

Introduction to Abnormal Transport Terms and Definitions: A Guide for Our Customers

At Westdijk, we are committed to providing our customers safe and efficient abnormal transport services. We understand that the specialised nature of this work can be confusing, and our customers may have questions about the terms and definitions used in the industry. To help clarify, we have created this guide, which explains the most important terms and definitions related to abnormal transport. Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the industry, this guide will be a helpful resource for you. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact our team for further assistance.

Abnormal, Exceptional or Special transports.

All these terms refer to the movement of cargo or equipment that exceeds the standard legal limits for weight, width, height, or length on public roads. These transports often require special permits and additional safety measures like route surveys, different types of escort vehicles and removal of obstructions to move them safely and efficiently.

Transport Permit

A permit is a legal authorisation to move an oversized or overweight load on public roads. The permit is typically issued by the relevant authority or government agency responsible for overseeing transportation on public roads and must be obtained before the transport can take place. Depending on the specific requirements of the country, state or region, permits can cover a wide range of factors such as the type of cargo, the dimensions and weight of the load, the route to be taken, the time of day or week that the transport can take place, the type and number of escorts required, and the specific safety measures that must be taken.

Escort car

An escort car is a vehicle that accompanies an oversize or overweight load or an abnormal transport on the road. The escort car's primary role is to ensure the safety of the transport and other road users by warning other drivers of the transport's presence and guiding the transport through the route. Escort cars are often equipped with flashing lights and other signalling devices to alert other drivers of oversized transport and provide additional visibility and safety.

Police Escort

The police escort helps to ensure the safety of the transport and other road users by managing traffic and ensuring that the transport moves safely through the route. They may also provide backup in case of any unexpected situations during transportation. Police escort can be required in the permit for an abnormal transport, especially when it involves heavy or oversized cargo that requires extra precautions and safety measures during transport.

BF-2, BF-3 and BF-4 in Germany

BF" is short for "Begleitfahrzeug" in German, which means "escort vehicle" in English.

BF2 and BF3 escort vehicles are used for accompanying and guiding heavy transports on the roads in Germany. The BF2 escort vehicle is typically a van equipped with radio communication equipment. It is used for simple accompanying assignments. The BF3 escort vehicle is used for more complex guidance assignments and is always a van. It is equipped with more extensive equipment and more extensive signalling systems.

In 2017, a new type of escort vehicle, the BF4 version, was introduced in Germany. BF4 vehicles can display road signs on all four sides of the vehicle using a road sign installation. They can cover all police replacement measures for heavy transports. BF4 escort vehicles can accommodate delayed or failed police deployment for heavy transport.

VTL in Sweden

Vägtransportledare (VTL) is a Swedish term that translates to "Road Transport Manager" in English. In abnormal or heavy transport, a VTL is a person authorised and trained by the police to oversee and guide such transport. They are responsible for ensuring the safe and efficient passage of the transport. They coordinate traffic measures, stop traffic, close bridges, and communicate with other authorities as necessary. The VTL plays a critical role in ensuring that the transport is conducted in compliance with all applicable regulations and with the highest regard for safety. In short, the VTL does what police escorts do in other countries.

Vegvesen in Norway

The Vegvesen is the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, responsible for constructing and maintaining roads and bridges in Norway. The Vegvesen also provide escort services for abnormal road transports to ensure safe and efficient transportation and prevent damage to roads and infrastructure.

ATB Begleitung in Switzerland

ATB Begleitung refers to the use of private exceptional transport attendants specially trained to provide escort services for exceptional transports. In the district of Zurich, Switzerland, the use of ATB Begleitung has replaced police escorts for exceptional transports, except in special cases. This means that the ATB escorts are responsible for managing the traffic and ensuring the safe passage of exceptional transport on public roads in the district of Zurich.

Moto-Guiders

In France, "moto-guiders" are motorcycle escorts that guide and accompany oversized or abnormal road transports. The moto-guiders are typically trained and certified by the French government and help ensure the transport's safety and efficiency by providing traffic control and guidance. They collaborate with other escorts, such as police escorts, to ensure that the transport can proceed safely and with minimal disruption to other road users.

Sheeting

Sheeting refers to using covers or tarps to protect cargo during transport. The covers may be made of various materials, such as canvas, plastic, or mesh, and are typically secured in place over the cargo using ropes, bungee cords, or other fastening mechanisms. Sheeting is commonly used to protect goods from exposure to the elements, such as rain, snow, or

sunlight, but it may not provide 100% protection and is only suitable for some types of cargo.

The sheeting may flap and rub against the cargo, potentially causing scratches or other damage. Therefore, it's essential to consider the specific characteristics of the cargo and the transport conditions when determining whether to use sheeting.

VLM

VLM stands for "Verkehrslenkende Maßnahmen" in German, which translates to "traffic management measures" in English. In transportation, VLM refers to the measures taken to ensure the safe and efficient movement of abnormal loads on public roads. VLM aims to ensure that abnormal loads are transported safely and responsibly while minimizing disruption to other road users. This can include temporarily removing street furniture, organizing traffic bans, or laying artificial steel roads.

ROSF

Removal of Street Furniture (ROSF) refers to temporarily removing objects such as traffic lights, street signs, and other urban elements that may obstruct or impede the passage of oversized or heavy vehicles during abnormal road transport. This is done to ensure the safe and smooth transportation of large or heavy cargo that cannot navigate through narrow or obstructed roadways. ROSF is an essential aspect of special transport operations and is often required to ensure that cargo is transported safely and efficiently.

