

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Abnormal Load Permits - Guidance Notes

There are 2 Permit Schemes for the movement of Abnormal and Indivisible Loads, one administered by Local Authorities and one administered by An Garda Síochána.

An Abnormal Load is where the weight or any dimension of the load exceeds the maximum permissible for the particular type of vehicle, as set down in the **Road Traffic (Construction & use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 5 of 2003)**, as amended and where the height of the vehicle (including load) exceeds 4.65 metres, as set down in the **Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 366 of 2008)**

A local authority may in accordance with **Section 13 of the Road Traffic Act 1961** and the **Road Traffic (Special Permits for Particular Vehicles) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 283 of 2007)** issue a Permit authorising particular vehicles, which contravene the maximum weight, height and dimensions of mechanically propelled vehicles and trailers set down in the relevant Legislation, to be used on public roads.

Types of Permits

Garda Permit

Garda Permit applies only to designated routes, as set out under the Road Traffic (Specialised Vehicle Permits)(Amendment) Regulations 2010, i.e. major inter-urban routes and to Cork, Rosslare and Ringaskiddy ports, but subject to the following limitations, namely that :

- the combined weight of the vehicle and load does not exceed the maximum limits set out in the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003, as amended,
- The vehicle/load does not exceed 27.4m in length
- The vehicle/load does not exceed 4.3m in width
- The vehicle/load does not exceed 4.65m in height

Further information is available on the Garda website www.garda.ie

Local Authority Permit

A Local Authority Permit is required for **all** roads, (including roads designated under the Road Traffic (Specialised Vehicle Permits)(Amendment) Regulations 2010 for Garda Permits, for vehicles and loads which do not qualify under the Garda Permit Scheme, and in either or all of the following cases:

- the weight and dimensions of the vehicle exceed the maximum permissible limits set out in the Road Traffic (Construction & use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003, as amended and/or
- The vehicle/load exceeds 4.65m in height

Application for Local Authority Permit

Application Forms and further information are available from **Cork County Council, Roads (Finance & Administration) Section, Courthouse, Skibbereen, Co. Cork -Tel. No. 028/21299**, or may be downloaded from the Council's website at www.corkcoco.ie

An application for an Abnormal Load Permit, together with any required supporting documentation, must be received by Cork County Council, at least 5 clear working days prior to the proposed journey, to allow sufficient time for processing of the application.

Applications to be sent by email / post or fax to Cork County Council, Courthouse, Skibbereen, Co. Cork – Fax. No 028/21995, and be accompanied by appropriate fee or debit/credit card details. Email address: abnormalloads@corkcoco.ie

Note – Applicants wishing to provide any further details / information may do so on a separate sheet.

It is an offence to amend any of the existing details on the Application Form.

Prior to making an application for a Permit, the applicant shall give to the Commissioner of the Garda Siochana, at least 5 clear working days notice of such application. The notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the application for the permit and can be emailed to traffic_abloads@garda.ie

SCALE OF FEES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ABNORMAL LOAD PERMITS with effect from 1st March 2022:

Permit for 1 Single Journey - €80	Permit for 1 Month - €150
Permit for 3 Months - €200	Permit for 6 Months - €400
Application Withdrawn/Revised Permit €60	

Terms & Conditions:-

1. The Council will only consider applications where a separate permit application is made for each vehicle.
2. The Council will only consider longer term (than single journey permit) non route specific applications for vehicles which fulfil the following criteria:-
 - (a) Vehicles & Loads < 27.4m long;
 - (b) Vehicles & Loads < 4.0m wide (subject to use of appropriate escort category)
 - (c) Height < 4.65m
 - (d) Weight < thresholds outlined in Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003 for the particular category of vehicle applied for.
3. The Council will consider longer term permits on specifically requested and identified, singular routes, which are deemed to be suitable to carry abnormal loads, which will not be subject to the above limits. These will be considered on a case by case basis, mainly covering situations where repeated journeys are to be undertaken between two points to move a large volume of material from one point to the other or covering return journeys. These permits will generally be restricted to 1 month duration.

4. The use of Dumpers to haul loads along public roads will not be permitted.
5. Route Survey Report must accompany Application Form where vehicle / load >30m in length or >5m in width or >5.0m in height.

Garda Escorts

Garda Escorts are generally required for :-

- (a) Loads greater than 4m wide travelling along sections of National / Regional / local roads, where such roads are generally less than 7m wide;
- (b) For all loads greater than 32.5m in length;
- (c) Other occasions when the Local Authority Abnormal Load Assessor deems that a Garda escort is warranted.
- (d) Other occasions where the Applicant / Haulier feels that a Garda escort is necessary to complete the operation safely.

Clearance at railway Underbridges

Information on bridge heights can be found on Google maps or is available in a handy booklet format on the infrastructure page on Iarnrod Eireann's website www.isishrail.ie

For further information on clearances, or to order copies of Railway Bridge maps, contact the office of the Chief Civil Engineer Infrastructure, Track and Signals HQ, Iarnrod Eireann, Inchicore, Dublin 8 or on (01) 7034228.

For other queries regarding railway bridges in southern Ireland, contact the Senior Track & Structure Engineer, Limerick Junction station, Co. Tipperary. Ph 062-51083, Fax 062-52219 or info@irishrail.ie or via the website on www.irishrail.ie

Undertaking

An application for a permit shall contain an undertaking by the applicant to indemnify and refund to Cork County Council the amount of any damage caused to any public road or Bridge or any fixture(s) thereon by the use of the vehicle(s) and/or trailer(s) under the permit.

Cork County Council may for this purpose require the applicant as a condition of the permit either to deposit with the Council a sum sufficient to cover the amount of such damage, or to furnish other sufficient security.

Permit

A permit shall at all times be carried on the vehicle to which it relates, or on the vehicle drawing the trailer to which it relates, available for inspection if required. A permit shall be valid for the period as stated in the permit and only for the route (s) specified on the permit.

This document is for guidance only and full details of the legal requirements pertaining to Abnormal Loads are contained in the relevant Statutory Instruments. Note - It is an offence to change any of the details on these Guidance Notes.

Updated: **1st March 2022.**