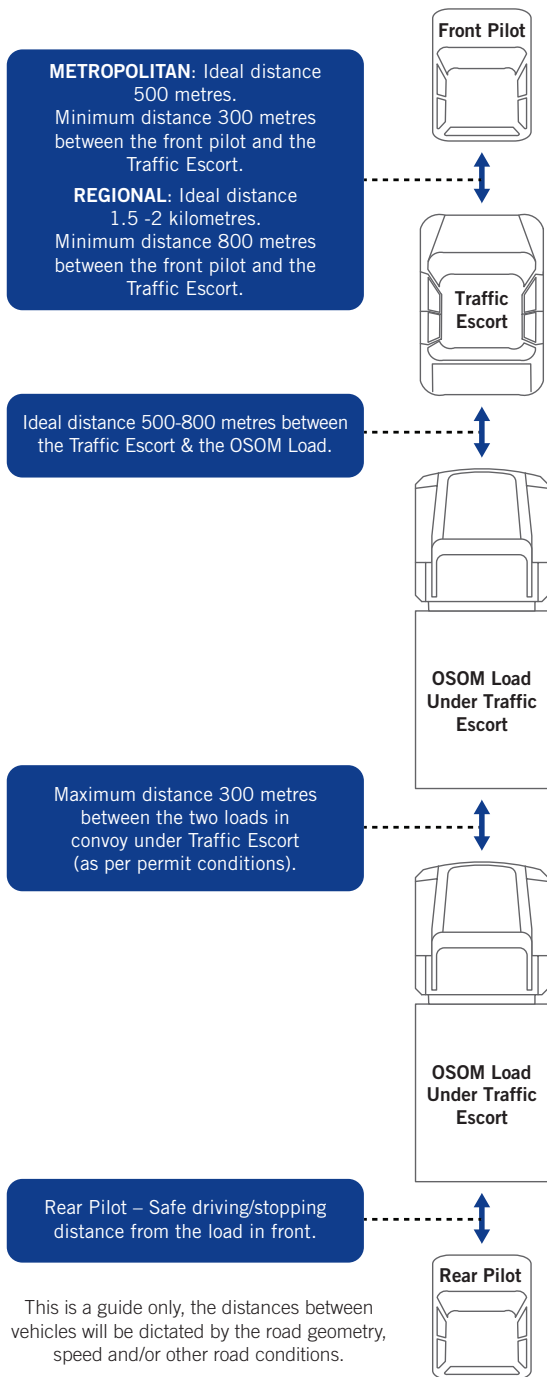


## Guide Only – Vehicle positioning and typical distances between vehicles in a convoy



This is a guide only, the distances between vehicles will be dictated by the road geometry, speed and/or other road conditions.

## Convoys

Two or more OSOM loads may be permitted to travel in convoy. Road conditions can sometimes cause vehicles in a convoy to travel further apart than usual. Take care when overtaking vehicles in convoy and always follow the directions given by the Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens.

### In brief...

When you see pilot and/or traffic escort vehicles approaching:

1. Slow down
2. Move to the left
3. Be prepared to stop
4. Always follow the directions of the pilot and traffic escort

Use UHF channel 40 to communicate with the pilot, traffic escort or the truck driver.

