This document aims to provide heavy vehicle drivers with information about safe driving behaviour. The information provided in this publication is not a substitute for knowing the legislation and should not be taken as a binding interpretation of the law.

Heavy Vehicle Driver – Tips & Guide

Issue 5 – January 2013

LARGE INDIVISIBLE LOADS

In an effort to promote road safety through improved heavy vehicle driver awareness, the following information is provided as a guide to help transport operators understand the meaning of a large indivisible load and the associated responsibilities in transporting this type of load.

What is a Large Indivisible Load?

In heavy vehicle transport terms, a Large Indivisible Load means any structure or item that:

- Cannot be divided without extreme effort, expense or risk of damage to it; and
- Cannot be carried on any vehicle without exceeding a mass or dimension limit in the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 2002 or the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Rules 2002.

As a result of the increase in economic growth, more structures or items are exceeding the prescribed mass and/or dimension limits and are being transported as Large Indivisible Loads.

It is the operator’s responsibility, in conjunction with the client and/or the manufacturer of the load, to assess and determine if the load has been minimised as far as possible.

THE LARGER THE LOAD – THE GREATER THE IMPACT ON OTHER ROAD USERS

Things that need to be considered:

- Is there capability to reduce the load in size at construction stage or prior to transport operator hand-over?
- Are there segments of the load that can be easily removed without the need for non-portable specialised equipment or large lifting equipment?

The principle of modular loads is to reduce the number of transport operations and to reduce the amount of labour required to assemble loads. However this needs to be within reason and must not cause unnecessary risk to other road users.
Modular loads by nature contain many items that can be easily removed to reduce the mass and there is no requirement to remove such items. However, if there are items that can be easily removed to reduce the overall dimension, in particular the width, these items must be removed, particularly if no specialised equipment or lifting equipment is required to assemble or disassemble these components.

A projection is considered dangerous if it is not clearly visible to other road users and ideally should be removed if possible. Whether or not a dangerous projection can be removed, suitable methods must be used to mitigate the risk of the projection.

**Pre-Transportation Planning:**

- Consult with the manufacturer of the item and/or your client early in the project to ensure that the load is suitable for road transport.
- If unsure whether the load is suitable to be transported as a Large Indivisible Load, contact Main Roads WA, Heavy Vehicle Operations for advice on 138 HVO (138 486).
- Assess the load to determine the safety risk to other road users and determine if any action needs to be taken to reduce that risk.
- It is the permit holder’s responsibility to ensure that the route is fully investigated and that no damage to property or undue obstruction to other vehicles will occur from the movement.