
Who Has The Authority To Regulate Oversize Vehicles Or Loads Traveling On City Streets?

Under the appropriate authority of Division 15, Chapter 5, Article 6, of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), the City of San Buenaventura may, at its discretion, issue special permits to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximums specified in the CVC. Except as specifically provided herein, the requirements of the CVC, including vehicle registration requirements, signing (CVC 27900) and other applicable laws, must be complied with in all particulars.

Possession and Validity of Permit

Permits shall be carried in the vehicle to which it refers at all times, while the vehicle is being moved within the highway limits, and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer, traffic officer, authorized agent of the City of San Buenaventura (City), or any other officer or employee charged with the care and protection of such highways (CVC 35783). Permits are City valid for the movement on the assigned City streets.

How is an Oversize Vehicle Permit Obtained?

The City of Ventura issues oversize permits from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays) except holidays, at the Engineering Public Counter, Room 117, City Hall, 501 Poli Street. The permit is issued at the public service counter. A \$16.00 fee for single permit and \$90 fee for annual permit is charged for processing the permits. The applicant is to supply the information needed on the permit form, including the vehicle's insurance carrier and policy number that name the City as certificate holder. This information is needed in the event of damage to public property. Normally, the permit is issued at the counter without delay; however, the application shall precede the journey by 24 hours, minimum. This is to allow the Engineering Office to notify other City departments, such as the Police Department. Forms and instructions can be obtained from Room 117 at City Hall. Faxed permits are not acceptable.

What are the Criteria by Which Vehicles are Determined to be Oversized?

WEIGHT: An oversize permit can be issued for an overweight load. If the load is overweight, the actual load distribution should be beyond those called for in Section 35550, CVC. The reason for issuing a permit for overweight vehicles is the effect on the condition of the street. Overweight vehicles cause structural damage to the street, and may also affect underground structures.

HEIGHT: An over-height permit can be issued for a vehicle or load over 14 feet in height, Section 35250, CVC. It is important to check the overcrossing/undercrossing height for clearance. Caltrans has supplied a list of clearance along the freeway, and the City has a list of clearances, both for freeway structures and railroad structures.

LENGTH: An over-length permit can be issued for vehicles and loads over 40 feet in length, Section 35400, CVC. Additional special considerations are given for long combinations of vehicles can have problems in turning corners.

WIDTH: An over-width permit can be issued for vehicles over 102 inches (8.5 feet) in width, Section 35100, CVC. A wide vehicle or load on a street with narrow travel lanes creates problems for other traffic.

Pilot cars may be required for over-width vehicles. This requirement depends on two variables: the width of the vehicle/load and the width of the travel lanes on the route. Four lane streets with 10 foot or wider lanes will require a pilot car to the rear. Two lane streets with 10 foot lanes or wider will require two pilot cars, one to the rear and one to the front. As an example, a nine foot wide vehicle would require a pilot car to the rear on Thompson Boulevard, a four lane street, where the lane widths are typically 10 to 12 feet. Vehicles issued a permit which require one or more pilot cars by Caltrans or by the County of Ventura, are to retain the pilot car or cars through the City, or to the destination point within the city.

What are the City's Insurance Requirements?

All applicants must provide general and auto liability insurance certificates in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 each occurrence.

When is an Oversize Permit not Valid?

Permits are null and void and hereby declared non-existent if:

- Any portion, part or section is illegible.
- It is not signed by an authorized representative of the City
- Any portion, part of section has been altered or if an attempt to alter is apparent.
- The permit is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load and/or moving a vehicle which is not specifically described on the face of the permit.
- The permit is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load or moving a vehicle by any company, crew or equipment not specifically named or organizationally related to the company, agency, or firm to which the permit was issued.
- The permit is presented without the attachments firmly affixed that are, specifically named and required upon the face of the permit.

g. The permit is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load or moving a vehicle before and/or after the times and dates authorized.

The use of this permit is prima facie evidence that the driver has checked the load and/or vehicle and knows it to be within the limits as set forth hereon and has verified the routing accuracy. The vehicle and/or load authorized under this permit is subject to inspection by representatives of the City and costs of such inspection shall be borne by the permittee.