Route survey and preparations

Route survey and preparations refer to inspecting and planning the route to be taken by a vehicle or convoy to transport an oversized or heavy load from its origin to its destination. It involves assessing road conditions, identifying potential obstacles, and evaluating the risks and challenges that may arise during the transport process. Based on the survey, we can plan for any necessary equipment, permits, or accommodations required for safe and efficient transport.

Route and Bridge engineering

Route and bridge engineering refers to evaluating a road or bridge's structural capacity and suitability for handling the weight and dimensions of an abnormal or heavy load, such as an oversized or overweight vehicle or piece of equipment. This includes assessing the load-bearing capacity of bridges and overpasses and identifying any potential obstacles or clearance issues that may impact the safe passage of the load. In some cases, specialised engineering analysis and preparation may be required to ensure the load can be transported safely and efficiently.

TÜV Inspection

TÜV is a German abbreviation for Technischer Überwachungsverein, which translates to Technical Inspection Association in English. TÜV checking costs refer to the costs associated with having an official TÜV inspection performed on a vehicle or piece of equipment to ensure that it meets specific safety and environmental standards. This inspection is required in some countries and is often used to ensure that vehicles and equipment are safe for use on public roads.

Second man

In Germany, for certain types of abnormal transports, it is required to have a second person, called a "second man" or "Beifahrer," accompanying the driver. This person is typically responsible for guiding the driver, assisting in navigating the transport through challenging road conditions, and taking over the vehicle if the driver becomes incapacitated. The second man's primary role is to help ensure the safety of the transport and other road users and to help prevent accidents or disruptions to traffic flow.

E-Fahrer or E-Co Drive

E-Fahrer or E-Co Drive is a digital driver assistant that is sometimes required by permits for abnormal road transport in Germany. It is a navigation system that will guide the driver through the route, ensuring that they stay on the permitted path and avoid any obstacles or hazards that may be present. The E-Fahrer system considers the permit's specific details and provides the driver real-time guidance on the permitted route. However, please note that E-Fahrer is not always required for abnormal road transport and may not be included in our offers.

Bank Guarantees

Bank guarantees are a common requirement for abnormal transports in Spain. They are a type of financial guarantee provided by a bank to ensure that a certain amount of money is available to cover any damages or liabilities that may arise during the transport. This guarantee is required by the Spanish authorities as a means of protecting public roads and infrastructure from potential damage caused by the weight and size of abnormal transport vehicles. The bank guarantee is usually obtained through a Spanish bank, and the amount of the guarantee is typically based on the weight and dimensions of the cargo, as well as the route and duration of the transport. Once the transport is completed successfully and without incident, the bank guarantee can be released, and the deposit returned to the client.

Engineer Study

A specialised technical report that evaluates the feasibility of transporting oversized or overweight loads on Spanish roads. The study takes into account various factors such as the dimensions and weight of the cargo, the route to be taken, the type of road infrastructure available, and any potential obstacles or hazards along the way.

The engineer study is required by Spanish law for any abnormal transport that exceeds certain size and weight limits, and it must be carried out by a licensed and qualified engineer who is authorised to certify that the transport can be carried out safely and without risk of damage to public infrastructure or other third-party property. The engineer study must be submitted to the relevant authorities for approval before the abnormal transport can take place.

CEMT or ECMT Permit

CEMT stands for "Conférence Européenne des Ministres des Transports" or in English "European Conference of Ministers of Transport" The CEMT permit is an international road

transport permit that allows transport companies to carry out transport operations between member countries of the Conference of European Ministers of Transport (CEMT). The CEMT includes European countries as well as non-European countries such as Kazakhstan, Turkey, and some countries in North Africa.

The CEMT permit is a document issued by the country's national authorities where the transport company is registered. It is a special permit that allows the transport company to operate vehicles beyond the territory of the European Union and the European Economic Area (EEA). The permit is valid for a limited time, usually one year, and it is subject to strict regulations and restrictions.

The CEMT permit aims to promote the international transport of goods and ensure fair competition between transport companies. It allows transport companies to access markets beyond the EU and EEA and to offer their services to customers in countries that are not members of the EU or EEA.

FOT (Free on Truck)

FOT means that the seller is responsible for loading the goods onto the truck at the place of origin, and the buyer is responsible for unloading the goods from the truck at the destination. The transporter is only responsible for transporting the goods from one point to another and not for loading or unloading.

FAQ

Why are some of these potential additional costs not included in your offer from the beginning?

These additional costs are not included in the initial offer as they often depend on each transport's specific details and requirements. The cost of these services can vary significantly depending on each transport's particular needs and the road authorities' final decision when issuing the permit. By listing these services as exclusions, we aim to provide a clear and transparent breakdown of the services included in the offer and those that may incur additional charges. Our team is always available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about these services and their associated costs.

It is important to note that the road authorities are responsible for ensuring the safety of the public and the transport itself. Therefore, they may require additional safety measures or escort vehicles. These measures ensure the cargo or equipment's safe and efficient movement and minimise potential damage to public infrastructure.

Can you estimate the extra costs?

It may be difficult to provide an accurate estimate for the exclusions, as the costs can vary depending on the specific requirements of the permit and the transport. We can estimate based on our experience and knowledge in some cases, but it is important to note that these

costs may change depending on the final decision of the road authorities when issuing the permit. It's important to keep in mind that our goal is to provide transparent and accurate pricing to our clients, and we are always available to discuss any questions or concerns they may have about these services and their associated costs.

Contact us with any questions you may have

info@westdijksweden.se

+46 (0) 31 26 41 08