

## Can we do it for you?

### Outsourcing your Abnormal Loads Service with **\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** and **Cascade**

We originally developed our **\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** software in partnership with Kent County Council at a time when their very experienced abnormal loads officer was about to retire. Since then we have operated the software on their behalf, providing KCC and subsequently Medway Council with an efficient and competent abnormal loads notification service. This has been a very successful operation, and consequently one which it has often been suggested should be offered to other bridge authorities. Recently we arranged to provide the same service to a Highways Agency MAC, and this has also worked well. We are therefore now able to offer this service to bridge authorities generally.

## How would it work for you?

We would set up an installation of the **\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** software on a dedicated computer in our office, operated by a trained operator and backed up by an engineer well experienced in bridge assessment. The technical setup of the **\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** installation would be undertaken in consultation with you and in such a manner as to facilitate the future return to you if so required. The installation would be supported by new fax and voice telephone lines and a new email address 'xxx@abloads.com' on our 'abloads.com' domain. We would circulate these new contact details to hauliers at the appropriate time and register them with the Highway Agency's ESDAL website.

The installation will require bridge structure and mapping data for your geographical area and the setting up of this data for the program. The basic requirements in respect of data are set out in the document *Formats for Supply and Updating of Data for \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\**, which is available and can be downloaded from our website. Structure data has to be supplied by you, but we can arrange to source and convert MasterMap mapping data from Ordnance Survey on your behalf.

You would provide us with contact details for your structural engineer in case we needed to refer a problem notification back to you, but in our experience this would be an extremely rare occurrence.

**\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** has a 'thresholds' facility, enabling the automatic forwarding of movement information to designated managers, engineers and road space co-ordinators, if various weight, height and length thresholds are exceeded. If you wished to make use of this facility, you would provide the appropriate contact details.

**\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** also has a 'restrictions' facility. The software can check each notified route for roadworks, height, width, length, weight and speed restrictions, road closures and special events. Restriction records can be time and date stamped, and denoted as mandatory or just advisory. Depending on the availability of appropriate data, this facility could also be made use of.

## **What are the advantages of outsourcing \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* ?**

Firstly, you will enjoy the benefits of utilising a secure and established abnormal loads management and checking system without the day to day responsibilities inherent in ensuring that the system is properly staffed and operated. Without the systemised approach that \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* brings, there is always a risk, albeit small, that a correctly notified abnormal load will cross an underbridge for which it is unsuitable or even strike an overbridge for which it is too high.

We write the \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* software, have been operating it for more than fifteen years, and update it regularly in line with our own and our clients' experience. Any Operator we assign to manage abnormal loads for you will be fully trained in all aspects of the system and directly supervised by an experienced Manager. Our Supervisory Engineer is experienced in bridge assessment, and is technically aware of the checking procedures within the software.

Once the service parameters have been agreed with you, it is unlikely that there will be a need to trouble your engineering team. In our experience with our current service clients, we refer a problem movement to the Supervisory Engineer less than once per month, and back to the client very rarely indeed - say once a year.

Finally, by using Cascade as your Service Provider, you will benefit from new facilities and advanced automatic data entry which \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* now provides with the increasing take up of its sister program, \*\*\* AbHaulier \*\*\*.

## **How much would it cost?**

The service would be encapsulated in a formal Service Agreement, a copy of which would be supplied with a formal quotation. The contract would be based on a simple monthly payment which would be varied from year to year according to inflation and the number and type of notifications processed. Telephone charges and any requested additional services would be reimbursable, and the Agreement could be determined with three month's notice on either side.

### ***Existing clients***

Existing clients already have an \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* installation on a computer with mapping and structure data installed and a current software licence. Provided the computer and ancillaries meet our current hardware requirements we would make no further charge for hardware, merely requiring the delivery of the existing computer to our office. However, if we judged the hardware or mapping or structure data required updating, either at the time of transfer or later, we would advise accordingly and charge for the work on the basis of our standard hourly rates. Existing clients who wished to maintain their \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* software licence would also need to pay the annual maintenance charge.

If the service were to be terminated by either party, we would make the current computer available, advise on re-installation and offer staff training at our standard training day rates.

### ***New clients***

New clients have the option of supplying a computer and ancillaries complying with our current hardware requirements, or asking us to provide the hardware and charge them for it. The \*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\* software would be installed free of charge. We would make a charge for the work involved in taking delivery of mapping and structure data and setting up the installation (we have to create bridge mapping records, standard routes and other setting up tasks). With regard to mapping data, we can arrange to procure

and convert the mapping data on your behalf, but there will be a charge for this, which will depend on the size of mapping area required. If at any later time we judged the hardware or mapping or structure data required updating, we would advise accordingly and charge for the work on the basis of our standard hourly rates.

If the service were to be terminated by either party, and our service client wished to transfer the installation back 'in house' or elsewhere, then we would charge a one-off **\*\*\* ABLOADS \*\*\*** software licence fee (currently £12,000) and the current annual maintenance fee (currently £2,500). We would make the current computer available, advise on re-installation, and offer staff training at our standard training day rates.

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