



Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety

**Memorandum of Understanding
on Harmonization of Special Permit Conditions for
Oversize/Overweight Indivisible Loads**

November 18, 2002

**Memorandum of Understanding on Harmonization of Special Permit Conditions for
Oversize/Overweight Indivisible Loads**

ENTERED INTO THIS 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2002

The Government of British Columbia herein represented by the Minister of Transportation

and

The Government of Manitoba herein represented by the Minister of Transportation and
Government Services

and

The Government of Saskatchewan herein represented by the Minister of Highways and
Transportation

and

The Government of Alberta herein represented by the Minister of Transportation

Hereinafter referred to as the Parties

Whereas, each province and territory in Canada has exercised its authority to legislate the weights and dimensions of vehicles operating under oversize or overweight permits for indivisible loads on highways within its boundaries;

Whereas, there is concern that such legislation affects the efficiency of interprovincial and international transportation;

Whereas, legislation on the weights and dimensions of vehicles operating on highways is needed to ensure the protection of the public highway system and highway safety;

Whereas it is desirable to improve the compatibility of standards for the weights, dimensions and operating permit rules, while ensuring the protection of public highway safety;

Therefore, the parties to this Memorandum agree to the following:

Article 1: Purpose

1.1 The parties to the Memorandum of Understanding are intent on reducing the barriers to interprovincial transportation by improving the compatibility of standards for the weights and dimensions of vehicles operating under the authority of oversize and/or overweight permits while ensuring highway safety is enhanced and the highway infrastructure is protected.

For this purpose, each jurisdiction will be prepared to issue permits for oversize or overweight vehicles or loads which:

- comply with the weight and dimension limits contained in Appendix A, and
- comply with the requirements for warning signs, lights and devices for overdimensional vehicles prescribed in Appendix B, and
- travel on the highway systems designated in Appendix C herein,

while complying with all other applicable legislation governing issuance of special permits for such vehicles.

It is acknowledged that jurisdictions may issue permits for oversize and overweight vehicles or loads which operate with weights and dimensions which exceed those stipulated in this Memorandum of Understanding. It is also recognized that jurisdictions may have less restrictive conditions than those stipulated in this MOU.

Article 2: Implementation

- 2.1** The parties undertake to implement this Memorandum of Understanding no later than April 1, 2003 on the highway systems designated in Appendix C.
- 2.2** The parties recognize that Appendices A, B, and C are integral parts of this Memorandum. In the event of any incompatibility between these Appendices and the Memorandum, it is understood that the terms of the Memorandum will prevail.
- 2.3** The parties agree that Appendix C can be amended and/or revised by a jurisdiction, with 120 days advance notice to other participating jurisdictions.
- 2.4** The parties agree that any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this MOU by giving at least six (6) months written notice to all other participating jurisdictions.
- 2.5** The parties recognize that implementation of this Memorandum is subject to seasonal weight restrictions, as well as designated route restrictions.

Article 3 - General Provisions

- 3.1** The weight and dimension limits described in this MOU are applicable only to vehicles operating under the authority of special permits issued by jurisdictions for indivisible, oversized and/or overweight loads.

For the purposes of this MOU, indivisible loads are considered as follows:

Height: The load shall not be composed of articles loaded one on top of the other

Width: The load shall not be composed of articles loaded side by side or crosswise.

Length: The load shall not be composed of articles loaded one behind the other.

Weight: The load shall not be composed of more than one article.

- 3.2** Vehicles which meet the requirements of this MOU must obtain a special permit from each of the jurisdictions through which travel is planned, and, in doing so, must comply with the procedures and fees applicable in each jurisdiction.
- 3.3** Special permits for overweight loads will not be issued for travel during periods of load restrictions during spring thaw.

