
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No. 1998

The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003

PART 2

SPECIAL VEHICLES FOR HAULAGE, LIFTING, ENGINEERING AND VEHICLE RECOVERY

Length and width of vehicle and projections of load

Length: police notification and attendants

12.—(1) Where either of the length limits set out in paragraph (2) or (3) is exceeded in relation to a Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination, the user of the vehicle or vehicle-combination must—

- (a) before the start of any journey, notify in accordance with Schedule 5 the chief officer of police for each area in which the vehicle or vehicle-combination is to be used;
- (b) ensure that the vehicle or vehicle-combination is used in accordance with the requirements of that Schedule; and
- (c) ensure that the vehicle or vehicle-combination is accompanied during the journey by one or more attendants employed in accordance with Schedule 6.

(2) The first length limit is exceeded where the overall length of any single rigid unit together with the length of any forward or rearward projection of any load carried on the unit exceeds 18.75 metres.

(3) The second length limit is exceeded where the overall length of a Part 2 vehicle-combination exceeds 25.9 metres.

(4) The reference to a single rigid unit is a reference to—

- (a) a single vehicle, whether or not included in a Part 2 vehicle-combination; or
- (b) any two or more vehicles comprising or included in a Part 2 vehicle-combination which together bear the weight of one or more loads in such a way that, at all times when the vehicles are moving, the longitudinal axis of each vehicle lies in the same vertical plane.

Commencement Information

II Art. 12 in force at 25.8.2003, see [art. 1\(2\)](#)

Forward and rearward projections: police notification

13.—(1) This article applies where a Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination is to carry a load and the length of any forward or rearward projection of the load exceeds 3.05 metres.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

(2) The user of the Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination must, unless he has already notified the police under article 12(1)(a)—

- (a) before the start of any journey, notify in accordance with Schedule 5 the chief officer of police for each area in which the vehicle or vehicle-combination is to be used; and
- (b) ensure that the vehicle or vehicle-combination is used in accordance with the requirements of that Schedule.

Commencement Information

I2 Art. 13 in force at 25.8.2003, see [art. 1\(2\)](#)

Forward and rearward projections: attendants

14.—(1) If paragraph (2) or (3) applies, the user of a Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination must ensure that the vehicle or vehicle-combination is accompanied during the journey by one or more attendants employed in accordance with Schedule 6.

(2) This paragraph applies where a Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination is carrying a load and the length of any forward projection of the load exceeds 2 metres.

(3) This paragraph applies where a Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination is carrying a load and the length of any rearward projection of the load exceeds 3.05 metres.

Commencement Information

I3 Art. 14 in force at 25.8.2003, see [art. 1\(2\)](#)

Width and lateral projections: police notification, Secretary of State notification and attendants

15.—(1) This article applies to a Part 2 vehicle or vehicle in a Part 2 vehicle-combination in respect of which one or more of the following width limits are exceeded—

- (a) the first width limit is exceeded where the overall width of the vehicle together with the width of any lateral projection or projections of any load carried on it is 3 metres or less but the length of any lateral projection of a load carried on it exceeds 305 millimetres;
- (b) the second width limit is exceeded where the overall width of the vehicle together with the width of any lateral projection or projections of any load carried on it exceeds 3 metres;
- (c) the third width limit is exceeded where the overall width of the vehicle together with the width of any lateral projection or projections of any load carried on it exceeds 3.5 metres;
- (d) the fourth width limit is exceeded where the overall width of the vehicle together with the width of any lateral projection or projections of any load carried on it exceeds 5 metres.

(2) Paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) apply cumulatively.

(3) Where the first or second width limit is exceeded, the user of the vehicle must—

- (a) before the start of any journey, notify in accordance with Schedule 5 the chief officer of police for each area in which the vehicle or vehicle-combination is to be used; and
- (b) ensure that the vehicle is used in accordance with the requirements of that Schedule.

(4) Where the third width limit is exceeded, the user of the vehicle must ensure that the vehicle is accompanied during the journey by one or more attendants employed in accordance with Schedule 6.

(5) Where the fourth width limit is exceeded, the user of the vehicle must—

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- (a) before the start of any journey, obtain in accordance with Schedule 7 the written consent of the Secretary of State; and
- (b) ensure that the vehicle is used in accordance with the requirements of that Schedule.

Commencement Information

I4 Art. 15 in force at 25.8.2003, see [art. 1\(2\)](#)

Visibility and marking of forward, rearward and lateral projections of loads etc

16. Schedule 8 (which makes provision as to the visibility and marking of projections exceeding a certain length or width) applies in relation to loads carried on a Part 2 vehicle or Part 2 vehicle-combination.

Commencement Information

I5 Art. 16 in force at 25.8.2003, see [art. 1\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- art. 57-63 inserted by [S.I. 2023/524 art. 4](#)