

DRAFT

Explanatory Notes on

The Road Vehicles(Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003

(reference to AW means 'The Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998')
(simplified as far as possible!)

This is the new 'STGO' replacing the 1979 version. It applies to vehicles that '*do not comply in all respects with the standard construction and use requirements*' and '*fall within a recognised category of special vehicle*'.

The STGO applies to recognised categories of '*special vehicles*'. The main category, called '*Part 2 vehicles*' (see Part 2 of the Special Order) are:-

- abnormal indivisible load vehicles (AILV)
- mobile cranes and road recovery vehicles (except in case of emergency/accident where it is not reasonable to comply)
- engineering plant

Part 2 '*vehicle combinations*' are recognised separately. Road recovery vehicle combinations comprise a vehicle over 12t and a trailer over 10t. Other vehicle combinations comprise a vehicle which may be a special vehicle together with a trailer which is a special vehicle.

AILV's are divided into Categories 1, 2 and 3. The overall restrictions on AILV dimensions are:-

- the width including lateral projections not to exceed 6.1m
- the overall length not to exceed 30m
- the weight of a Category 1 vehicle not to exceed AW limits or 50t if 6 axles
- the weight of a Category 2 vehicle not to exceed 80t with 6 or more axles (but reduced to 50t for axle groups with small spacings - complicated)
- the weight of a Category 3 vehicle not to exceed 150t with 6 or more axles (but reduced to 90t for axle groups with small spacings - complicated)

Mobile cranes over 12t are now always classed as special vehicles. They are divided into Categories A, B and C, as follows:-

- Category A 2 axle, spacing not to be less than 3m, gross weight not to exceed 20t, driving axle not to exceed 11.5t, other axles not to exceed 10t
- Category A 3 axle, outer axles spaced not less than 5m, gross weight not to exceed 30t, driving axle not to exceed 11.5t, other axles not to exceed 10t
- Category A 4 axle, outer axles spaced not less than 6m, gross weight not to exceed 36t, driving axle not to exceed 11.5t, other axles not to exceed 10t

- Category B, gross weight not to exceed 12.5t multiplied by number of axles, any axle weight not to exceed 12.5t
- Category C, gross weight not to exceed 16.5t multiplied by number of axles and 150t, any axle weight not to exceed 16.5t

Refer to the STGO for engineering plant and road recovery vehicles– too complicated to cover here.

Proposed movements of Part 2 vehicles must be notified to affected police forces, highway and bridge authorities, or consented to by the Secretary of State, are as follows:-

- rigid length exceeding 18.75m or overall length exceeding 25.9m – use attendants and give 2 day's notice to Police
- forward or rearward projection exceeding 3.05m – use attendants (except if the forward projection is 2m or less) and give 2 day's notice to Police
- width 3m or less but lateral projection exceeding 305mm, or overall width exceeding 3m – give 2 day's notice to Police
- width including lateral projections exceeding 3.5m – use attendants and give 2 day's notice to Police
- width including lateral projections exceeding 5m – use attendants, give 2 day's notice to Police and obtain written consent from Secretary of State
- width including lateral projections exceeding 6.1m – obtain Special Order from Secretary of State
- length including forward and rearward projections exceeding 30m –obtain Special Order from Secretary of State
- a mobile crane up to 80t, or weight exceeding 44t, or axle weights exceeding AW or C & U values – give 2 day's notice to bridge authority and provide indemnity
- a mobile crane over 80t, or weight exceeding 80t, or axle weights exceeding AW or C & U values – give 2 day's notice to Police and 5 day's notice to bridge authority and provide indemnity
- weight exceeding 150t or axle group spacing limits as above– obtain Special Order from Secretary of State

Notice periods are clear working days between today and the proposed movement date (eg notify Thursday move the following Tuesday or Friday).

Notices should contain:-

- a list of bridge / police authorities to which notice has been given
- operator's address
- operator's telephone no, fax no and email address (optional)
- operator's licence no and reference no
- origin and destination addresses
- the proposed time, date and detailed route
- particulars of the load
- the registration no and type of vehicle
- the overall length, overall width, maximum height and gross weight of the vehicle
- number of wheels per axle, each axle weight and the spacings between axles

There is no prescribed format for a notification, although a slightly updated version of the 1979 STGO format is included in the new STGO. The notification must be '*in a form acceptable to the recipient*'.

There is a new form of indemnity in the STGO, a copy of which is attached.

Agricultural motor vehicles, trailers, etc are a separate special vehicle category with different notification requirements (see Part 3 of the STGO).

Vehicles carrying loads of exceptional width are a further category with different notification requirements (see Part 4 of the STGO).

jmw/17/11/03
updated 25/11/04

The New Form of Indemnity

THE INDEMNITY

(** delete if not applicable).

1. I/We

agree to indemnify you

in respect of any damage that is caused in the course of a journey of which you have been notified under the Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003 (which is referred to below as "the 2003 Order").

**2. This indemnity relates to the journey scheduled to take place on

OR

**2. This indemnity relates to any journey made during the period of

starting with the date on which the indemnity is signed.

The damage covered

3. Except as stated in paragraph 4, the damage in respect of which this indemnity is given is limited to any damage caused to any road or bridge for the maintenance of which you are responsible.

4. This indemnity also extends to any damage caused to any other road or bridge that is used in the course of any journey to which the indemnity relates, in any case where a separate indemnity required by the 2003 Order has not been given to, or received by, the authority, body or person ("third party") which is responsible for the maintenance of that other road or bridge.

The cause of damage

5. The damage covered by this indemnity is limited to damage caused by –

- (a) the construction of any vehicle used;
- (b) the weight transmitted to the road surface by any vehicle used;
- (c) **the dimensions, distribution or adjustment of the load carried on any vehicle used in the carriage of an abnormal indivisible load;
- (d) any vehicle other than the vehicle used in any case where that damage results from the vehicle used (but excluding any damage caused, or contributed to, by the negligence of the driver of the other vehicle).

Enforcement of indemnity

6. This indemnity is enforceable by you, to the extent of the damage specified in paragraph 3.

7. This indemnity is enforceable by any third party referred to in paragraph 4, in its own right, to the extent of any damage caused to any road or bridge for the maintenance of which it is responsible (but only if it has not already recovered payment in respect of that damage by virtue of a claim made by it under the equivalent provision in another indemnity given under the 2003 Order).

8. A claim in respect of damage covered by this indemnity will only be entertained if the claim –

- (a) states the occasion and place of the damage; and
- (b) is made before the end of the period of 12 months starting with the date on which the vehicle was last used in the course of the journey during which the damage occurred.

Date

Signed