Appendix A Weight and Dimension Limits

a. Dimension Limit Envelope

Without pilot car

Overall Length	27.5 m
Overall Width	3.5 m
Overall Height	4.3 m

With pilot car(s)

Overall Length	30 m
Overall Width	3.85 m
Overall Height	4.3 m

b. Weight Limits

Axle Configuration	Notes	Constraining Limit Network Wide ¹
Tire Loading -	Steering Axles All other axles	Max 10 kg/mm Max 9 kg/mm
Steering Axle	Normal limit With permanently mounted equipment	7 300 kg 9 100 kg
Single Axle	With dual tires	9 100 kg
Tandem Steer	Normal limit With permanently mounted equipment	13 600 kg 15 200 kg
Tandem Axle Group	Normal limit From Sept 1 to spring weight restrictions	21 000 kg 23 000 kg
Tridem Axle Group 2.4 – 3.0 m spread	Normal limit From Sept 1 to spring weight restrictions	25 000 kg 27 000 kg
> 3.0 m spread	Year-round	27 000 kg
16 Wheel Configuration		27 000 kg ²
Gross Vehicle Weight		60 000 kg

¹ Not applicable during spring weight restriction periods.

² Only available only on a limited number of routes in British Columbia

Interaxle Spacing Requirements and Weight Reduction Tables

Single Axle to Tandem Axle

Interaxle Spacing (m)	Total Allowable Combination Weight (kg)	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From September 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
1.8 to 3.49	27 000	27 000
3.50 to 4.19	27 000	29 000

Single Axle to 16 Wheel Tandem Axle

Interaxle Spacing (m)	Allowable Total Combination Weight (kg)	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From September 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
3.0 to 3.29	30 000	31 000
3.30 to 3.59	30 000	32 000
3.60 to 3.99	33 000	33 000
4.0 to 4.29	34 000	34 000
4.30 to 4.64	35 000	35 000
4.65 and above	36 100	36 100

Single Axle to Tridem Axle

Interaxle Spacing (m)	Total Allowable Combination Weight ((kg)	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From September 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
3.0 to 3.59	27 000	28 000
3.60 to 4.19	34 000	34 000

Tandem Axle to Tandem Axle

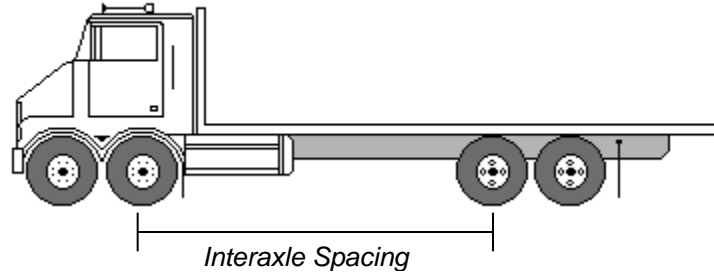
Interaxle Spacing (m)	Total Allowable Combination Weight (kg)	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From September 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
3.0 to 3.59	30 000	33 000
3.6 to 4.19	35 000	37 000
4.2 to 4.39	38 800	38 800
4.4 to 4.59	39 500	39 500
4.6 to 4.74	40 000	40 000
4.75 to 4.89	40 500	40 500
4.89 to 5.09	41 000	41 000
5.10 to 5.24	41 500	41 500
5.25 to 5.59	42 000	42 000
5.60 to 5.93	42 000	43 000
5.94 and above	42 000	44 000

Tandem Axle to Tridem Axle

Interaxle Spacing (m)	Allowable Total Combination Weight (kg)	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From September 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
3.0 to 3.59	35 000	36 000
3.59 to 4.19	40 000	42 000
4.19 to 4.99	43 800	43 800
5.0 to 5.59	46 000	46 000
5.60 to 6.25	48 000	48 000
6.26 and above	50 000	50 000

d. Vehicle Configurations - Overweight Loads

Tandem-Tandem Straight Truck



Weight Limits

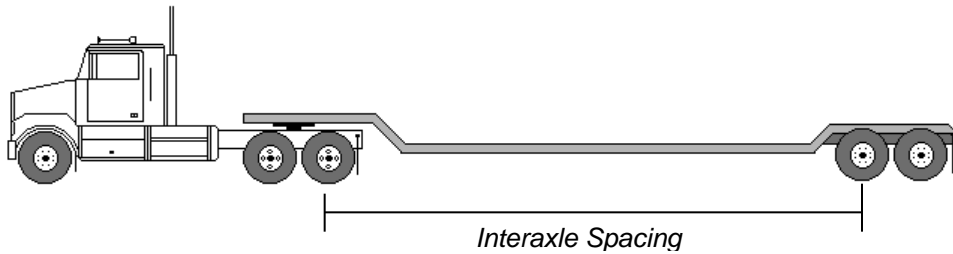
Tandem Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 13 600 kg
Tandem Drive	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 34 600 kg

