

## Pilot and Escort Requirements

### Purpose

This document provides a brief overview of pilot and escort requirements in all jurisdictions. For more detailed information please refer to the website of the jurisdiction you wish to operate in. Jurisdictional contacts are listed in Table 5 of this document.

### Background

Jurisdictions regulate all aspects of piloting/escorting, including:

- **who may operate as a pilot/ escort vehicle driver**
- **when they are required to accompany a load**
- **how they must function when operating; and**
- **what qualifications are required.**

### Definitions

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) provides the following definitions for **pilot vehicle** and **escort vehicle**:

- **pilot vehicle** means a motor vehicle that accompanies an oversize vehicle to warn other road users of the oversize vehicle's presence.
- **escort vehicle** means a pilot vehicle that is driven by a Police officer or another person authorised to direct traffic under an Australian road law.

### Operational Requirements

Operational requirements such as warning lights, warning signs, headlights, positioning of vehicles and communication are outlined in Schedule 8 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

<https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/heavy-vehicle-national-law-and-regulations>

Additional jurisdiction based requirements are also outlined in the instruments listed in Table 1.

### Vehicle-Dimension Ratio

The number of pilots and escorts required to accompany an oversize load are outlined in the instruments listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Instruments which outline jurisdiction pilot and escort vehicle requirements**

State	Instrument
VIC, ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-State Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1)</li> <li>• Multi-State Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 Amendment Notice 2017 (No.1)</li> </ul>
QLD	Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland—Form 41
SA	Escorting Guidelines for oversize and overmass vehicles and loads in South Australia
NSW	Additional Access Conditions for oversize and overmass heavy vehicles and loads
TAS	Tasmania Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No.2)

State	Instrument
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class 1 RAV Over Size Period Permit Operating Conditions</li> <li>Heavy Vehicle Agricultural Pilot Authorisation 2018</li> </ul>
NT	Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Overmass Vehicles Version 6 (2018)

Requirements for pilot and escort vehicles accompanying agricultural vehicles or special purpose combinations are outlined in the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

Notices and permits may include additional requirements to what is stated in these documents.

## Conditions

Pilot vehicles must operate in accordance with any Operating Guideline or condition of exemption, modification, permit and/or associated traffic management plan. Jurisdictions may stipulate additional permit conditions in order to consider:

- Road geometry affecting visual distance.
- Road conditions affecting other vehicle's ability to slow.
- Approaching speed of other vehicles.
- The load being transported.
- Environmental conditions affecting visibility or other vehicle's ability to slow.
- Traffic conditions on the road.

## Accreditation

Depending on the jurisdiction, pilots may require accreditation prior to travel. Table 2 outlines whether accreditation is required for persons wishing to operate as a pilot or escort.

**Table 2: Jurisdiction pilot and escort vehicle accreditation requirements**

State	Pilot		Escort
	Level 1 (if applicable)	Level 2 (if applicable)	
WA	NA	✓	Main Roads WA
NT	✓	✓	Police
SA	×	NA	Police
QLD	✓	✓	Police
NSW	×	NA	Police*
ACT	×	NA	Police
VIC	×	✓	Transport Inspector
TAS	×	✓**	Police or Transport Inspector

\*The NSW Roads and Maritime Services have introduced the Over Size Over Mass Escort Vehicle Driver Scheme (OSOM/EVDS), which aims to phase out the current system of police escorts. For more information, please visit the Roads and Maritime Services website: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/oversize-overmass/escort-accreditation-scheme/index.html>

\*\* Tasmania does not currently have their own accreditation or licensing scheme, however where a 'certified' pilot vehicle driver is required, inter-state operators are recognised.

## Accreditation Mutual Recognition

Where a State requires accreditation or licencing to operate as a pilot or escort, there may be mutual recognition of accreditation. Mutual recognition status is outlined in table 3.

**Table 3: Mutual recognition**

State	Recognition
WA	All heavy vehicle pilots operating in WA are required to obtain a Heavy Vehicle Pilot Licence.
NT	Where the load width exceeds 4.5 metres or as determined by the issuing officer, interstate pilots used must be licensed / accredited. N.T. Accredited oversize load escort is required when the load width exceeds 5.5 metres.
QLD	<p><b>Pilot/escort vehicle driver from a state that has formal accreditation</b></p> <p>Level 1 pilot vehicle drivers and level 2 escort vehicle drivers who are registered or licensed or certified or accredited in another state or territory (for example Victoria, Northern Territory and Western Australia) may operate under the Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the operation is restricted to the level of authority for which they are permitted to operate in their home state or territory; and</li> <li>they hold and have held for a total of at least 3 years during the 5 years before the day of entry into Queensland, a provisional or open licence to drive the motor vehicle; and</li> <li>operations are conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in the Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland; and</li> <li>Level 1 pilot vehicle drivers and level 2 escort vehicle drivers provide evidence of achieved competency (including the ability to perform traffic control duties if a level 2 escort vehicle driver) if requested to do so by an authorised officer.</li> </ol> <p><b>Pilot/escort vehicle drivers with no formal accreditation</b></p> <p>Pilot vehicle drivers who reside in a jurisdiction that does not have a formal accreditation (such as New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Australian Capital Territory) are only permitted to carry out level 1 pilot operations in Queensland provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the journey has commenced outside of Queensland; and</li> <li>they hold and have held for a total of at least 3 years during the 5 years before the day of entry into Queensland, a provisional or open licence to drive the motor vehicle; and</li> <li>they currently reside in the state or territory in which their driver licence was issued; and</li> <li>operations are conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in the Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland; and</li> <li>they comply with the mass or dimension exemption (for oversize heavy vehicles movements) issued under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (Queensland) Act; and</li> <li>they can provide evidence that they normally carry out pilot or escort operations as a means of earning a livelihood in their home state or territory (for example, a letter from their employer on business letterhead) if requested by a Transport and Main Roads transport inspector or Queensland Police officer; and</li> <li>they only pilot a load going out of Queensland (a return journey) with the same transport company for which they piloted a load into Queensland.</li> </ol>

