptions have been granted in the permit, weight limitations indicated by traffic signs must not be exceeded. The route indicated on the permit is not considered a specific exception of this kind.

Location of the vehicle on the roadway

Abnormal transports should avoid using the shoulder when possible. Usage of the shoulder area of bridges is forbidden on motorways, highways, wide lanes, and locations with more than one concurrent traffic lane, unless otherwise stated in the permit.

If several overweight transports are on the same route, they must cross bridges one by one, each one waiting for its turn to cross the bridge.

4. Responsibility for expenses and damage

LVMaEk section 40, TLL 87c

Abnormal transports must be carried out with exceptional care while paying attention to weather and driving conditions so that the transport causes minimal disturbance to other traffic and causes no danger of any kind. If necessary, the supervising authority, road owner or permit issuer may impose restrictions on the transport.

The road owner is responsible for normal road maintenance. Work such as gritting or snow clearance performed at the transport's request will be charged from the abnormal transport permit holder and must be requested well in advance.

Traffic sign portals or devices will be raised, removed and reinstalled at the permit holder's expense.

The permit holder is responsible for any and all damage the abnormal transport may cause to road devices and structures and to the transport vehicle and the load. An abnormal transport permit is not a guarantee of unobstructed access for the transport. It is used to grant permission to use the road network in a way that is otherwise prohibited.

If road devices and structures are damaged by the abnormal transport or a removed device cannot be reinstalled, the permit holder must immediately report this to the Finnish Transport Agency's Road User's Phone Service, by calling +358 (0) 200 2100

5. Loading

LVMaEk sections 17 and 19

An indivisible object should be loaded primarily to avoid excess width, and secondarily to avoid excess height. Long objects should primarily be transported on a semi-trailer. High objects should be transported on a low trailer or on a low-loading trailer, with wide objects resting on a slanting support, if necessary, to avoid excess width.

Several indivisible objects may be transported in the same transport, but only if they would cause the authorised length, width or height of the transport to be exceeded if transported alone. Dimension or weight limits for normal road use may not be exceeded by stacking transportable objects on top of each other, or placing them side by side, or in a row. Regular cargo may only be transported along an indivisible object if the cargo load does not both exceed the general dimension allowances for road use, and add to the permitted excess dimensions.

6. Warning measures and equipment

LVMaEk sections 21, 25–29 and 32, TLL 49, 87c

Warning measures

The use of an escort vehicle and traffic control is determined by the dimensions of the transport. In some cases, it is not necessary to use a traffic director when using an escort vehicle, and in some it is not necessary to use an escort vehicle when using a traffic director. On motorways and other similar roads where there is no oncoming traffic, all escort vehicles drive behind the transport. On narrow roads where overtaking is not possible, both escort vehicles may drive in front of the transport. The abnormal transport permit may require measures that exceed this minimum requirement.

Warning measures	Height exceeds 5 m	Transport width B (m)													
		B ≤ 3		3 < B ≤ 3.5		3.5 < B ≤ 4		4 < B ≤ 5		5 < B ≤ 7		B > 7			
		Transport length L (m)													
		L ≤ 30	30 < L ≤ 40	L > 40	L ≤ 25.25	25.25 < L ≤ 30	30 < L ≤ 45	L > 45	L ≤ 30	30 < L ≤ 40	L > 40	L ≤ 35	L > 35	All lengths	All lengths
Escort vehicles ahead	1	1	1		1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
Escort vehicles behind				1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Traffic directors	1	1	2			2	3		2	3	2	3	3	3	3
Police or escort vehicle and traffic director															1

The table is based on sections 27 and 32 of the decree on abnormal transports (LVMaEk). The minimum number of required warning measures for the transport is outlined in the table.

Escort vehicle

A passenger car without a trailer, a van or a light truck (total weight max. 4.0 tonnes) can be used as an escort vehicle.

Warning signs

Warning signs are used on escort vehicles and on the back of a transport vehicle if its length exceeds 25.25 metres and no escort vehicle is required behind the vehicle. The warning sign used on the escort vehicle must be approved by the Finnish Transport Agency. Warning signs are used in the following order: first width, second length, and thirdly height:

LEVEÄ KULJETUS
PITKÄ KULJETUS
KORKEA KULJETUS

- transport width exceeds 3.5 metres (height and length are irrelevant)
- transport width is between 3.0 and 3.5 metres and transport length exceeds 25.25 metres, or
- transport width does not exceed 3 metres and the length exceeds 30 metres
- transport is taller than regular traffic, and signage for long or wide transport is not required

Warning lights

The escort vehicles and the transport vehicle must be equipped with at least two amber flashing warning lights. A tractor must be equipped with at least one such warning light, as specified above.



