



Abnormal transport permit conditions 4/2019

These permit conditions must accompany the transport in question.

Effective as of 10 April 2019

These permit conditions contain the main items in the laws and regulations that govern abnormal transports and the permit conditions set for abnormal transports. With abnormal transport permits that were granted before 5 April 2019, 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 abnormal transports even during the validity of the new regulations and provisions. In these permit conditions, 'Traficom' together with a numeric reference to a section refers to the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom's 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 (Traficom 2.1, 3.1, Sections 87c, 94, 96, 97 of the Road Traffic Act (TLL), Section 62 of the Vehicles Act (ANL))

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 vehicle 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 specified in the permit. A transport that deviates from its route is subject to general regulations on road traffic. 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 director immediately upon request. An electronic form of the permit will also be accepted, provided that the traffic director'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 traffic director. In addition to the police, other traffic directors 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 transports or the conditions specified in the permit, or if the permit holder no longer fulfils the permit requirements.

2 Other permits

2.1 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

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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

3.1 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. For highways, the work permit for work to be conducted in the road area is granted by the Pirkanmaa Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. For road networks and private roads, the permit must be obtained from the road owner. 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.

3.2 Level crossings

Abnormal transport passing through level crossings must adhere to the Finnish Transport Agency's (now known as the Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency) instructions *Erikoiskuljetukset rautatien tasoristeyksessä* ('Abnormal transports at level crossings') (LIVI/6912/06.04.01/2017).

3.3 Tramway wires

When a transport taller than 4.8 m is to cross a tramway, Helsinki City Transport HKL must be contacted no less than two weekdays prior to the transport concerned.

3.4 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.

3.5 Roadworks

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

3.6 Weight restrictions

Weight restrictions indicated by 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.

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3.7 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 (Sections 48 and 87b of the Road Traffic Act (TLL))

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 transport's use of the road.

The road owner is responsible for all ordinary road management. The application of sand, ploughing or similar works performed at the request of the abnormal transport are subject to a charge 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 (Traficom 4, Section 87b of the Road Traffic Act (TLL))

An indivisible object should be loaded primarily to avoid excess width, and secondarily to avoid excess height.

Multiple indivisible objects may only be loaded on the vehicle or vehicle combination if the objects, when loaded alone, would cause a deviation from the generally permissible height, width, or length for the road. A general permissible dimension for the road must not be exceeded by placing objects on top of each other, side by side or in a row. The general permissible mass for the road must not be exceeded by loads consisting of multiple indivisible objects.

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

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6 Warning measures and related equipment (Traficom 5, 6, 7, Sections 49 and 87c of the Road Traffic Act (TLL))

6.1 Warning measures

The minimum requirements for traffic control and warning vehicles are 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 accompanying 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 transports with a width of over 7 metres must be accompanied by at least four warning vehicles, one or more of which can be a police car with emergency lighting.

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. When the height of the abnormal transport is below 5.50 metres and no other generally permissible dimensions for the road are exceeded, the warning vehicle does not need to be an escort vehicle.

In addition to these, a warning vehicle must be used when

- driving against the direction of traffic
- driving in breach of traffic signs
- the vehicle or vehicle combination does not comply with the turning circle requirement defined in Traficom's regulation
- the abnormal transport's maximum permissible speed is under 40 km/h
- the distance between the rearmost axle of the vehicle or vehicle combination and the load's rearmost point is over 6.00 metres. If, however, the transport complies with the turning circle requirement defined in Traficom's regulation, a warning vehicle is not required due to the rear overhang.

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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 or lower. 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 Escort vehicle

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

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

6.4 Warning signs

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:

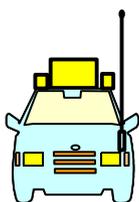
The use of a warning sign approved before 5 April 2019 can be continued, or the sign can be changed to comply with Traficom's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation without altering the warning sign dimensions. New warning signs must comply with the requirements of Traficom's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation.

6.5 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 a light panel equipped with at least two light sources emitting brownish-yellow light. A tractor must have at least one similar warning lamp when driven at speeds of up to 60 km/h. 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 an excessively long transport. A warning vehicle or an escort vehicle travelling behind the transport must use its warning lamp during the entire transport.

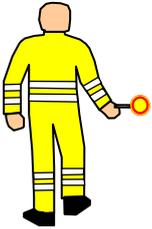
6.6 Device for measuring height clearances



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.

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6.7 Traffic director



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

A traffic director 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, or if the transport is part of a convoy of several abnormal transports travelling one right after the other.

6.8 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.