Interaxle Spacing

Distance	Tandem Steer + Tandem Drive Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 3.0 m to less than 3.6 m	Max 30 000 kg	Max 33 000 kg
Greater than 3.6 m	Max 34 600 kg	Max 34 600 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor Tandem Semitrailer - 5 Axles



Weight Limits

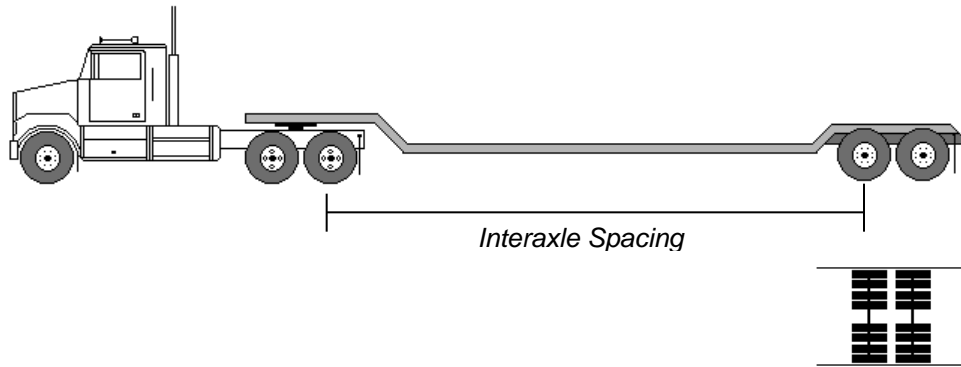
Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Trailer Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 49 300 Kg

Interaxle Spacing

Distance	Tractor Drive + Trailer Tandem Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 4.9 m to less than 5.1 m	Max 41 000 kg	Max 41 000 kg
From 5.1 m to less than 5.25 m	Max 41 500 kg	Max 41 500 kg
From 5.25 m to less than 5.6 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 42 000 kg
From 5.6 m to less than 5.94 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 43 000 kg
5.94 m and greater	Max 42 000 kg	Max 44 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor Tandem Semitrailer - 5 Axles with 16 wheel trailer tandem



Weight Limits

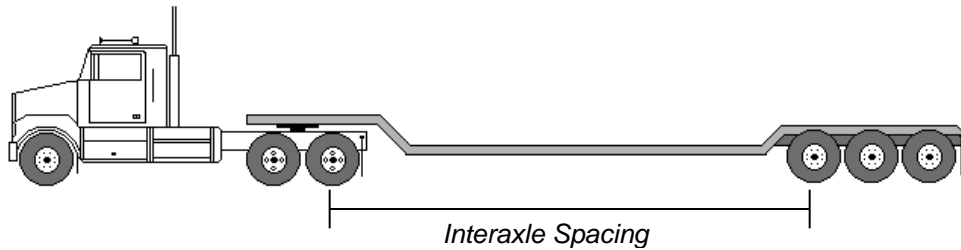
Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Trailer Tandem (16 wheels)	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 27 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 51 300 Kg

Interaxle Spacing

Distance	Tractor Drive Tandem + 16 wheel Tandem Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 4.9 m to less than 5.1 m	Max 41 000 kg	Max 41 000 kg
From 5.1 m to less than 5.25 m	Max 41 500 kg	Max 41 500 kg
From 5.25 m to less than 5.6 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 42 000 kg
From 5.6 m to less than 5.94 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 43 000 kg
5.94 m and greater	Max 42 000 kg	Max 44 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor Tridem Semitrailer - 6 Axles



Weight Limits

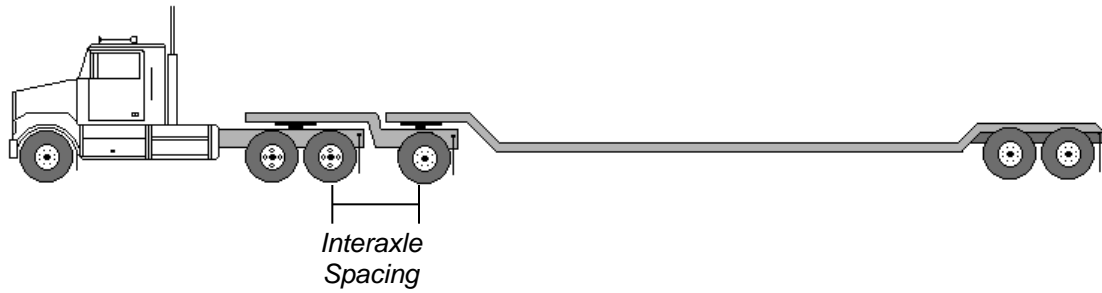
Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Trailer Tridem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width
Spread < 3.0 m	Max 25 000 kg
Spread > 3.0 m	Max 27 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	
With Tridem Spread < 3.0 m	Max 53 300 kg
With Tridem Spread > 3.0 m	Max 55 300 kg