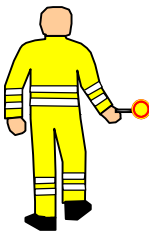
The warning lights must be used whenever the transport travels against traffic rules or when other traffic needs to be warned of danger. When the transport is travelling according to traffic rules, warning lights should not be used in the case of transport where only the height exceeds the normal dimensions, or on the escort vehicle travelling in front of a long load.

Measuring device for unobstructed height

A measuring device for unobstructed height must be used in the escort vehicle in front of the transport if the height of the transport exceeds 5 metres.

Personnel of escort vehicle and communication equipment

A traffic director may drive the escort vehicle. Drivers of the escort vehicles and the abnormal transport vehicle must be in radio or telephone contact and have a common language. At least one escort vehicle needs to have a Finnish or Swedish-speaking person on board.

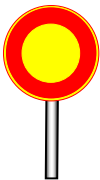


Traffic director

Only a person who has completed abnormal transport traffic director training may act as a traffic director for abnormal transports. Qualifications to act as an abnormal transport traffic director can be demonstrated with a licence card (EKL card). Traffic directors require a valid driver's licence and must be fit to drive. A traffic director must always be used when the transport is moving in breach of normal traffic rules despite the dimensions of the transport. The driver of the abnormal transport vehicle may not act as a traffic director.

Traffic director outfit

The outfit of a traffic director must be clearly visible and equipped with reflectors. The outfit must meet the requirements of the standard SFS-EN 471 / SFS-EN ISO 20471 for Class 3 high-visibility clothing.



Traffic sign no. 311

Other traffic must be stopped by using a miniature version of traffic sign no. 311 (Ø 200 mm or 400 mm), "Prohibited for all vehicles". At night and in poor lighting conditions, a traffic sign with internal illumination or LEDs (Ø 200 mm) must be used.

Lead traffic director

If several traffic directors are required, one must be named as the lead traffic director. The lead traffic director or the police will determine the positioning of other traffic directors during the transport.

The role of police during special transport

If the transport will travel in breach of traffic rules on a motorway or other highway with four or more lanes between 6 am and 9 pm, the permit holder must contact the local police by the time the transport is leaving from its point of departure at the latest in order to arrange for traffic to be directed in the required manner.

7. Convoys of abnormal transports

LVMaEk 33 §

No more than six abnormal transport vehicles are allowed to travel in a convoy. At least one escort vehicle and traffic director must drive both ahead and behind the convoy, with additional escorts ahead and behind every transport that is longer than six metres. In a convoy of at least four transports, escort vehicles and traffic directors must drive ahead and behind the convoy and between every two transports. The minimum required number of escort vehicles ahead of the convoy is based on the dimensions of the largest transport in the convoy. Long transports require only one escort vehicle and a traffic director ahead of every third transport.

8. Driving speed

LVMaEk 30 §

The maximum allowed speed for a transport that is wider than 3.5 metres is 60 km/h. In the case of overweight transports, the wheel and axle weights impose limits on speed based on the Decree on abnormal transports. For example, when the weight on a paired-wheel axle exceeds 15 tonnes, the maximum permitted driving speed is 40 km/h. The driving speed may not in any case exceed the limits imposed in the vehicle's registration or those imposed by traffic signs. The speed of a vehicle combination may not exceed the maximum permitted speed of any single vehicle in the combination, or the maximum permitted speed determined on the basis of the combination.

9. Time limits

A transport that is over 4 metres wide, over 30 metres long or over 5 metres high is not permitted to travel:

- Monday to Friday, 6–9 am and 3–5 pm. This limit is in effect on all roads in the regions of Uusimaa (not including the Kehä III ring road and areas inside it), Southwest Finland, Kanta-Häme, Päijät-Häme and Kymenlaakso, and in the urban areas of Lappeenranta, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Vaasa, Oulu and Rovaniemi.
- During summer (from 1 May to 31 August) Monday to Friday, 6–9 am and 3–5 pm, and also Fridays and Sundays, 3–8 pm. This limit is in effect on all roads in the previously mentioned regions (not including the Kehä III ring road in Uusimaa and areas inside it) and also on highways and main roads of the regions of South Karelia, South Savo, Central Finland and Satakunta.
- On Uusimaa's Kehä III ring road and areas inside it, Monday to Friday, 6–9 am and 3–6 pm; during summer (1 May – 31 August), in addition to the previous, on Fridays and Sundays, 3–8 pm
- In addition to the above, on the days before Midsummer Eve (Juhannusaatto) and Christmas Eve, the day before Good Friday and on the last day of consecutive holidays between the hours of 3 and 8 pm. This limitation is in effect on highways and main roads throughout the country.

