

# Oversize Permits

*A guide for the  
movement of  
oversize vehicles,  
loads and buildings*

**2003**



Transportation  
and Public Works

*Table of Contents*

Background ..... 1

Oversize Permit Eligibility ..... 2

Indivisible Loads ..... 3

Annual Oversize Permits ..... 3

Denying Oversize Permits ..... 3

Legal Vehicle Dimensions ..... 4

Over-Height Loads ..... 5

Oversize Permit Conditions ..... 6

Escort Vehicles ..... 7

Equipment ..... 8

Confederation Bridge and Oversize Permits ..... 9

Oversize Permits Issuing Locations ..... 10

## Background

Oversize Permits are issued when an **indivisible** load must be moved on Prince Edward Island's highway system that exceeds legal size limits. Oversize Permits control which highways and bridges are used in these cases. Safety restrictions ensure that the oversize load can be moved without harm to, and with the least inconvenience to, the motoring public and highway structures. The permit is issued to minimize risks.

When the Oversize Permit requires the approval of more than one department, municipality or utility, sufficient time must be allowed to process the application.

Movers are responsible to ensure that proper equipment is utilized and Oversize Permit conditions are understood and adhered to.

Unless otherwise stated on the Oversize Permit, travel is restricted to daylight hours ONLY.

A Moving Building Permit *and* an Oversize Permit are required for the movement of buildings. A Moving Building Permit from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs *must* be obtained in these instances.

## Oversize Permit Eligibility

The types of loads and machinery which may be considered eligible for an Oversize Permit include:

- manufactured homes and buildings
- oversize semi-trailers or floats designed to carry oversize loads
- oversize loads
- asphalt crushers
- roof trusses
- earth-moving equipment
- bridge girders and beams

A vehicle/load is eligible for an Oversize Permit when the following conditions are met:

The vehicle/load is considered to be **indivisible** when all reasonable measures have been taken to minimize the extent to which the vehicle, load or building exceeds normal dimensional limits.

Reasonable measures are considered to include use of appropriate equipment such as a low-bed trailers for over-height loads, extendable trailer loads and proper orientation of loads.

**Indivisible loads are considered as follows:**

*Height*—The load shall not be composed of articles loaded one on top of each 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.

**Annual Oversize Permits**

Annual Oversize Permits for all oversize loads **except buildings** may be issued for loads up to 30 metres in overall length, up to 4.5 metres in overall height or up to 5.5 metres in overall width.

**Denying Oversize Permits**

The department issuing the Oversize Permit reserves the right to deny an Oversize Permit when the move is determined to be *in any way unsafe* for the motoring public, detrimental to highway systems, or will cause unreasonable interruption to public utilities or road users.

**Legal Vehicle Dimensions**

The legal dimension of vehicles permitted to operate on Prince Edward Island highways is outlined in the province’s *Highway Traffic Act* as follows:

Maximum Vehicle and Load Dimensions	
Height . . . . .	4.15 metres
Width . . . . .	2.60 metres
Length . . . . .	25.00 metres
(combination of vehicles and load)	
Single Vehicle . . . . .	12.5 metres
Rear Legal Vehicle Overhang . . . . .	3.0 metres
Front Legal Vehicle Overhang . . . . .	1.0 metres
<b>(All vehicles/loads exceeding these dimensions require an oversize permit.)</b>	

## Over-Height Loads

- a) If a building (or a mobile home) is being moved onto a lot which falls under the jurisdiction of the *Planning Act*, a Moving Building Permit must be obtained from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (*which includes approval from the Department of Transportation and Public Works*) and/or from the municipality when the move is within a city or town.
- b) If the vehicle, load or building is over 4.8 metres in height when loaded for transport, and if there are electric power lines, telephone lines, cable lines or overhead traffic signs along the proposed route, it is necessary to obtain a written estimate of related costs from the electric power company, telephone company, cable company or Department of Transportation and Public Works to be attached to the Oversize Permit application.

During July and August special conditions apply to all oversize loads exceeding 4.2 metres in width, 30 metres in length and 4.8 metres in height. In some cases, the location of the move, road construction or public inconvenience may mean that a permit is not issued during this period. Although normal application procedures apply, contact the Traffic Engineering Technicians in your area when applying for an Oversize Permit during July and August.

