

From: Abnormal Loads
Sent:
To:
Subject: Automatic reply:

Thank you for submitting your movement order by E-Mail.

Before you move your Abnormal load through our force area we ask that you take the time to read the following and act upon the advice given.

Staffordshire Police are keen to support the haulage industry and as such we actively engage commercial vehicles (including abnormal loads). Your drivers should not be surprised if they are stopped but we will endeavour to get them moving as quickly as possible. Ensuring that everything is in order before the driver sets out on their journey will ensure that this process is as swift as possible.

Our force restriction times are as follows;

Motorway

Monday to Friday 07.00 - 09.00 and 16.00 - 18.00

Other Roads

Monday to Friday 07.00 – 09.30 and 16.00 – 18.00

You MUST NOT move during the restricted times

The roads in our county are considered some of the busiest in Europe and the economic impact of traffic congestion is significant. We need your help to avoid further disruption and delays between these times.

Common Breaches

Through our roadside work with this load type, we want to draw your attention to the most common faults that we come across so that we can help you to avoid any contraventions:

Movement Order Breaches

- Only one O licence number can appear on a notification, makes sure that this corresponds with the vehicle undertaking the movement

- Only one company name can appear on a notification, make sure that this is the company that is undertaking the movement

We have seen an increase in ghost notifications; where operators are submitting paperwork 'just in case'. This not only is an increase to the workload of your staff, but also to ours.

Following the receipt of 4500 notifications from one operator a force investigation took place that included ANPR tracking. If the company had notified correctly only 20 notifications would have been required. This situation was resolved by the force, the operator and its customer working together to better understand the legislation.

Should you need any assistance in educating your customers, then please ask, we are here to support you.

- Incorrect use of *emergency* movements (sometimes called short notice movements)

*Please note an emergency is defined as, but not restricted to "terror attack, national emergency where there is a threat to life or a declared rail disaster". Where your movement does not meet this criteria, you should not move until you have submitted the correct paperwork and **waited the correct number of days.***

- Not waiting the correct number of clear days after submitting movement order

Did you know?

**For STGO loads, Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in any part of Great Britain does not count as a clear day. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2003/1998/article/3/made>
For Construction and Use loads neither Sunday, a bank holiday, Christmas Day or Good Friday counts as a clear day.**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1986/1078/schedule/12/paragraph/1/made>

We have the following bank holidays remaining for 2025/26 in Great Britain;

January 1st – Wednesday

April 18th – Friday

April 21st – Monday

May 5th - Monday

May 26th - Monday

December 25th - Thursday

December 26th - Friday

January 1st - Thursday

A movement order is required for each and every journey, this includes loaded and empty trailers for STGO, including correct vehicle registration, the exact load being moved, the route and date of movement. You cannot use one movement order repeatedly for multiple journeys.

Additionally, although not a legal requirement, we ask for you to provide all of your drivers a copy of the movement order to carry with them on their journey for the whole route (paper or digital copy). This will assist the process at the side of the road, enabling us to get them back on the road more quickly.

Incorrect use of C and U Trailers

If a load is 4.3m or wider it becomes an STGO Cat 1 load, despite it not being heavy.

This brings additional restrictions such as speed; please see table below

As this is now classed as an STGO load, it must be carried on a dual plated or STGO only trailer

Description

Generic descriptions of "PLANT" or "MACHINERY" will not be accepted, please supply enough information that the load can be identified roadside. Eg Excavator Komatsu PC210LC – Operating Weight 23,300kg.

Measurements

- No left/right projections given
- Incorrect length or width
- No rear projection despite there being one

VR1 and Special Order Applications and Usage

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/1998/schedule/7/made>

- Incorrect process followed when application made – you must first apply for VR1 or Special Order, once approved, submit movement order with VR1/SO number on it
- VR1 and Special Order application made with inaccurate information on it; haulier details are required
- Driver not carrying a copy (electronic or paper) of VR1/SO with them

Route Breaches

- Drivers not adhering to the route on the movement order
- Driver unaware of prescribed route as they have no access to the movement order