These time limits are also in effect on municipal road and street networks included in the abnormal transport permit. On motorways, the limits are in effect for all vehicles whose greatest allowed driving speed is 50 km/h.

Authorities may allow an abnormal transport to deviate from the time limits for a justified reason or decide when the transport can travel.

Applicable statutes and laws

Road Traffic Act (Tieliikennelaki) 267/1981

Vehicles Act (Ajoneuvolaki) 1090/2002

Decree of the Ministry of Transport and Communications on the structure and accessories of automobiles and trailers 1248/2002

The structure and accessories of tractors, motor work machines, their trailers, with the exception of towable devices intended to be attached to automobiles and vehicles drawn by animals (Traktorien, moottorityökoneiden ja maastoajoneuvojen, niiden perävaunujen, muiden kuin autoon kytkettäväksi tarkoitettujen hinattavien laitteiden sekä eläinten vetämien ajoneuvojen rakenne ja varusteet) TRAFI/9457/03.04.03.00/2012

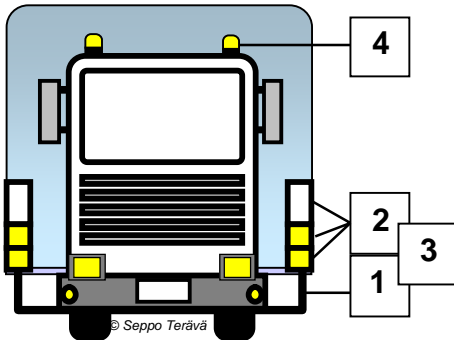
Decree on vehicle operation on the road 1257/1992

Decree of the Ministry of Transport and Communications on abnormal transports and abnormal transport vehicles 786/2012

MARKING AN ABNORMAL TRANSPORT

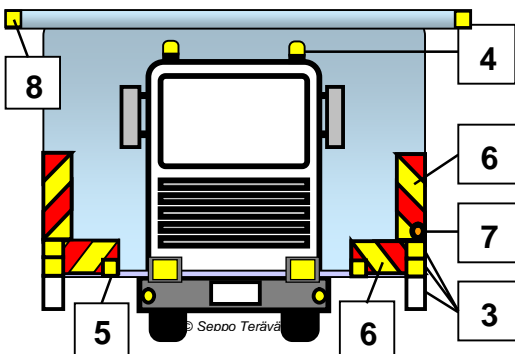
- Mobile cranes and other similar non-load carrying vehicles shall be equipped with these markings, adapting them as necessary, with due consideration for traffic safety.
- Transports must be equipped with the following markings (in addition to lights and reflectors required for normal operation in traffic):

Markings at the front



Transport width does not exceed 4 metres

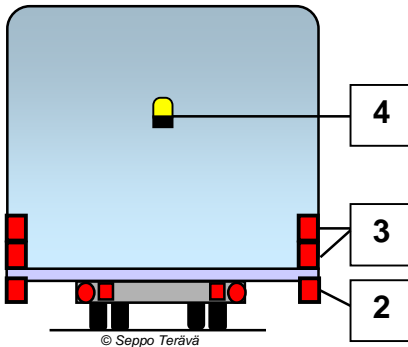
1. Signal rods must be placed in front of the towing vehicle or behind the cab when maximum width is 3.5 metres.
2. Rods must be equipped with white 10 cm x 20 cm reflectors and amber lights. If the width of the transport exceeds 3 metres, two lights are required, one above the other.
3. The lights and reflectors may be attached to the load when its width exceeds 3.5 metres.
4. Rotating or flashing amber lights must also be used on the transport vehicle if they are in use on the escort vehicles.