State	Recognition
TAS	Mutual recognition with other jurisdictions' 'Certified Pilot' systems, however this does not include traffic management.
NSW	Escort scheme only: must be an Authorised Escort Vehicle Driver (AEVD) to operate in scheme.
VIC	<p><b>Western Australian pilots recognised in Victoria</b></p> <p>Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens registered in Western Australia and Northern Territory are now recognised in Victoria provided that they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold a current qualification in their state of origin; and</li> <li>2. Have successfully completed the traffic control competency within the past three years (Control traffic as a pilot vehicle operator- TLIF 3060) before they operate as a Certified Pilot in Victoria.</li> </ol> <p><b>Queensland level 2 pilots recognised in Victoria</b></p> <p>Level 2 pilots registered in Queensland are now recognised in Victoria provided that they hold a current level 2 qualification in their state of origin.</p>

## Units of Competency

Where a state requires accreditation or licencing to operate as a pilot or level 2 pilot (or certified pilot or escort), the training varies depending on the state and level. These requirements are outlined in table 4.

**Table 4: Units of competency**

Code	Course Name / Training Required	NSW	NT	QLD	VIC	WA
TLIB0002	Carry out Vehicle Inspection		✓		✓	✓
TLIF3060	Control Traffic as a Pilot Vehicle Operator	✓	✓		✓	✓
TLIF3013	Coordinate Breakdowns and Emergencies	✓	✓		✓	✓
TLIF0075	Demonstrate awareness of interacting with other road users	✓				
TLIC3010	Pilot or Escort OSOM Loads	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓
TLIH3002	Plan & Navigate Routes	✓	✓*			
TLIE3009	Use Pilot and Escort Communication	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Bridge Supervision					✓
	Knowledge test undertaken at issuing authority			✓**		
	Load experience required -number of trips- (may also require minimum hours or timeframe) to upgrade from pilot level to level 2 pilot (or escort/ accredited pilot)	20	10	12	20	
		Escort scheme only; <b>no training / accreditation required for pilots in NSW.</b>	* Escort level only, after other pilot courses completed.	* Escort level only. ** For pilot level, test at TMR or TLIC3010 may be done.	Level 1 pilot does not have training requirements.	WA have only one pilot level, which includes traffic authority & bridge.

## Additional Information

For further information please visit the website of the jurisdiction you wish to operate in. These are listed in Table 5.

**Table 5: Jurisdiction pilot and escort websites**

State	Website
WA	<a href="https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/HVS/Pages/pilots.aspx">https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/HVS/Pages/pilots.aspx</a>

State	Website
NT	<a href="https://nt.gov.au/driving/heavy/oversize-or-overmass-vehicles/oversize-load-pilot-operator-apply-or-renew">https://nt.gov.au/driving/heavy/oversize-or-overmass-vehicles/oversize-load-pilot-operator-apply-or-renew</a>
SA	<a href="https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/heavy-vehicles/operating-a-heavy-vehicle/oversize-and-overmass-vehicles">https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/heavy-vehicles/operating-a-heavy-vehicle/oversize-and-overmass-vehicles</a>
QLD	<a href="https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Business-and-industry/Accreditations/Pilot-and-escort-vehicle-driver.aspx">https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Business-and-industry/Accreditations/Pilot-and-escort-vehicle-driver.aspx</a>
ACT	Phone: (02) 6207 6565 Email: <a href="mailto:nhvract@act.gov.au">nhvract@act.gov.au</a>
TAS	Phone: (03) 6777 1936 Email: <a href="mailto:transport.safety@stategrowth.tas.gov.au">transport.safety@stategrowth.tas.gov.au</a>
NSW	<a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/oversize-overmass/index.html">http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/oversize-overmass/index.html</a>
VIC	<a href="https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/escort-and-pilot-vehicles">https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/escort-and-pilot-vehicles</a>

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\*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.