



**mainroads**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Agricultural Pilot Operational Requirements

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# Document Control

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## Amendments

Revision Number	Revision Date	Description of Key Changes	Section / Page No.
1	6 August 2019	Amended wording to include that a pilot vehicle cannot exceed a statutory mass or dimension limit. Removed restriction of carrying a load on a vehicle driven by an Agricultural Pilot.	2.2.1 / 4 2.3 / 4
2	14 August 2019	Added section 3.3, removed Number of Agricultural Pilots section, amended section 2.3 to allow towing of a trailer and amended section 3.7 to allow three in convoy.	Various

## Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>GVM</b>	Gross Vehicle Mass
<b>Main Roads Website</b>	<a href="http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au">www.mainroads.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>Oversize Agricultural Vehicle</b>	A machine, implement and combination, whether driven, towed or carried, used for an agricultural application, including earthmoving machinery used by an earthmoving contractor specifically engaged in agricultural applications.

## 1 APPLICATION

- 1.1 The Agricultural Pilot Operational Requirements apply to a pilot authorised under the Heavy Vehicle Agricultural Pilot Authorisation 2019, referred to as an Agricultural Pilot hereinafter.
- 1.2 The number of Agricultural Pilots required to accompany an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle will be stipulated in the applicable Main Roads permit or order.

## 2 AGRICULTURAL PILOTS' VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 Requirements for an Agricultural Pilot Vehicle

2.1.1 The vehicle driven by an Agricultural Pilot must:

- (a) have 4 or more wheels;
- (b) have a GVM of 6.5 t or less in the case of a rear pilot vehicle if 2 pilot vehicles are required, or a GVM of 4.5 t or less in any other case; and
- (c) not exceed a statutory mass or dimension limit.

2.1.2 A vehicle driven by an Agricultural Pilot must have a warning sign on its roof that meets the requirements outlined in Section 5.

2.1.3 A vehicle driven by an Agricultural Pilot must have an amber flashing warning light meeting the requirements outlined in Section 4 attached:

- (a) above or below the sign; or
- (b) at each side of the sign.

### 2.2 Headlights on an Agricultural Pilot Vehicle

The vehicle driven by an Agricultural Pilot must have the headlights or day running lights switched on when it is accompanying an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.

### 2.3 Towing

The vehicle driven by an Agricultural Pilot must not tow a trailer, except where approved under a Main Roads Permit or Order.

## 3 AGRICULTURAL PILOT REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 Compliance with Pilot Authorisation & Operating Conditions

3.1.1 The Agricultural Pilot must operate in accordance with these Operational Requirements and the *Heavy Vehicle Agricultural Pilot Authorisation 2019* when accompanying an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.

3.1.2 The Agricultural Pilot must inform themselves of the dimensions, warning devices requirements, driver requirements and relevant vehicle operational requirements including conditions of Permit or Order, prior to accompanying the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.

**Note:** There are significant penalties for breach of an Order or Permit, including these Operational Requirements. Penalties can be up to **\$500** for a pilot and **\$5000** for the driver/operator of an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.

## 3.2 Agricultural Pilot Role

An Agricultural Pilot does not hold a Heavy Vehicle Pilot Licence and as such is not authorised under the *Road Traffic Code 2000* to direct traffic. The primary objectives of the Agricultural Pilot are to:

- (a) Provide a visual advance warning by means of signs, warning lights and two-way radio communications, to other road users of the approach of an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle using the road;
- (b) Inform the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle driver, by an electronic device, of oncoming traffic, road conditions, bridge and clearance of load from trees and obstacles;
- (c) When assisting with the movement of an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle crossing a road, is responsible for informing the driver of an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle when the road is safe to cross; and
- (d) Provide “rear vision” when required due to the width of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.

## 3.3 Communication with other Traffic

**3.3.1** The lead Agricultural Pilot must call out the maximum width of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle or convoy at regular intervals or when oncoming traffic is observed.

**3.3.2** The lead Agricultural Pilot must call out to oncoming traffic using UHF channel 40.

**Note:** For the purpose of sub-clause 3.3.1 and 3.3.2, the lead Agricultural Pilot is the pilot vehicle positioned at the front of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle or convoy.

## 3.4 Communication between Drivers within a Convoy

An Agricultural Pilot must ensure their vehicle, the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle and any other pilot vehicle accompanying the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle are equipped with an electronic device that allows the drivers to communicate effectively with each other.

## 3.5 Travelling Position of Agricultural Pilot Vehicle

**3.5.1** When one Agricultural Pilot accompanies an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, the Agricultural Pilot’s vehicle must travel:

- (a) behind the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, if they are on a road with multiple lanes, in the direction of travel;
- (b) in front of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, if they are on a road with only a single lane, in the direction of travel; or
- (c) in an appropriate position to safely facilitate a turning manoeuvre at an intersection.

**3.5.2** When two Agricultural Pilots accompany an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, one Agricultural Pilot’s vehicle must travel in front of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, and the other behind it.

**3.5.3** Where more than two pilots accompany an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, the additional Agricultural Pilots must be positioned in a manner to assist the other pilots with facilitating the safe movement of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, as directed by the Licensed Heavy Vehicle Pilot.

**3.5.4** An Agricultural Pilot must travel far enough away from the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle it is accompanying to give adequate warning to other road users of the presence of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, taking into account the type of vehicles that use the road, traffic speed, weather, visibility and other driving conditions.

### 3.6 Traffic Control

- 3.6.1 An Agricultural Pilot may position their vehicle in a safe manner on a road to provide adequate warning and prevent other traffic conflicting with the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.
- 3.6.2 The Agricultural Pilot must not disobey any road law and cannot direct anyone else to disobey any road law.
- 3.6.3 The above duties must be performed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the *Road Traffic Code 2000* and *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*.
- 3.6.4 To avoid unnecessary traffic build up, an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle accompanied by an Agricultural Pilot must pull over on a regular basis to allow traffic to pass. This includes stopping in all suitable parking bays and stopping wherever it is safe to do so.