Interaxle Spacing

Distance	Tractor Drive + Trailer Tridem Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 4.2 m to less than 5.6 m	Max 43 800 kg	Max 43 800 kg
From 5.6 m to 6.25 m	Max 46 000 kg	Max 46 000 kg
Greater than 6.25 m	Max 50 000 kg	Max 50 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor Tandem Semitrailer - with single axle jeep



Weight Limits

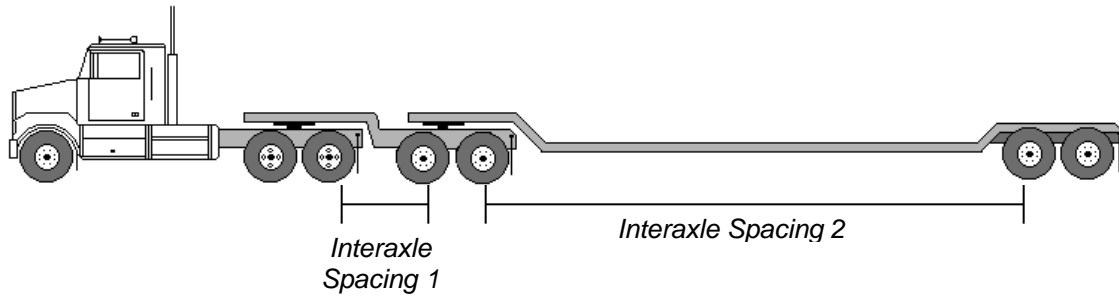
Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Single Axle Jeep	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 9100 kg
Trailer Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 57 300 kg

Interaxle Spacing

Distance	Tractor Drive + Jeep Axle Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
Less than 3.5 m	Max 27 000 kg	Max 27 000 kg
3.5 m or greater	Max 27 000 kg	Max 29 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor Tandem Semitrailer - with tandem axle jeep



Weight Limits

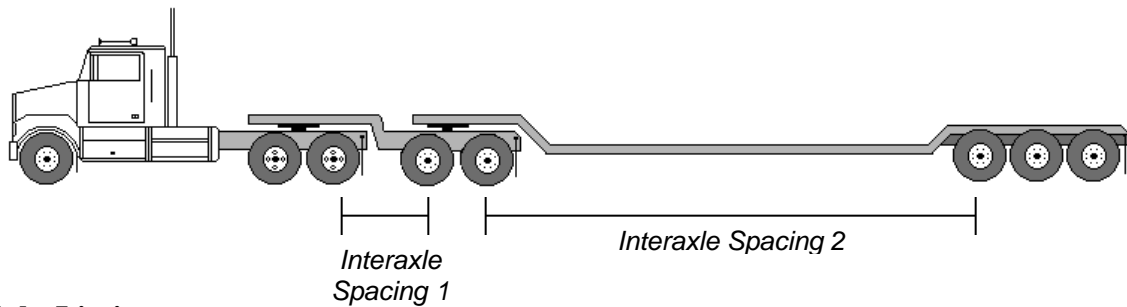
Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Tandem Axle Jeep	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Trailer Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 60 000 kg

Interaxle Spacing (1 and 2)