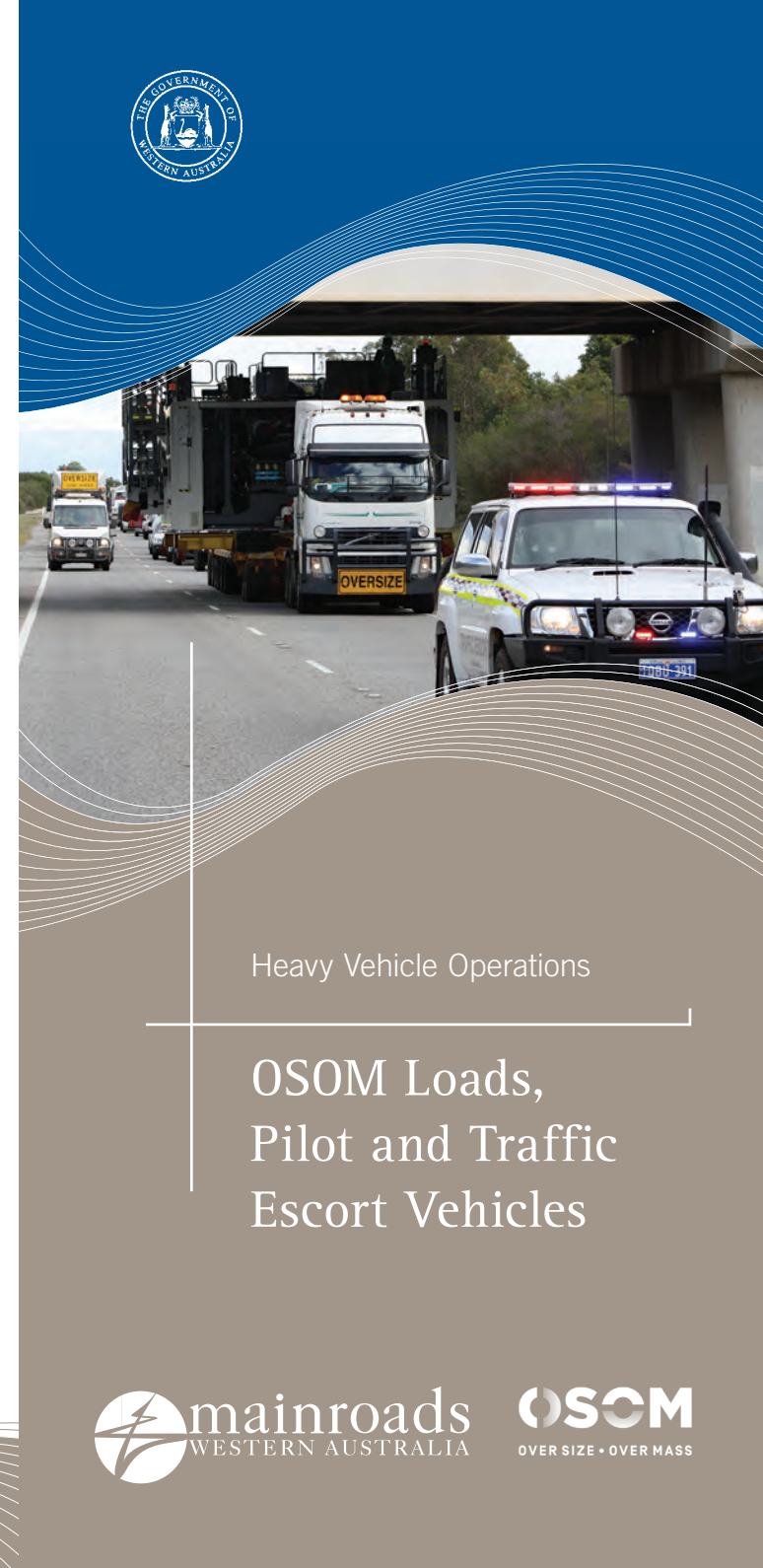
Displaying your UHF channel number on the rear of your vehicle, caravan or mobile home assists the transport industry.

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Heavy Vehicle Operations

# OSOM Loads, Pilot and Traffic Escort Vehicles





## What are Over Size Over Mass (OSOM) loads?

Road transport makes a vital contribution to Western Australia's economy. Due to the State's remote and rugged nature, there is often no alternative but to move very large items by road.

Vehicles carrying OSOM loads come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, typically moving much slower than ordinary traffic and taking up a greater proportion of road width than other vehicles. The movement of OSOM loads by road is strictly regulated to ensure safety for all road users.

## What are pilot vehicles?

Pilot vehicles are used to warn other road users of the presence of an OSOM load or convoy. They provide an advanced warning for all road users that an OSOM load is on the road and provide lawful directions to help ensure your safety.

## How do I recognise a pilot vehicle?

Pilot vehicles travel at an appropriate distance in front of or behind the OSOM load. They are easily recognised by a large, yellow reflective sign with the words 'Over Size Load Ahead' on the roof and amber flashing lights. The number of pilot vehicles used varies according to the dimensions of the OSOM load, or the complexity of the transport task.

Pilot vehicles escorting an OSOM load exceeding 4.5m in width will also display "wig-wags", which are alternating white flashing lights on the front of the vehicle. Pilot vehicles are often accompanied by Main Roads' traffic escort vehicles.

## What are traffic escorts?

Traffic Escort Wardens are managed by Main Roads and authorised by the Commissioner of Police to facilitate the safe movement of OSOM loads on the Western Australian road network.

Traffic escorts ensure the safe travel of all OSOM movements that are in excess of 5.5 metres in width and over 40 metres in length.

## How do I recognise a traffic escort vehicle?

Traffic escort vehicles have red and blue flashing lights on their roof and have the words "Traffic Escort" displayed on both sides of the vehicle.

“  
Pilot and traffic escort vehicles provide you with a warning that there is an OSOM load on the road”



## Sharing the road with OSOM loads

**Slow down when you first see a pilot vehicle or traffic escort vehicle and be prepared to stop if necessary.** Many OSOM loads take up more than half the road's width or may need to travel towards the centre of the road to avoid power lines or roadside fixtures. It is often safest to move as far as possible to the left, and be prepared to stop if necessary, to allow OSOM loads to pass.

**Always follow directions given by Pilots or Traffic Escort Wardens.** Under the Road Traffic Code 2000, Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens have the same powers as a sworn police officer in relation to directing traffic for the purpose of facilitating the movement of an OSOM load.

Their extensive training and experience helps ensure the safety of all road users.

**Always slow down when approaching an OSOM load from the rear.** Be patient. You will be given an opportunity to pass or overtake when it is safe to do so. Do not risk overtaking an OSOM load without ensuring the road ahead is clear. Be prepared for unexpected wind buffeting when overtaking.

“  
Ensure that you provide vehicles transporting OSOM loads with plenty of room and be prepared to stop or slow down.”