

Pilots and Escort Requirements – Mountainous Areas

Definition of Pilots and Escorts

Pilot – A person who holds a full driver’s licence and drives a vehicle that complies with Schedule 8, Division 5 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

Certified Pilot – A person with the requisite training, including a minimum number of trips every 12 months, who holds a full driver’s licence and drives a vehicle that complies with Schedule 8, Division 5 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

More information for Certified pilots can be found here:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/escort-and-pilot-vehicles/driver-of-pilot-vehicles>

Escort – an authorised officer (generally a Transport Safety Services officer in Victoria) that has the legal power to direct traffic under Australian road law.

Mountainous Areas Pilot Requirements

The mountainous areas in Victoria¹ are shown on the relevant oversize and overmass heavy vehicle maps found on the VicRoads website:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/heavy-vehicle-map-networks-in-victoria>

¹ The Mountainous Area is referred to as Zone 1 for the **Oversize & Agricultural Vehicles Network Map** and Victoria **Emergency** and **Emergency Preparedness** networks.

Length

Table 1 sets out the pilot requirements for rigid vehicles, All Terrain Cranes, and articulated vehicles (such as semi-trailers) that exceed the statutory length limits.

Vehicle	Length	Number of Pilots
Rigid	12.6 to 15.0 metres	1 pilot
All Terrain	12.6 to 16.5 metres	1 pilot
Articulated	19.1 to 22.0 metres	1 pilot

Table 2

Rigid or articulated vehicles that exceed the length limits stated above will be dealt with on a case by case basis, and will be subject to road geometry.

Width

Unless otherwise specified, (see exceptions) **Table 2** details the pilot requirements for the movement of oversize / overmass equipment in the mountainous areas on arterial roads.

Width	Number of Pilots
2.51 to 3.0 metres	1 pilot
3.01 to 3.5 metres	1 certified pilot
3.51 to 4.0 metres	2 certified pilots
4.01 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots

Table 1

Please note: If local government has not specified pilot or escort requirements, Table 1 and 2 apply.

Travel Times

For all vehicles, other than those operating under **Victoria’s Emergency and Emergency Preparedness networks**, the following travel time conditions apply:

- Daylight travel only;
- School bus travel times must be avoided;
- No travel on weekends, public and school holiday periods.

Exemptions to the above will be considered on a case by case basis and will be subject to road geometry.

Exceptions to Table 2

The following roads require stricter pilot and escort conditions due to unique environmental features.

Colac-Lavers Hill Road

Colac-Lavers Hill Road between **Old Beech Forest Road and Lavers Hill – Cobden Road** (between Gellibrand and Lavers Hill).

Lavers Hill – Cobden Road

Lavers Hill Cobden Road between **Williams Road and Colac-Lavers Hill Road** (between Simpson and Lavers Hill).

Deans Marsh-Lorne Road

Deans Marsh-Lorne Road between **Birregurra-Deans Marsh Road and Waverley Avenue** (between Deans Marsh and Lorne).

Forrest – Apollo Bay Road

Forrest – Apollo Bay Road between **Frizon Street and Skenes Creek Road** (between Forrest and Skenes Creek).

Gellibrand River Road

Gellibrand River Road between **Carlisle River and Chapple Vale**.

Great Ocean Road (1)

Great Ocean Road between **Murray Street and McCue Street** (Anglesea to Port Campbell).

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.5 metres	2 certified pilots
3.51 to 4.5 metres	3 certified pilots
4.51 to 5.0 metres	2 certified pilots & 1 escort
5.01 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort
Over 5.5 metres	Refer to Rural Manager Transport Safety Services (TSS)

Please note: When operating on the roads listed above, 1 certified pilot must travel behind the load, all other vehicles must travel to the front and remain in radio contact at all times.

This does not apply to vehicles operating under Victoria’s Emergency Response Combination Network.

Great Ocean Road (2)

Great Ocean Road between **Strathmore Drive and Murray Street** (Torquay to Anglesea).

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.5 metres	N/A
3.51 to 4.5 metres	1 pilot
4.51 to 5.0 metres	2 certified pilots
5.01 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots
Over 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots

Please note: All overwidth loads travelling between Torquay to Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road must depart at 3:00 and arrive at their destination by first light.

This does not apply to vehicles operating under Victoria’s Emergency Response Combination Network.

Bonang Road

Bonang Road between **Sardine Creek Road and the New South Wales** border.

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.5 metres	1 certified pilot
3.51 to 4.0 metres	2 certified pilots
4.01 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots
Over 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots

Princes Highway

Princes Highway between **Falks Road and Lake Tyers Beach Road** (between Kalimna to Lake Tyers Beach)

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & Traffic Plan
Over 5.5 metres	2 certified pilots & 1 escort

Please note: Where possible all oversize vehicles wider than 3.5 metres should detour Lakes Entrance via:

- Great Alpine Road (B500) from Lucknow to Bruthen;
- Bruthen-Nowa Nowa Road (C620) from Bruthen to Nowa Nowa; and
- Princes Highway

Where the destination of the load is Lakes Entrance, the following applies:

- The Princes Highway to be closed under traffic management at the roundabout at Marine Parade, allowing oversize vehicles to travel down Kalimna Hill and over the bridge under fully controlled conditions.

The above does not apply to vehicles operating under Victoria's Emergency Response Combination Network.

Morwell – Thorpdale Road

Full length of Morwell Thorpdale Road.

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 5.5 metres	2 certified pilots
Over 5.5 metres	As above

Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road

Full length of Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.0 metres	1 pilot
3.01 to 3.5 metres	1 certified pilot
3.51 to 4.5 metres	2 certified pilots
4.51 to 5.0 metres	3 certified pilots
5.01 to 5.5 metres	4 certified pilots
Over 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort

Walhalla Road

Full length of Walhalla Road

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots
Over 5.5 metres	As above

Please note: 2 certified pilots are required for combinations that exceed 19.0 metres up to 22.0 metres on Walhalla Road.

This does not apply to vehicles operating under Victoria's Emergency Response Combination Network.

Princess Highway

Full length of Orbost (Lochiel St) to the NSW border

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.5 metres	N/A
3.51 to 4.5 metres	1 pilot
4.51 to 5.5 metres	4 certified pilots
Over 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort

Phillip Island Bridge

In the case of Phillip Island bridge, for loads wider than 4.5 metres the bridge will be closed under traffic management allowing the load to traverse the bridge on the correct carriageway under fully controlled conditions.

2 certified pilots will be required to follow with the load and 1 certified pilot controlling the road closure.

Swan Reach-Bruthen Road

Full length of Swan Reach-Bruthen Road

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.5 metres	N/A
3.51 to 4.5 metres	2 certified pilots
4.51 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort
Over 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort

Paynesville Road

Full length of Paynesville Road

Width	Pilots
2.51 to 3.5 metres	N/A
3.51 to 4.5 metres	2 certified pilots
4.51 to 5.0 metres	3 certified pilots
5.01 to 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort
Over 5.5 metres	3 certified pilots & 1 escort