6.9 Traffic director's outfit

The traffic director 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 or higher.

6.10 Stopping 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.

6.11 Lead traffic director

If there are multiple traffic directors, one must serve as the lead traffic director. Either the lead traffic director or the police should determine the position of the traffic directors in the transport.

6.12 The police as the traffic director for abnormal transport

A police vehicle with emergency lighting can substitute for an escort or warning vehicle. The judgment calls made by the police are governed by 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 Convoys of abnormal transports (Traficom 7.5.)

No more than four abnormal transport vehicles are allowed to travel in a convoy.

The requirements for the number of escort or warning vehicles are as follows:

- a) as many as the dimensions of the group's largest load requires when transported alone;
- b) one in front of the group and one behind it; however, one in a convoy of two or three transports, if the widths and lengths of all the transports do not exceed the generally permissible dimensions for the road;

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- c) one after two transports in a convoy of four transports if at least one of the transports exceeds the generally permissible width or length for the road;
- d) 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 convoy of abnormal transports may cross a bridge at a time. The other transports may cross the bridge one at a time once the previous transport has crossed it.

8 Driving speed (Traficom 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 overweight abnormal transport, the driving speed is restricted by the mass on the vehicle's tyres and axle in accordance with Traficom'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 regions of Uusimaa (excluding Kehä III and the areas inside it), Southwest Finland, Pirkanmaa, Kanta-Häme, Päijät-Häme and Kymenlaakso, as well as the urban areas of Lappeenranta, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Vaasa, Oulu and Rovaniemi.
- During summer (1 May–31 August), between Monday and Friday 6–9 am and 3–5 pm, and on Fridays and Sundays 3–8 pm. This restriction applies to all the above-mentioned regions (excluding Kehä III and the areas inside it in Uusimaa), as well as the highways in the regions of South Karelia, Etelä-Savo, Central Finland and Satakunta.
- In Uusimaa on Kehä III and the areas inside it, from Monday to Friday 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.
- In addition to the above, on the days before Midsummer Eve 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 restriction is in effect on highways and main roads throughout the country.

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 driving speed of 50 km/h.

The time restrictions detailed above do not apply to empty, unloaded vehicle combinations traveling 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.

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10 Marking abnormal transports (Traficom 5)

Loads are marked according to Traficom'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;
- b) 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 the 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.

A vehicle combination that has been marked in accordance with Traficom's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation does not need to be marked in accordance with Section 51 b of the Decree on the Use of Vehicles on the Road.

10.1 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 flashing 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.

10.2 Markings for wide transports

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 identification signs and lamps must be placed so that the lateral distance between the aforementioned widest part of the load and the outermost parts of the identification signs and the outermost identification lamps does not exceed 100 millimetres.

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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.

10.3 Markings for long transports

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 excess section must be marked with an identification sign and an identification lamp directed forward at the front and backward at the back, as well as with sidelamps, high-visibility tape or reflective tape. However, an identification sign does not need to be placed at the front if the part of the load that exceeds the length of the vehicle at the front by more than 1.00 metres is less than 0.4 metres wide, nor at the back if the part of the load that exceeds the length of the vehicle at the back by more than 2.00 metres is less than 0.4 metres wide.

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.

The loads of transports carried out before 1 January 2022 may be marked in accordance with the provisions of Traficom's Abnormal Road Transport Regulation as defined above or the provisions on marking abnormal transports valid at the time when the regulation on abnormal transports and abnormal transport vehicles issued on 24 August 2017 (TRAFI/4592/03.04.03.00/2015) enters into effect.

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11 PERMISSIBLE DIMENSIONS FOR ABNORMAL TRANSPORTS WITHOUT A PERMIT (Section 24 of the Decree on the Use of Vehicles on the Road, Traficom 9)

An abnormal transport permit is required if a general permissible dimension for the road is exceeded. However, a permit is not required if the transport is carried out using 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)
combination of a lorry and semi-trailer	4.00	40.00
combination of a lorry and an actual abnormal transport trailer if the length of the unladen trailer exceeds a generally permissible dimension for the road ⁴⁾	4.00	30.00
a combination of a tractor and an unladen peat production trailer, or a tractor and a towed device	4.00	30.00
a combination of a lorry and an actual trailer or a lorry and multiple trailers ⁴⁾	4.00	30.00
a combination of a tractor and a trailer	4.00	20.00
a vehicle that moves on its own power engine and is not primarily intended to carry a load	4.00	20.00
a lorry ^{1,2)}	4.00	13.00
a van	3.50	12.00
a combination of a tractor and a vehicle transport trailer	3.50	20.00
a combination of a car and a centre-axle trailer ³⁾	3.50	20.75
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