Distance	Tractor Drive + Tandem Jeep Weight Limit & Tandem Jeep + Trailer Tandem Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 3.0 m to less than 3.6 m	Max 30 000 kg	Max 33 000 kg
From 3.6 m to less than 4.2 m	Max 35 000 kg	Max 39 000 kg
From 4.2 m to less than 4.4 m	Max 38 800 kg	Max 38 800 kg
From 4.4 m to less than 4.6 m	Max 39 500 kg	Max 39 500 kg
From 4.6 m to less than 4.75 m	Max 40 000 kg	Max 40 000 kg
From 4.75 m to less than 4.9 m	Max 40 500 kg	Max 40 500 kg
From 4.9 m to less than 5.1 m	Max 41 000 kg	Max 41 000 kg
From 5.1 m to less than 5.25 m	Max 41 500 kg	Max 41 500 kg
From 5.25 m to less than 5.6 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 42 000 kg
From 5.6 m to less than 5.94 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 43 000 kg
5.94 m and greater	Max 42 000 kg	Max 44 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor - Tridem Semitrailer - with tandem axle jeep



Weight Limits

Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Tandem Axle Jeep	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Trailer Tridem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width
Spread < 3.0 m	Max 25 000 kg
Spread > 3.0 m	Max 27 000 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 60 000 kg

Interaxle Spacing 1

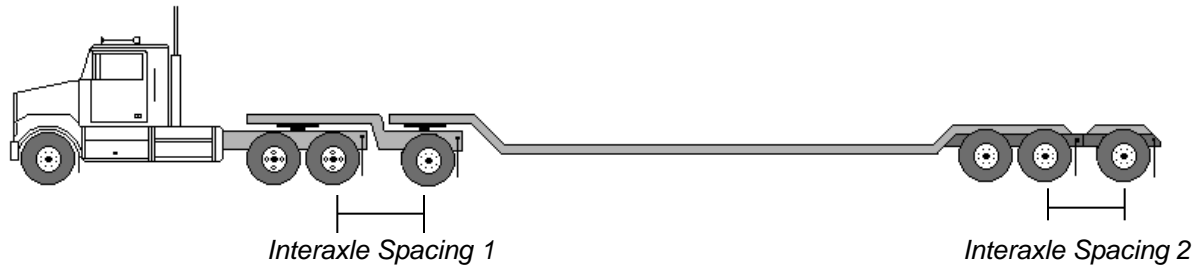
Distance	Tractor Drive + Tandem Jeep Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 3.0 m to less than 3.6 m	Max 30 000 kg	Max 33 000 kg
From 3.6 m to less than 4.2 m	Max 35 000 kg	Max 37 000 kg
From 4.2 m to less than 4.4 m	Max 38 800 kg	Max 38 800 kg
From 4.4 m to less than 4.6 m	Max 39 500 kg	Max 39 500 kg
From 4.6 m to less than 4.75 m	Max 40 000 kg	Max 40 000 kg
From 4.75 m to less than 4.9 m	Max 40 500 kg	Max 40 500 kg
From 4.9 m to less than 5.1 m	Max 41 000 kg	Max 41 000 kg
From 5.1 m to less than 5.25 m	Max 41 500 kg	Max 41 500 kg
From 5.25 m to less than 5.6 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 42 000 kg
From 5.6 m to less than 5.94 m	Max 42 000 kg	Max 43 000 kg
5.94 m and greater	Max 42 000 kg	Max 44 000 kg

Interaxle Spacing 2

Distance	Tandem Jeep + Trailer Tridem Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
From 3.0 m to less than 3.5 m	Max 35 000 kg	Max 36 000 kg
From 3.5 m to less than 4.2 m	Max 40 000 kg	Max 42 000 kg
From 4.2 m to less than 5.6 m	Max 43 800 kg	Max 43 800 kg
From 5.6 m to 6.25 m	Max 46 000 kg	Max 46 000 kg
Greater than 6.25 m	Max 50 000 kg	Max 50 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

Tractor Tandem Semitrailer - with single axle jeep and single axle booster



Weight Limits

Tractor Steer	Max 10 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 7300 kg
Tractor Drive Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Single Axle Jeep	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 9100 kg
Trailer Tandem	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width ¹
	Max 21 000 kg
Single Axle Booster ²	Max 9 kg per mm of tire width
	Max 9100 kg
Gross Vehicle Weight	Max 60 000 kg

Interaxle Spacing 1

Distance	Tractor Drive + Jeep Axle Weight Limit	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
Less than 3.5 m	Max 27 000 kg	Max 27 000 kg
3.5 m or greater	Max 27 000 kg	Max 29 000 kg

Interaxle Spacing 2

Distance	Trailer Tandem + Booster Axle Weight Limit ³	
	From end of Spring Load Restrictions until August 31	From Sept 1 to beginning of Spring Load Restrictions
Less than 3.5 m	Max 27 000 kg	Max 27 000 kg
3.5 m or greater	Max 27 000 kg	Max 29 000 kg

¹ The loading limit of 9 kg per mm of tire width will preclude reaching the allowable tandem axle group weight with some tire sizes.