Transport width exceeds 4 metres

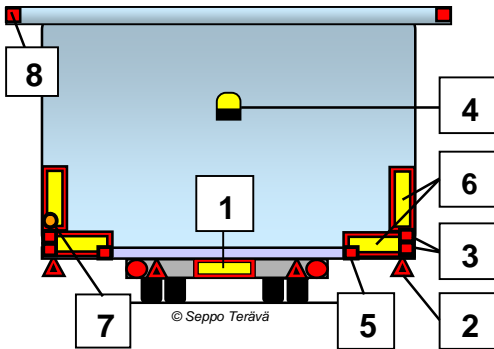
5. Additional amber lights must be placed every metre when the distance between the vehicle's lights and the outermost lights on the load exceeds one metre.
6. In addition to the above markings, vertical and horizontal identifying signs indicating the width of the transport and at least partially indicating the shape of the transport are also required. These markings must include alternating red and yellow diagonal stripes according to Regulation (EU) No 70. The red stripes facing forward may be painted in a day-glow colour.
7. If the transport is over 7 metres wide and the load is no more than 1.9 metres from the ground, the lower left corner of the load must be marked with an amber light, which may also be a flashing light. The light may be attached to either the load or the identifying sign.
8. That part of the load that is wider than 4 metres and over 1.9 metres from the ground must be marked appropriately.

Markings at the rear



Transport width does not exceed 4 metres

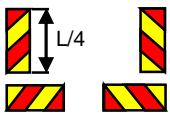
1. When the length exceeds 15.5 metres, this must be indicated with a sign identifying a long combination vehicle. Corresponding identifying signs placed to show the width of the transport are sufficient when the transport is also wider than 4 metres.
2. Red reflectors indicating the width of the load. Triangular reflectors must be used for vehicle combinations, any other shape for other vehicles.
3. Red lights indicating the width of the load. If the width of the transport exceeds 3 metres, two lights are required, one above the other. Additional lights must be placed every metre when the distance between the vehicle's lights and the outermost lights on the load exceeds one metre.
4. Rotating or flashing amber warning light at the rear of the load if the towing vehicle's light cannot be seen from behind. The light is not required if an escort vehicle is used at the rear. It is required if the escort is using one.



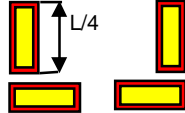
Transport width exceeds 4 metres

5. Additional red lights must be placed every metre when the distance between the vehicle's lights and the outermost lights on the load exceeds one metre.
6. In addition to the above markings, vertical and horizontal identifying signs indicating the width of the transport and at least partially indicating the shape of the transport are also required. The markings on a vehicle must contain alternating red and yellow diagonal stripes, and the markings on a vehicle combination must have a red rim against a yellow background, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 70.
7. If the transport is wider than 7 metres and the load is no more than 1.9 metres from the ground, the lower left corner at the rear of the load must be marked with an amber light, which may also be a flashing light. The light must be attached to the load or the identifying sign.
8. The part of the load that is wider than 4 metres and over 1.9 metres from the ground must be marked appropriately.

On vehicle

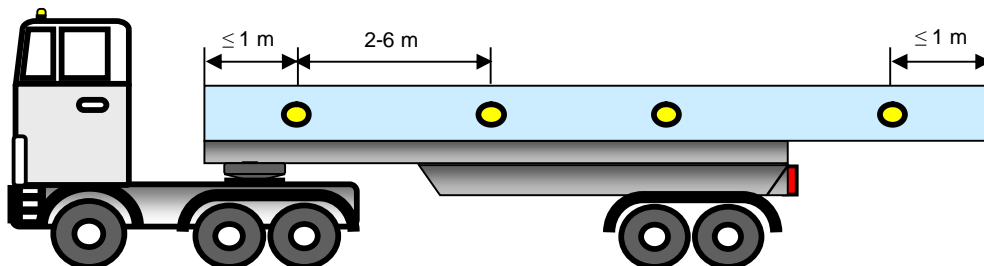


On back of vehicle combination



L= minimum length 1,130 mm, maximum length 2,300 mm. Diagonal identifying signs minimum width 130 mm, maximum width 150 mm. Trailer identifying signs minimum width 195 mm, maximum width 230 mm.

Markings on the sides



With the exception of the warning light, the total lamp wattage is 15–21 W or the corresponding wattage at the front and rear, and 4–10 W or the corresponding wattage on the sides. The height of the lights and reflectors is 0.35–1.5 m. The signs or the lights and reflectors on a towed object can be placed at a maximum height of 2.1 metres.