## Oversize Permit Conditions

- Permits are not transferrable.
- Permits can be revoked, cancelled or recalled at any time.
- Permits must be in the vehicle when operated on the highway and be provided to a peace officer upon request.
- Permits do not exempt the operator from compliance with other provincial laws.
- Permits are valid from sunrise to sunset—daylight hours ONLY.
- Permits are not valid on any highway during adverse weather conditions including when visibility is reduced.
- Permits require that when traffic begins to accumulate, the operator must pull off the road and allow the traffic to pass.
- Permits do not allow vehicles/loads in excess of 4.27 metres in width, 30.0 metres in length, or 4.3 metres in height to travel through any incorporated city or town during the hours of 7:00 am to 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm from Monday to Friday.
- Permits require that vehicles/loads do not remain on the right-of-way from sunset to sunrise.
- Permits ensure that the move does not prevent the ordinary use of the public highway system.

- Permit holders shall be responsible for damages caused while the load is on the highway.
- Permits are not valid for loads exceeding 5.5 metres in width. Please contact the Department of Transportation and Public Works directly to discuss these situations.
- Permits are not valid for loads exceeding 4.5 metres in height. Please contact the appropriate utilities directly to discuss these situations.

### Escort Vehicles

Vehicles/loads in excess of 3.65 metres but less than 4.27 metres in width, when not equipped with yellow flashing lights on the outer extremities, require a front escort vehicle.

Vehicles/loads in excess of 4.27 metres in width require both front and rear escort vehicles.

Vehicles/loads in excess of 27.5 metres in length require a rear escort vehicle.

Escort vehicles must maintain a spacing of 150 to 300 metres from the towing vehicle.

Police escort may be required as a condition of the Permit.

### Equipment

1. All loads greater than 3.05 metres in width, 27.5 metres in length or 4.3 metres in height require a revolving amber light on the cab of the towing and escort vehicles that is visible from 150 metres.
2. Red flags measuring 40 centimetres x 40 centimetres or amber flashing lights must be affixed to the outer extremities of all oversized loads.
3. Flashing amber lights must be affixed to the outer extremities of loads that are between 3.65 metres and 4.27 metres in width when these are accompanied by escort vehicles.
4. “D” panel signs shall be displayed on the following:
  - a) front of the vehicle carrying the load, the front of the front escort vehicle and the rear of the rear escort vehicle;
  - b) front and rear of vehicles transporting loads exceeding 3.05 metres in width, 30.0 metres in length and 4.3 metres in height;
  - c) rear of vehicles exceeding 27.5 metres in length;
  - d) front of vehicles when the front overhang exceeds one metre; and
  - e) rear of vehicles when the rear overhang exceeds two metres.

**Over-dimensional load signs are not to be displayed**

unless the load are actually oversized.

5. If the view to the rear of the vehicle is obstructed, an extended rear-view mirror (*on each side of the vehicle*) that allows the operator a clear view 50 feet to the rear is required. If such rear-view mirrors are not in place, the operator must be in radio communication with the escort vehicle(s).
6. Escort and towing vehicles must be equipped with radios for the purpose of communication between vehicles involved in the move.

### Confederation Bridge and Oversize Permits

Prior approval and special conditions or restrictions may apply to Oversize Permits used for moving oversized loads on the Confederation Bridge. Escort on the bridge is provided by Strait Crossing—for more information, telephone 902-437-7349.

### Please Note

This booklet is a summary—applicable Acts and Regulations are noted on the Oversize Permit.

### Oversize Permits Issuing Locations

#### Access PEI Offices

*Maximum Size:* 5.5 m width – 4.8 m height – 30 m length

*Fee:* Yes

*Signing Authority:* Minister of Transportation and Public Works or the Registrar of Motor Vehicles

<i>Contact:</i>	Alberton	853-8622
	Summerside	888-8300
	Charlottetown	368-6296
	Montague	838-0630
	Souris	687-7000

- May issue for any indivisible oversized load *except buildings*
- Maximum front overhang is two metres
- Single trip or annual permit

