

**HIGHWAYS AGENCY**  
**Aide Memoire for notification requirements for the movement of Abnormal**  
**Indivisible Loads or vehicles by road when not complying with The Road**  
**Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986**  
**(commonly known as C & U)**

**Weight**

Gross weight of vehicle carrying the load exceeding C & U limits up to 80,000kgs (78.74 tons)	2 clear days notice with indemnity to Highway and Bridge Authorities.
Gross weight of vehicle carrying the load exceeding 80,000kgs up to 150,000kgs (147.63 tons)	2 clear days notice to Police and 5 clear days with indemnity to Highway and Bridge Authorities.
Gross weight of vehicle carrying the load exceeding 150,000kgs (147.63 tons)	HA Special Order* plus 5 clear days notice to Police and 5 clear days notice with indemnity to Highway and Bridge Authorities

**Width**

Width exceeding 2.9m (for C & U loads) 3.0m (9ft 10ins) up to 5.0m (16ft 5ins) for other loads	2 clear days notice to Police
Width exceeding 5.0m (16ft 5ins) up to 6.1m (20ft)	HA form VR1** plus 2 clear days notice to Police
Width exceeding 6.1m (20ft)	HA Special Order* plus 5 clear days notice to Police and 5 clear days notice with indemnity to Highway and Bridge Authorities

**Length**

Length exceeding 18.65m (61ft 2in) up to 30.0m (98ft 5ins) rigid	2 clear days notice to Police
Vehicle combination exceeding 25.9m (85ft)	2 clear days notice to Police
Length exceeding 30.0m (98ft 5ins) rigid.  NB For some very light loads, such as yacht masts, that are moved on conventional motor vehicles not exceeding 12 tonnes gross weight or trailers not exceeding 10 tonnes gross weight, an HA Special Order* will be required if the rigid length exceeds 27.4m (89' 11")	HA Special Order* plus 5 clear days notice to Police and 5 clear days notice with indemnity to Highway and Bridge Authorities.

NOTE 1 "Clear days Notice" excludes Saturdays, Sundays or a public holiday in any part of Great Britain in relation to movements authorised by the Special Types General Order only, there being no such exclusion in Special Orders unless specifically stated.

NOTE 2        There is no statutory limit governing the overall height of a load, however, wherever possible it should not exceed 4.95m (16ft 3ins) in order that the maximum use can be made of the motorway and trunk road network.

\*[Application form BE16](#) can be [downloaded](#) from the Highways Agency website and e-mailed, faxed or posted to the address below. They cannot be completed and submitted online at present but we hope to be able to offer this facility shortly. Approval is not automatic and is at the discretion of the Highways Agency Abnormal Loads Team acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. To ensure that the necessary clearances can be obtained in good time from the Police, Highway and Bridge Authorities, you should request permission for the move by returning the completed form 10 weeks prior to the scheduled date of the move. In fact you cannot apply too early and we invite manufacturers or hauliers to contact us at pre tender stage, before making a financial commitment to supply the load, to check whether permission would be granted.

\*\* [Application form VR1](#) can be [downloaded](#) from this site but must not be e-mailed or faxed because the VR1 form is a legal document and so we must receive the original. Approval is not automatic and is at the discretion of The Highways Agency Abnormal Loads Team acting on behalf of The Secretary of State for Transport. To ensure that the necessary formalities can be completed in good time, you should request permission for the move by posting the completed form 2 weeks prior to the date of the scheduled move. Again, you cannot apply too early and we invite manufacturers or hauliers to contact us at pre tender stage, before making a financial commitment to supply the load, to check whether permission would be granted.

**Forms and enquiries to:**  
**Highways Agency**  
**Abnormal Loads Team**  
**C6**  
**5 Broadway**  
**Broad Street**  
**Birmingham B15 1BL**

**E-mail [abnormal.loads@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:abnormal.loads@highways.gsi.gov.uk)**  
**Tel: 0121 678 8068**  
**Fax: 0121 678 8569**