Repair of Damage and Liability During Movement of Oversize Vehicle Loads

In accepting a permit the permittee agrees to repair at his own expense and to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works any damage to highway appurtenances or structures. Notwithstanding, work or repair may be done by City of San Buenaventura forces at the option of the Director, the cost to be borne by the permittee. In the event of damage to facilities such as bridges, traffic signals, light standards and other appurtenances, a written report must be filed with the City within 72 hours after such damage has been done. Failure to make this report will be considered cause for cancellation of all permit privileges pending a satisfactory arrangement with the City for repair or replacement of the damaged facility. All damages and repairs shall be reported to the California Department of Transportation. The permittee is responsible for all liability for injury to or death of any person, or damage to property which may occur through any act or omission of either the permittee or the City arising from the issuance of this permit. In the event any claim, suit or action is brought against the City, its officers, employees or agents thereof, by reason of, or in connection with any such act or omission, permittee shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City, its officers, employees or agents from such claim, suit or action.

Overhead Clearance

When height of load exceeds legal limit, it becomes the responsibility of the permittee to check all underpasses, bridges, overhead wires or other structures for impaired vertical clearance and to bypass or arrange clearance at such location.

Reducible Loads

Permits are issued for the movement of an "Extralegal Load" as defined in CVC 320.5 when loaded at its least dimensions. Permits are automatically void if the permitted dimensions and weight can be reduced to legal limits by repositioning and/or partial removal of a part, portion, or unit therefrom. Other items may be hauled provided they do not exceed the dimensions of the vehicle or permitted item and loaded vehicle is of legal axle and gross weights. Overheight permits

shall not be issued for items transported on a conventional flat deck trailer unless the deck is needed to support a long fragile load or a long load that would cause unbalanced axle group weights.

Tire Capacity and Booster Type Axles

Permitted axle or axle group weights shall not exceed the rated capacity of vehicle tires except as allowed by Title 13, Article 15, Section 1085 of the California Administrative Code. After January 1, 1988, said weights shall not exceed the rated capacity of the vehicle tires. A booster axle is an axle, generally, having an air or hydraulic cylinder suspension system that can be actuated independently to assume a portion of the weight that would otherwise be carried by adjacent axles. Booster axles and add-on or "Joe Dog" axles shall not be used in the movement of overweight permit loads.

Traveled Way & Movement During Darkness

Where practical, the vehicle shall be kept in the far right lane of the highway and shall not encroach on highway shoulders except where necessary. "Darkness" is defined in Section 280 of the CVC as being . . . any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise . . .". Reference to "sunset" and/or "sunrise" on the face of the permit includes this said one-half hour grace period before and after sunrise and sunset. Movement is not allowed when visibility is less than 1,000 feet.

Moving Oversized Vehicles During Holidays, Inclement Weather or in Convoys

Unless authorized on the face of this permit, movement is prohibited on the following holidays (or any of these holidays falling on a weekend and celebrated on a weekday): New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Movement shall not occur in fog, rain or wind when visibility is restricted to less than 1,000 feet. Movement is prohibited when road surfaces are hazardous due to rain, ice, or frost, or when use of tire chains is mandatory. No moving shall be done when the velocity of the wind is such that it causes the vehicle being towed to whip or swerve from side-to-side or fail to follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle. Any accident caused by excessive wind or weather conditions shall be considered a prima facie violation of this condition. Movement in convoy shall not be permitted unless specified on the face of the permit.

Posting Of Load Signs

Signs shall be posted on front and rear and shall read "LONG LOAD" or "OVERSIZE". The "LONG LOAD" sign shall be used whenever overall length exceeds 100 feet. The "OVERSIZE" sign shall be used for shorter lengths and other oversize features. The more definitive signs reading "WIDE LOAD", "LONG LOAD", "OVERSIZE LOAD", "EXCESSIVE FRONT OVERHANG" or "EXCESSIVE REAR OVERSIZE" may be substituted for the "OVERSIZE" sign when appropriate. The "LONG LOAD" sign shall have preference when length exceeds 100 feet and other oversize features exist. The lettering shall be a 10-inch minimum height with a 1-5/8-inch minimum brush stroke, and a minimum 1-inch margin all around. All signs shall be black letters on a yellow background, mounted at least 18 inches above the road surface front and rear. Signs shall be neat, clean, legible, mounted securely and visible from straight ahead or behind and to 45-degree either side thereof.

Pilot Car And Equipment

It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that pilot car vehicles and operators are equipped and briefed as to their duties prior to movement. Pilot cars shall be single vehicles with a minimum of 60 inches in width, and may operate with a nondestructive vertical clearance measuring device with height in excess of 14 feet.