² Applies only to mechanical boosters

³ Applies only to mechanical boosters

Appendix B

Warning Signs, Signals, Devices for Movement of Overdimensional Vehicles

Warning Devices Required	Overall Width	Overall Length	Extension of Load	
			Front	Rear
360° Amber Warning Light ¹	> 3.2 m	NR	NR	NR
Square Flags for daytime travel	> 2.8 m	NR	> 1.0 m	> 1.5 m
Solid Amber lights (forward) and Solid Red Lights (rearward) for night travel	> 2.8 m	NR	> 1.0 m	> 1.5 m
"D" Sign or "Oversize Load" Sign ²	> 3.05 m ³	> 25.0 m ⁴	NR	NR

Notes:

NR	Not Required
1	If a single 360° Amber Warning Light is not visible from all directions, supplementary warning devices are required to provide visibility in the uncovered directions. Acceptable supplementary devices include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a second 360° Amber Warning Light and/or, - two Jumbo Flashing Amber Lights The warning lights must be turned off if not required (when not in an oversize or overweight situation)
2	"D" or "Oversize Load" sign must be removed or covered when not required
3	"Wide Load" sign may be used instead of "D" or "Oversize Load" if vehicle length does not exceed 25 m
4	"Long Load" sign may be used instead of "D" or "Oversize Load" if vehicle width does not exceed 3.05 m

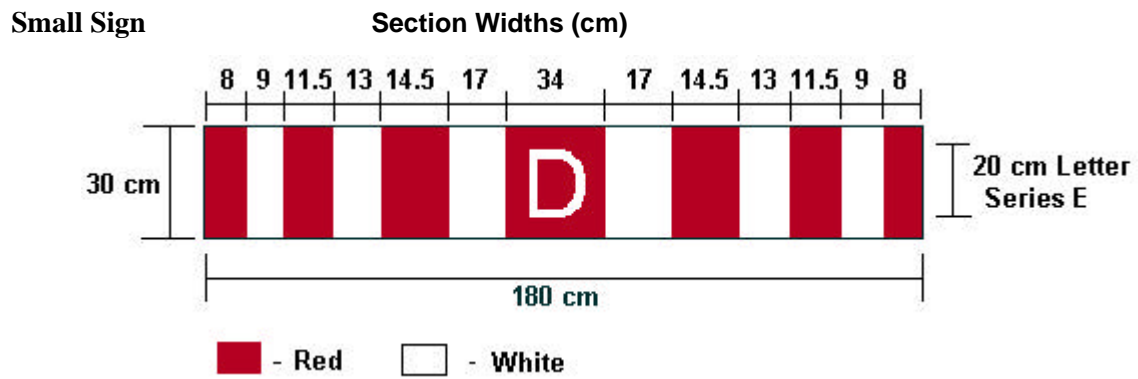
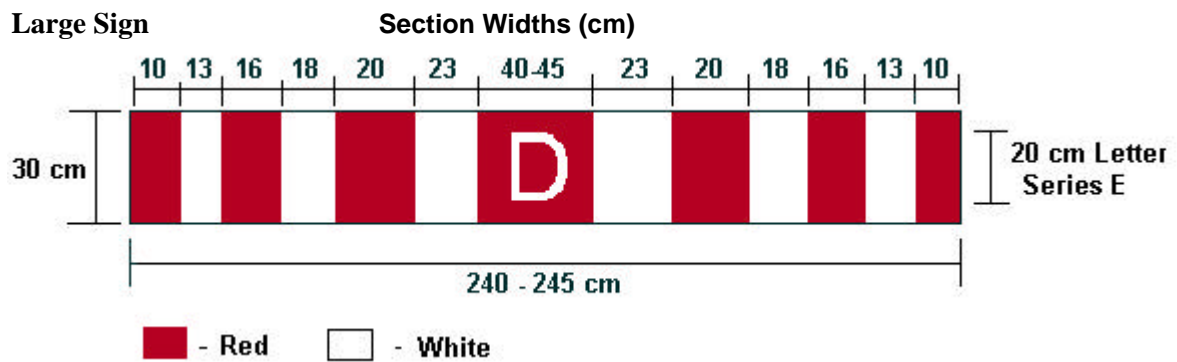
Warning Signal Specifications

