



## **Abnormal Load Application Guidance Notes**

**(May 19)**

### **Garda Permit**

Garda Permit applies only to designated routes, as set out under the Road Traffic (Specialised Vehicle Permits)(Amendment) Regulations 2010, i.e. major inter-urban routes and to Cork, Rosslare and Ringaskiddy ports, but subject to the following limitations, namely that;

- The combined weight of the vehicle and load does not exceed the maximum limits set out in the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003, as amended,
- The vehicle/load does not exceed 27.4m in length
- The vehicle/load does not exceed 4.3m in width
- The vehicle/load does not exceed 4.65m in height

Further information is available on the Garda website [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

### **Local Authority Permit**

A Local Authority Permit is required for all roads, (including roads designated under the Road Traffic (Specialised Vehicle Permits)(Amendment) Regulations 2010 for Garda Permits, for vehicles and loads which do not qualify under the Garda Permit Scheme, and in either or all of the following cases:

- the weight and dimensions of the vehicle exceed the maximum permissible limits set out in the Road Traffic (Construction & use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003, as amended and/or
- The vehicle/load exceeds 4.65m in height

### **Application for a Local Authority Permit**

- Application forms and further information can be downloaded from Cork City Council's website at [www.corkcity.ie](http://www.corkcity.ie)
- An application for an Abnormal Load Permit, together with any supporting documentation, must be received by Cork City Council, at least 5 clear working days prior to the proposed journey, to allow for sufficient time for processing of the application.
- Applications to be sent by email to [roads@corkcity.ie](mailto:roads@corkcity.ie) or alternatively posted to The Transportation Division, Roads and Transportation Directorate, Cork City Council, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork.
- Prior to making the application for a permit, the applicant shall give to the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána, at least 5 clear working days notice of such application. The notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the application for the permit and emailed to [traffic\\_abloads@garda.ie](mailto:traffic_abloads@garda.ie)

### **Permit Timeframes and Scale of Application Fees for Abnormal Load Permits**

- **Single Trip Permit:** A single trip permit at a cost of **€60** per vehicle. In this case the exact date that the load will be moved and the registration number of the vehicle are required.
- **One Month Permit:** A one month permit at a cost of **€150** per vehicle. Vehicle registration is required. A month permit covers one vehicle registration only.
- **Six Month Permit:** A six month permit at a cost of **€600** per vehicle. Vehicle registration is required. A six month permit covers one vehicle registration only.

*Note: For any unforeseen reasons that a permit's details change, after the issuing of a permit, a new application and relevant permit charge will apply.*

### **Hours of Travel**

- Permitted hours of travel: 2000hrs to 0700hrs Saturday to Thursday & 2200hrs to 0700hrs Friday, unless otherwise agreed or stated on the issued permit.

### **Load Extremities:**

- The extremities of the load shall be adequately marked with either reflective strips or flashing lights, front & rear, to warn oncoming traffic:
  - Any side overhangs > 0.300M shall be marked with reflective strips or other warning devices.
  - Any rear overhangs > 1.0M must be fitted with a suitable warning device.
  - Rear overhang shall not exceed 3.0M.

### **Garda Escorts:**

- For any loads greater than 4.0m wide or greater than 30.0m long, the applicant shall notify, in advance, the Garda District HQ Office through which the load will pass and accept any assistance, direction or advice provided by An Garda Síochána, when making the journey (Contact Details are available via [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie))
- Applicants shall give 4 day's notice to Anglesea Street Garda Station via email ([Anglesea.Street.Traffic@Garda.ie](mailto:Anglesea.Street.Traffic@Garda.ie)) and two hours notice to Garda Communication Centre by phone before the journey commences.

### **Proposed Route:**

- Responsibility for ensuring that the route indicated on the permit application lies solely with the applicant /licensee and they are responsible for the damage caused and repairs resulting.
- The Applicant shall use the highest class of road available between the origin and destination to avoid travelling along lower classes of road in so far as practicable.
- The applicant should confine journeys to National Primary routes/motorways in so far as practical and should only use secondary routes for the initial/final leg of the journey along short a length as possible, where a National Primary alternative is available
- The applicant shall assess the width and condition of any narrow side roads before entering and shall ensure that adequate traffic management is available to cater for oncoming traffic
- Applicants are responsible for the clearing up of any branches of trees/verge debris knocked down by the vehicle(s), for which a following vehicle may be required.