²⁾ The permissible length of a lorry equipped for transporting and loading boats is 16.00 metres when transporting a boat

³⁾ The permissible length of a lorry and towed machine is 30.00 metres

⁴⁾ The permissible length of a combination of a lorry and an actual trailer or a lorry and multiple trailers is 34.50 metres when their width is less than 3.50 metres

12 Governing laws and regulations

Road Traffic Act (TLL) 267/1981

Vehicles Act (ANL) 1090/2002

Tort Liability Act 412/1974

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

Technical requirements for cars and their trailers (the Car Regulation)

TRAFI/196251/03.04.03.00/2017

Abnormal transport and abnormal transport vehicles (the Abnormal Road Transport Regulation)

TRAFICOM/94450/03.04.03.00/2019

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/605526/03.04.03.00/2018

Abnormal transports at level crossings LIVI/6912/06.04.01/2017

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13 MODEL ILLUSTRATIONS FOR MARKING LOADS

Identification signs



International and national

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.

Identification lamps

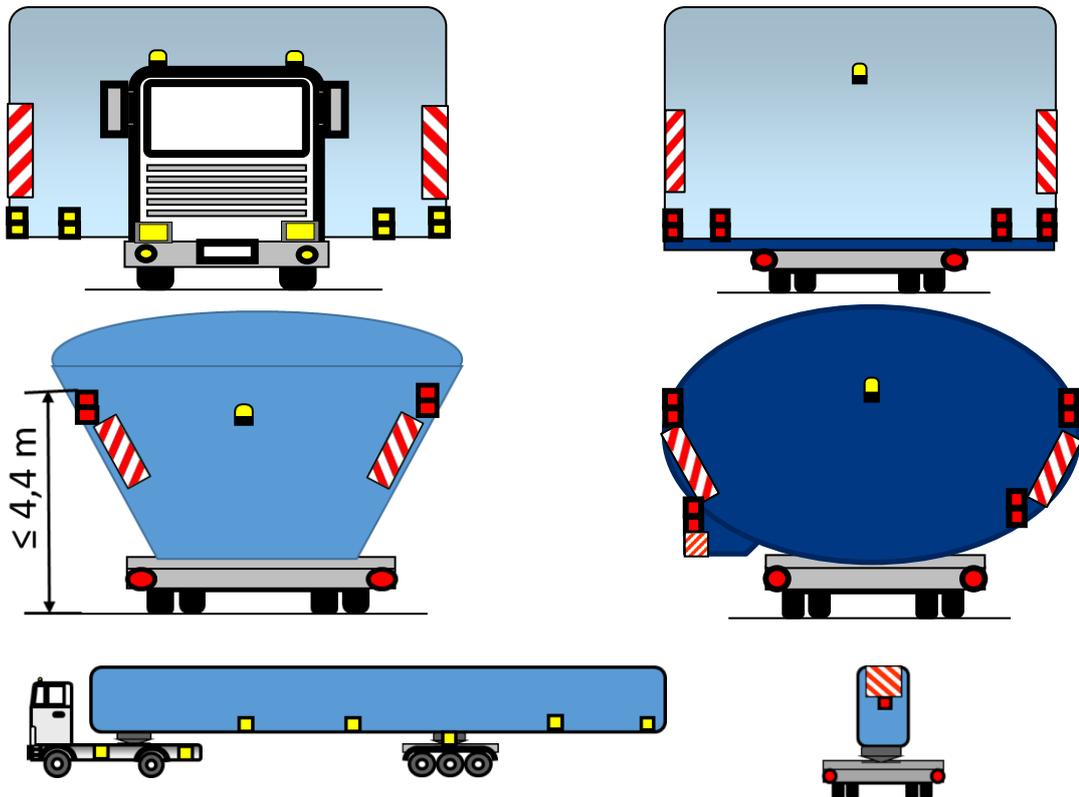
Forward and back



The identification lamp's illuminating surface area must be at least 40 cm². The light must be brighter than the vehicle's rear light, but no brighter than the brake light.

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. Wide loads must have two identification lamps at each marking area, or alternatively one identification lamp with a surface area of at least 80 cm².



Instead of sidelamps, reflective tape or high-visibility tape may also be used. An identification sign does not need to be placed at the front if the part of the load that exceeds the length of the vehicle at the front by more than 1.0 metres is less than 0.4 metres wide, nor at the back if the part of the load that exceeds the length of the vehicle at the back by more than 2.0 metres is less than 0.4 metres wide.