Real-time traffic information for England's motorways and other strategic roads is available at www.roadworks.org, www.highways.gov.uk/traffic or by telephoning the National Highways information line 0300 123 5000. Information on non-motorway roads can be obtained from the relevant Local Authority. If moving hazardous or waste material, please ensure the relevant

departments have been notified (Dept. of Transport, Environmental Health etc.) and Waste Transfer notices obtained.

https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/1ump5sv2/movement-of-abnormal-loads-through-planned-roadworks_report-bhm22_0106.pdf

Marker Board Breaches

- No marker boards
- Incorrect distance from load
- Incorrect dimensions; shape

Load Security

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Have you seen the new [Code of Practise?](#)

- Lack of loading plan; leading to not enough/poor condition straps or chains
- Weight of load not distributed correctly
- Incorrect trailer type for load/submitted on notification
- No use of chocks for wheeled plant

Speed

Our officers will be supporting Brake Road Safety Week

- Drivers travelling at 56mph regardless of category
- Drivers not adhering to vehicle/trailer restrictions imposed by weight carried
- Drivers carrying loads greater than 4.3m not adhering to further speed restrictions (meaning they can travel at a maximum of Cat 2/3 speeds)

AILV or AILV combination	Motorway	Dual carriageway	Other roads
Category 1	60mph	50mph	40mph
Categories 2 & 3	40mph	35mph	30mph
Category 1, 2 & 3 with overall width of vehicle and load exceeding 4.3m	40mph	35mph	30mph

Weight

- Weight incorrectly declared on notification
- Overweight on axle design weight

Height Marker

- Not set correctly
- Not visible to driver

Whistle Blowers Hotline

We do not underestimate the efforts that most hauliers go to in order that they remain safe and within the law. However, there are often hauliers that unfairly cut corners and commit

breaches. Should you be aware of any haulier who is not adhering to the law, please report the matter to:

Do I need a Police escort?

Staffordshire Police limits before Police escort is required are as follows:

	Width	Length	Weight
MOTORWAY	Over 4.6M 15'1"	Over 30M 98'4"	Over 130T
OTHER ROADS	Over 4.1M 13'5"	Over 27M 88'5"	Over 100T

As the operator it is your responsibility to contact us to advise that your vehicle/load combination reaches these requirements in order for a Police escort to be considered. In addition to submitting your movement order, you should email us ab.loads@staffordshire.police.uk attaching a copy of your movement order and VR1 or SO (if appropriate)

Could your company benefit from a Dispensation Notice?

The loads must not exceed 3.5 metres in width and all other dimensions/weights must comply with the Construction & Use Regulations 1986. In addition to this, the loads must be able to move at normal traffic speeds.

Please note, that you cannot use a dispensation notice with a subcontracted company

DISPENSATION APPLICATIONS

Approval of Dispensation Application/the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986

These run from January 1st to December 31st every year and need to be submitted via ab.loads@staffordshire.police.uk to Staffordshire Police between the 1st & 30th November of the preceding year at the latest. Applications submitted after this period will be rejected.

When applying, the following information is required:-

- 1) The name of the person applying for the dispensation and transport manager
- 2) The hauliers' company name, address, telephone number and email address
(if a Limited Company then the company secretary details also)
- 3) Operators Licence Number

- 4) The route and identified roads to be used within the Staffordshire Police area (Motorways and Major A roads only)
- 5) List of Vehicle Registration Numbers on your O licence
- 6) A description of loads to be carried and the number of anticipated loads per year the haulier will be moving. Loads should be of a like nature and be transported on a regular basis.

Staffordshire Police **DO NOT** provide 'cover all or blanket' dispensations. You will be required to provide proof of one or multiple specific routes to and from fixed destinations, the start and end destination do not have to be in Staffordshire.

Proof that routes are used frequently is required, this can be shown via ESDAL or AbHaulier notifications.

If the above criteria is not met, you **WILL NOT** be eligible for a dispensation in Staffordshire.

Further reading materials that should be digested, understood and adhered to are below –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1072563/categorisation-of-vehicle-defects.pdf

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/fcod1urg/lighting-and-marking-cop-for-abnormal-load-self-escorting-vehicles.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-types-enforcement-guide/special-types-enforcement-guide>

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/rp2dh1ca/water-preferred-policy-guidelines.pdf>

ESDAL User Guide

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807674/ESDAL_Haulier_User_Guide.pdf