### **Borden Carleton Scales and Wood Islands Scales**

*Maximum Size:* 5.5 m width – 4.8 m height – 30 m length

*Fee:* Yes

*Signing Authority:* Minister of Transportation and Public Works or the Registrar of Motor Vehicles

*Contact:* Borden Carleton Scale 437-8534  
Wood Islands Scale 962-7420

- May issue for any indivisible oversized load *except buildings*
- Maximum front overhang is two metres
- Maximum rear overhang is three metres
- Single trip or annual permit

### **Community and Cultural Affairs Offices**

*Maximum Size:* 5.5 m width – 4.8 m height – 30 m length

*Fee:* No

*Signing Authority:* Minister of Transportation and Public Works or the Registrar of Motor Vehicles

*Contact:* Eastern/Southern Kings and Queens  
Sharlene Quinn  
Souris (687-7005)  
Montague (838-0639)

*Charlottetown Area*  
Garth Carragher (368-4892)  
John White (368-4889)

*East Prince*  
Allan Parks (888-8056)

*West Prince*  
Gerald MacMillan (859-8850)

- Moving Buildings Permit ONLY
- Single trip permit ONLY



**Department of Transportation and Public Works; Maritime Electric; Eastlink Cable; and Island Tel**

*Maximum Size:* N/A width – over 4.8 m height – 30 m length

*Fee:* Yes

*Signing Authority:* Designate

When moving loads exceeding the above dimensions, the following persons must be contacted:

*Contact:* *Transportation and Public Works*  
Wilfred MacDonald (368-5222)

*Prince County*  
Dawn Moase (888-8273)

*Queens County*  
Kevin Campbell (368-5102)

*Kings County*  
Kevin Campbell (652-8974)

*Maritime Electric*  
Vince Murnaghan (629-3613)

*Eastlink Cable*  
Roger Doucette (569-0124)

*Island Tel*  
David Livingstone (566-0173)

- All over-height loads require approval from the affected utility
- Single trip permit ONLY

**Confederation Bridge**

*Maximum Size:* 5.5 m width – 4.8 m height – 27.5 m length

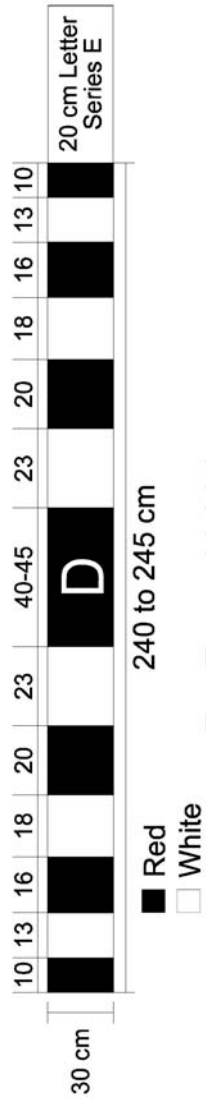
*Fee:* Yes

*Signing Authority:* Manager of Strait Crossing

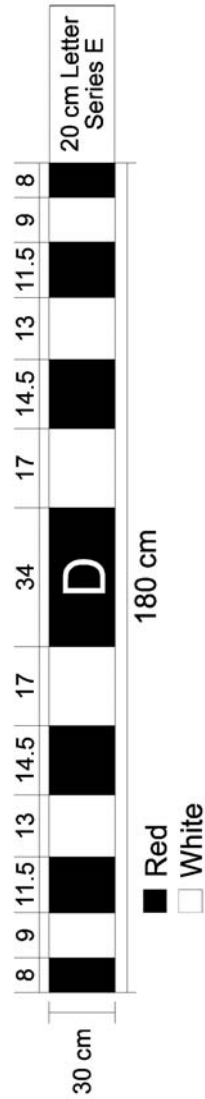
*Contact:* Bridge Control 437-7349

- Approval must be granted by Bridge Control prior to proceeding across the bridge
- New Brunswick—report to the Staging Area
- Prince Edward Island—report to Borden Carleton Scales

### For Oversize Vehicles



### For Escort Vehicles



### “D” Panel Sign Specifications

Signs made from plywood, cloth or plastic of 3.175 thickness will be acceptable if the sign is rigid and secure when mounted on the vehicle. Signs must meet minimum Level II reflectance (as per Canadian Government Specifications 62-CP-11M).



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