1. 360° Amber Warning Light	
a. Visibility	Minimum 300 m in all directions
b. Flashing Rate	60 to 90 flashes per minute
c. Mounting height from highway	Minimum 1.5 m
2. Square Flags	
a. Color	Red fluorescent or orange fluorescent
b. Dimensions	Minimum 40 cm on each side
c. Mounting	Fastened by two consecutive corners
d. Material	Fabric or flexible plastic
e. Position – Overwidth Vehicle:	At each corner of the load, and where applicable, at each corner of a protrusion
Rear Overhang :	At the rearmost point of the vehicle or load.
3. "D" Sign	
Refer to Figure 2	
a. Dimension	Overdimensional Vehicle - 180 to 245 cm wide by 30 cm high Escort Vehicle - 180 cm wide by 30 cm high
b. Colour	White level II reflectance and stop sign red (# 712 3M or equivalent)
c. Material	Retro-reflective
d. Position	Visible from the rear and front of the overdimensional vehicle or load
4. Solid Red Light	
a. Visibility	Minimum 150 metres from the rear of the vehicle
b. Mounting Position	At extremity of the vehicle or load (width or length)
5. Solid Amber Light	
a. Visibility	Minimum 150 metres from the front of the vehicle
b. Mounting Position	At extremity of the vehicle or load (width or length)

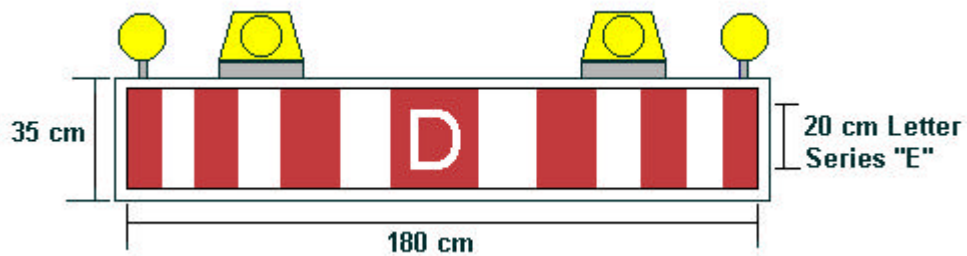
Escort Vehicle Specifications

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating	Max 6000 kg
No of axles	Max 2
Lighting	<i>To be developed based on light box and sign requirements</i>
Safety Equipment & Warning Signals	A fire extinguisher, six 45 cm traffic cones and/or portable reflectors (triangular shape), and extra light bulbs as normally required for commercial vehicles
Radio Communications	The driver of the escort vehicle must be capable of radio communication with the driver of the oversize vehicle or load
Driver	Must be operated by a person with at least two year's experience with a full (unrestricted) driver's license.

"D" Sign Specifications



Lighted Sign Box



Oversize Load Sign Specifications



Wide Load Sign Specifications



Long Load Sign Specifications



Appendix C

Designated Route Networks

Special permit authorities would be available for operation of vehicles carrying indivisible loads within the prescribed dimension and weight limits for travel on the following routes. It should be noted that existing provincial restrictions and policies may preclude use of specific routes, depending upon the nature of the indivisible load, due to spring weight limits, posted bridges and other constraints due to structural capacity or roadway clearances.

British Columbia

British Columbia's designated highway system includes:

- a. highways in unorganized territory, and
- b. arterial highways as designated by authority of Section 27 of the Highway Act.

The Motor Vehicle Act and Commercial Transport Act defines highway as:

"highway includes every highway within the meaning of the Highway Act, and every road, street, lane or right of way designed for or used by the general public for the passages of vehicles, and every private place or passageway to which the public, for the purpose of parking or servicing of vehicles, has access or is invited."

Alberta

Alberta's designated highway system includes numbered highways from 1 to 99 and 500 to 999.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's designated highway system includes all Primary and Secondary Highways (with restrictions as identified in The Vehicle Weight and Dimension Regulations).

Manitoba

Manitoba's designated highway system includes all Primary and Secondary Highways.