### **Route Survey:**

- A route survey must accompany any application form where the vehicle load exceeds 30m in length, 5.0m in width or 4.8m in height

### **N40 Jack Lynch Tunnel:**

- Tunnel Authorities shall be notified a minimum of 24hrs prior to the journey and 15minutes prior to entering the Jack Lynch Tunnel.
- Jack Lynch Tunnel Limits:
  1. Height: 4.6m or 15ft 1 inch
  2. Width: 3.5m Single Lane
  3. Max Speed: 15MPH/24KPH for vehicles exceeding a single lane width and shall be accompanied by a Tunnel Escort Vehicle.

### **Bridges/Culverts:**

- The applicant is responsible for damage to any bridge/ culvert or structure crossed. The applicant should drive the route in advance to check for possible weak structures along the proposed route.
- The applicant shall avoid any bridges where repair works are being undertaken, which might indicate that the bridge is deficient and requiring remedial action
- If any axle loading exceeds 14 tonnes, and the proposed route traverses any bridges, underpasses or bridge-like culverts along the route, a structural engineer's report shall accompany this application, outlining the load bearing capacity of such structures to withstand the load.

### **Clearance at Railway Underbridges:**

- Information on bridge heights can be found on Google Maps or is available in a booklet format on the infrastructure page on Iarnrod Eireann's Website [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

- For further information on clearances, or to order copies of Railway Bridge Maps, contact the office of the Chief Civil Engineers Infrastructure, Track and Signals HQ, Iarnrod Eireann, Inchicore, Dublin 8 or on (01) 7034228
- For Further outstanding queries regarding the railway bridges, in southern Ireland, contact the Senior Track & Structure Engineer, Limerick Junction Station, Co Tipperary. Ph 062-51083 or [infor@irishrail.ie](mailto:infor@irishrail.ie) or via the website on [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

### **Traffic Management:**

- Applicant shall put in place a safe system (possibly by the use of flagmen adequately kitted out in visible ppe), for warning oncoming motorists, well in advance of any location whereby the full width of the road is likely to be taken up by the load manoeuvring at junctions/bridges etc. to avoid the scenario of a motorist unexpectedly encountering a blocked road. Such warning system shall extend to any side road, in the vicinity of the location.
- If a road closure is required to facilitate the movement of an abnormal load, a separate road closure application will be required. Applications can be made through a R1 Application Form at least five weeks in advance of the proposed closure. A copy of the R1 application form can be obtained at <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/roads-and-traffic-management/licences-and-forms/>

### **Road Signage & Street Furniture:**

- Any road signage removed to facilitate this load shall be erected as soon as possible after the series of loads has passed through. Regulatory and warning signs should be re-erected by the end of the day either in a permanent or temporary capacity, if necessary.
- Care will be taken when passing through traffic calming signage, to avoid any damage and such restrictions shall be surveyed in advance and if necessary signs shall be temporarily removed and replaced immediately afterwards, but only after consultation with the relevant Engineer.
- Any items of street furniture removed to facilitate the load shall be replaced within one day of its removal.

### **Permit**

- A permit shall at all times be carried on the vehicle to which it relates, available for inspection if required.
- A permit shall be valid for the period as stated in the permit and only for the route(s) specified on the permit.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Warning (s)/Escort(s) Vehicles, if required, shall comply with European Best Practice Guidelines for Abnormal Road Transport (Chapter 7/Annex 7).
- The applicant/licensee must satisfy themselves that Cork City Council, the Garda Síochána & relevant utility companies that the proposed route is capable of accommodating the load in terms of width, length, height & weight envisaged and that no delays, hold ups or disruption to other traffic will be caused.
- Applicants are responsible for the clearing up of any branches of trees/verge debris knocked down by the vehicle(s), for which a following vehicle may be required.

*Note: This document is for guidance only and full details of the legal requirements pertaining to Abnormal Loads are contained in the relevant Statutory Instruments. Note it is an offence to change any details on these Guidance Notes.*

### **Data Protection:**

- “Cork City Council is committed to fulfilling its obligations imposed by the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and the GDPR. Our privacy statement and data protection policy is available at <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/public-info/gdpr/>

We request that you read these as they contain important information about how we process personal

- Tá Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí meáite ar a cuid oibleagáidí faoi na hAchtanna um Chosaint Sonraí 1988 go 2018 agus faoi GDPR a chomhlíonadh. Tá Ráiteas i leith Príobháide agus Beartas Cosanta Sonraí le fáil ar <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/public-info/gdpr/> Iarrtar ort na cáipéisí sin a léamh toisc go bhfuil eolas tábhachtach iontu faoin ts lí a ndéanaimid sonraí pearsanta a thugtar dúinn a phróiseáil.