Pilot cars shall be equipped with:

- One each STOP/SLOW sign paddle.
- One each orange vest, shirt or jacket.
- One each red hand flag (18" x 18" MINIMUM).
- Two-way radio communication between the pilot car(s) and the transporting vehicle.
- Top-mounted flashing amber warning light(s). The light(s) shall be visible to the front when leading and to the rear when following, and shall be operated at all times when escorting a permit move. Lights shall be removed or covered with opaque material when not escorting movement described on Permit. (25270 C.V.C.)
- Neat, clean and legible sign(s) visible from straight ahead or behind and to 45-degree either side thereof. The bottom of the sign(s) shall be a minimum of 48 inches above the ground. The sign shall read "OVERSIZE" when viewed from the front or rear. The more definitive signs reading "OVERSIZE LOAD", "WIDE LOAD", or "LONG LOAD" may be substituted for the "OVERSIZE" sign when appropriate. The sign shall have a bright yellow background with black lettering and have a minimum projected area of 440 square inches. The lettering shall have a one-inch minimum brush stroke with a six (6) inch minimum projected letter height.

Pilot Car Location And Responsibility

Pilot car(s) are required where indicated on the "Pilot Car Map." When required, the permit shall list all highways where pilot car(s) are required. A pilot car shall:

- Precede the load on two or three-lane conventional roads and follow on four or more lane conventional highways and divided highways. When two pilot cars are required, the one shall precede and one shall follow.
 - Remain right of the centerline of the roadway at all times except when prevented by the physical limitations of the highway. The use of a pilot car does not grant to the permittee the right to pre-empt the opposing traffic lane. When it becomes necessary because of physical limitations of the highway to use a portion of the opposing traffic is not to be stopped, except in extreme emergencies. It shall be the responsibility of the permit move to stop safely and wait until the opposing lane is free of traffic before proceeding.
 - Maintain proper interval between load and the pilot car to allow passing by other traffic.
 - Accompany the permitted load over all operational California Highway Patrol facilities.
- A pilot car shall not:
- Pre-empt opposing traffic.
 - Tow another vehicle while being used as a pilot car.
 - Display the STOP/SLOW sign paddle out of the window of a moving vehicle.
 - Stop opposing traffic except in extreme emergencies.
 - Convey more than one load at the same time.

When necessary to post a flagger in order to warn and direct traffic, the flagging shall be done in accordance with Title 8, Sections 1598 and 1599 of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Construction Safety Order and Caltrans "Manual of Traffic Controls". Flaggers shall not be less than 18 years of age.

Manufactured Housing Axle Weight

Axle weights for "Manufactured Housing" (CVC 387) shall not exceed legal width and up to 12 feet.

Axle weights for "Manufactured Housing" (CVC 387) shall not exceed 6,000 lbs. per axle.

Tractor units towing manufactured housing as defined in CVC 387 that exceed legal width and up to 12 feet in width shall be equipped with dual rear wheel and shall have an unladen weight as defined in CVC 660 of not less than 6,500 lbs.

Manufactured Housing – Tow Vehicle

Tractor unit towing manufactured housing exceeding 12 feet in width shall be equipped as required above with an unladen weight as defined in CVC 660 of not less than 9,500 lbs.

Open Side Covering

Open sided units shall be covered by plywood, hard board or other rigid material. In lieu of rigid material, suitable plastics, or other flexible material may be used. Billowing or flapping of plastic will not be permitted.

Units open on both sides, such as used of temporary schools, warehouses, offices, etc., may be made empty with no side coverings.

Tow Cars


Disabled legal vehicles or legal combination of vehicles may be towed on City streets to the nearest appropriate place of repair, or to the nearest secure storage area that is appropriate for the vehicle or load, whichever is closest and most accessible. It is not the intent of this permit to allow these combinations to be towed to their ultimate destination for convenience, unless that destination meets the above criteria.

Disabled legal vehicles or combination of vehicles, when connected to a tow car may exceed legal gross weight. When one end of a truck or truck tractor of legal weight is elevated by a tow car, the drive axles, the tow car and/or the drive axle or axles of the disabled vehicle may exceed legal axle or axle group weight limitations. If any axle or axle group exceeds legal weight, movement is limited to the routes or area shown on the attachment.

Towing Permit Loads And/Or Vehicles

Disabled vehicles or combination of vehicles whose movement is authorized by a transportation permit or any disabled vehicle or combination of vehicles which because of damage has incurred distortion in width or height thereby causing an excess in legal dimensions may only be moved at the direction of a peace officer or single trip permit issued by the City.

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, please call the Engineering Division at 654-7769. For more information on other brochures, visit the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.ventura.ca.us> and click on the "Traffic" link.

This document is available in alternate formats by calling 654-7887 or by contacting the California Relay Service. 

TRIP PERMIT PROCEDURES FOR OVERSIZE VEHICLES OR LOADS



ENGINEERING DIVISION
CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA