

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 363: Route Inspection for Oversized Loads

Introduction: It is often necessary for companies in the transport industry to move oversized loads on public thoroughfares. Trucking companies, structural movers, and equipment transport companies all must ensure that their intended route to move these loads is suitable and safe for such purposes. Safety must be the paramount concern for these movers and many aspects of the route must be inspected to determine the load will reach its destination safely and in good condition. Following are guidelines for the inspection of intended transport routes for oversized loads:

- **Employers must** ensure that all permits required for the load to transit the planned route are obtained from the Dept. of Transportation (DOT).
- **Check clearances** on bridges and overpasses. Your state DOT has information on all bridge and overpass clearances for any roadway in your state. A call must be made to verify overhead clearance on your intended route. When approaching such an obstacle, if there is question of clearance, have a guide watch from the roadside ahead of your truck to ensure your load will clear the overhead structure.
- **Check clearance for** overhead power lines. In transit, the load clearance must be a minimum of 4 feet for voltages less than 50 kV., and 10 feet for voltages over 50 kV., up to and including 345 kV., and 16 feet for voltages up to and including 750 kV. A person must be designated to observe clearance of the load and give timely warning for all operations where it is difficult for the operator to maintain the desired clearance by visual means. Only one person should be designated to signal the operator/driver.
- **Inspect the width** of all roadways and intersections on the route. To make turns with oversized loads requires additional clearance. If the roadway or intersection is too narrow to allow a wide swing of the vehicle and load, or your wheels cut across corners, arrangements must be made with property owners along the route to transit their property. If this is not a possibility another access route must be found. Some loads, such as buildings, may be too wide to transport safely on a roadway with other vehicle traffic. A temporary road closure may be coordinated to permit the load to be transported on a narrow roadway safely. Check with local authorities for permission to transit these roads.
- **Ensure that road conditions** allow you to move your load over the planned route. Dirt, gravel, or oil surface roads may be unusable with a heavy load when wet. Some roads will not be cleared of snow as quickly as others in winter. Snow and icy road conditions make it prudent to delay a haul until road conditions are better. A road may even be in such disrepair that it is too rough to get your load through in good condition.
- **Traffic conditions** must be considered for safety. Narrow two-way highways are more safely traveled at low traffic times, such as during work hours. Schedule your haul for low traffic times. Never try crossing a large metropolitan area with an oversized load during rush hour.
- **Many roadways** have weight and length restrictions for truck traffic in addition to the DOT commercial vehicle axle weight limits. You may need a special permit to transit these roadways, or find another route.



Conclusion: Hauling wide, heavy loads has enough safety issues factors to consider without discovering that your load will not properly travel the route selected. Pre-planning and inspecting your intended route for all of the above considerations is the safe, expedient way to ensure an uneventful trip.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.