### 3.7 Convoy Travel with Agricultural Pilots

When Oversize Agricultural Vehicles are travelling in convoy, the Agricultural Pilot requirements and any other conditions that are applicable to the larger of the three vehicles, apply to all vehicles and the Agricultural Pilots must accompany all vehicles as though they were one single vehicle.

### 3.8 Reporting Incidents

- 3.8.1 The Agricultural Pilot accompanying an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle must report any on road incidents involving the agricultural pilot vehicle and/or the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, within 48 hours of the incident occurring, using the Heavy Vehicle Incident Reporting Form, available on the Forms page of the Main Roads website.
- 3.8.2 If the Agricultural Pilot is aware of any damage to property owned by Local Government or Main Roads, incurred during the movement of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, and the damage could cause a hazardous situation, it must be reported immediately.

## 4 WARNING LIGHTS

### 4.1 Warning Light Requirements

- 4.1.1 The flash of an operational amber warning light must be visible between 120 and 200 times a minute, in normal daylight, at a distance of not less than 500 metres in any direction.
- 4.1.2 Where it is not possible to see one warning light mounted on the vehicle or load from any direction, additional amber warning light(s) must be mounted on the vehicle or load.
- 4.1.3 Despite subclause 4.1.1, in the case of an agricultural pilot vehicle travelling in front of an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle, a filter may be placed behind the warning light on the agricultural pilot vehicle to reduce the intensity of the light directed to the driver of the Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.

### 4.2 Warning Light Operation

- 4.2.1 Any warning light which an Agricultural Pilot's vehicle is required to have must be switched on when the vehicle is accompanying an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.
- 4.2.2 If a vehicle is not required under the operating conditions to have a warning light, it must not have one that is switched on.

### 4.3 Wig Wag Lights

Wig Wag lights must only be used where stipulated in the conditions of a permit or order. Wig Wag Lights:

- (a) must be mounted in pairs, one on each side of the front of the vehicle;
- (b) must flash an alternating white light;
- (c) must not interfere with the amber warning lights or any other lights required under road law;
- (d) must not be headlights;
- (e) may be spotlights with a maximum output of 55 watts, provided they are angle down 45 degrees toward the road surface;
- (f) may be LED day running lights (as per ADR 76), provided the light emitted from each lamp does not exceed 400cd;
- (g) must have an illuminating surface area not less than 40cm<sup>2</sup>; and
- (h) must be no less than 500mm above ground level and no more than 1000mm above ground level.

## 5 GENERAL WARNING SIGN REQUIREMENTS

### 5.1 Face of a Warning sign

5.1.1 Both faces of a warning sign on a pilot vehicle must show:

- (a) the word "OVERSIZE", in black upper case lettering at least 200 mm high, conforming with Australian Standard AS 1744 — 2015 *Forms of Letters and Numerals for Road Signs*, in typeface Series C(N); and
- (b) the words "LOAD AHEAD", in black upper case lettering at least 100 mm high, conforming with Australian Standard AS 1744 — 2015 *Forms of Letters and Numerals for Road Signs*, in typeface Series D(N).

5.1.2 The bottom of the lettering of the word "OVERSIZE" must be at least 300 mm from the bottom of the sign.

5.1.3 The bottom of the lettering of the words "LOAD AHEAD" must be at least 100 mm from the bottom of the sign.

5.1.4 The face of a warning sign must have a yellow surface which complies with Class 1 or 2 of Australian Standard AS 1906 — 1990 *Retro reflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes*.

5.1.5 The face of the warning sign must have a black border at least 20 mm wide. The border may be split if the sign is divided into two parts.

5.1.6 The outermost edge of the border must be set at least 10 mm in from the edge of the sign unless the sign has been made with a box edge.

5.1.7 The warning sign must display the manufacturer's name or logo, and the brand and class of retro reflective material used in block letters at least 3 mm, but not more than 10 mm, high.

5.1.8 The marking may appear in any visible location on the sign, except in a bottom corner of a sign used on a pilot vehicle.

5.1.9 The face of the warning sign must be appropriately maintained to ensure it is clearly visible and legible to other road users.

## 5.2 Material for a Warning Sign

5.2.1 A warning sign must be made of either:

- (a) stiff, flat, weatherproof material, or
- (b) flexible material, provided the sign is held taut, and is clearly visible and unlikely to become dislocated, furl or otherwise become difficult to read by other road users.

5.2.2 A flexible warning sign that is in such condition or state that its message cannot be easily read by other road users is deemed not to be a warning sign for the purposes of this section.

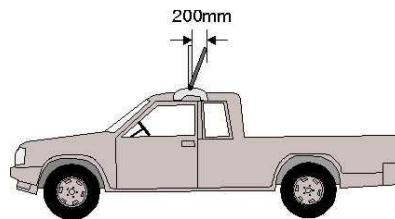
## 5.3 Size of a Warning Sign

5.3.1 A warning sign must be at least 1200 mm long and at least 600 mm high.

5.3.2 The sign may have bottom corner cut outs not more than 150 mm wide and not more than 100 mm high, if they are needed for mounting the warning lights.

## 5.4 Mounting a Warning Sign

A warning sign on a pilot vehicle must not lean back so there is more than 200 mm measured horizontally from the top of the sign to a vertical line running through the bottom of the sign.



## 5.5 Warning Sign not to be displayed if not required

A warning sign must not be displayed on an Agricultural Pilot's vehicle unless it is accompanying an Oversize Agricultural Vehicle.