

# COLORADO PILOT/ESCORT RULES (Effective August 1, 2007)

## CHAPTER 5 PILOT ESCORT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### 5-1 Pilot Escort Driver Requirements

**A.** Pilot Escort drivers must comply with all applicable traffic laws (contained in § 42-4-101 to § 42-4-1717, C.R.S.) and with the requirements of these Rules when escorting a Vehicle or Load on a State Highway, in order to protect the safety of Highway users and to protect the efficient movement of traffic from unreasonable interference.

**B.** Pilot Escort drivers must obtain and maintain certification as provided in this chapter to be authorized to escort an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load on a State Highway. The Permit holder of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load shall be responsible to inspect a Pilot Escort driver's certification to ensure that it is valid and current.

**C.** The Department or its authorized agent will grant a certificate to all persons who pass the Pilot Escort Vehicle certification examination and satisfy the other requirements of Section 5-1, D. The certification shall be exclusive to the Pilot Escort driver named in the certificate and may not be assigned or transferred.

**D.** Pilot Escort driver applicants must meet the following requirements to attend a Pilot Escort Certification Program:

1. Must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
2. Possess a valid driver's license for the state jurisdiction in which he/she resides.
3. Possess a current certificate of insurance or endorsement which indicates that the operator, or the operator's employer, has in full force and effect not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit coverage for bodily injury and/or property damage as a result of the operation of the escort vehicle, the escort vehicle operator, or both causing the bodily injury and/or property damage arising out of an act or omission by the Pilot Escort Vehicle operator of the escort duties required by the Rules. Such insurance or endorsement, as applicable, must be maintained at all times during the term of the certification.

**E.** Pilot escort drivers must provide a current (within 30 days) Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) in the state of current residence, for the immediate previous five year period, to the Pilot Escort Certification Program at the time of the course. The driving records must be clear of any conviction for drug or alcohol related offenses and not contain a single moving violation penalty assessment of six (6) points or more.

**F.** Pilot Escort drivers will be issued a certification card by an authorized Pilot Escort Certification Program and shall have it in their possession at all times while in pilot escort operations.

**G.** Initial certification will be valid for four years from the date of issue. One additional four-year certification may be obtained through a mail in or on-line recertification process provided by an authorized Pilot Escort Certification Program. It will be the responsibility of the driver to maintain certification.

**H.** Current certification for pilot escort drivers will be honored until December 31, 2008 or upon expiration, whichever is sooner. Prior to expiration of pilot escort certification it will be the responsibility of the Pilot Escort driver to attend classroom instruction provided by the Department or an authorized Pilot Escort Certification Program. A list of these providers can be obtained from the Department's website at [www.dot.state.co.us/truckpermits/](http://www.dot.state.co.us/truckpermits/) or by calling the Permit Office at (303) 757-9539.

**I.** No passengers under 16 years of age are allowed in pilot escort vehicles during movement of oversize load.

**J.** Operators must notify the Department in writing within 30 days of any change of address or name.

**K.** All Pilot Escort drivers must have the following documents, or access to the documents electronically, in the Pilot Escort Vehicle when piloting permitted vehicles on the Colorado Highways:

1. Their valid certification card;
2. Copy of the Extra-Legal Rules;
3. Bridge Weight Limit Map;
4. Pilot Escort and Oversize Restriction Map;
5. Height Restriction Map; and
6. Hazardous and Nuclear Materials Map
7. Proof of insurance as required in 5-1, D. 4.

### 5-2 Residency and Reciprocity

**A.** Pilot Escort drivers domiciled in Colorado must complete a pilot escort certification course authorized by the Department or hold a valid certification with another state as outlined in paragraph C. below.

**B.** Pilot Escort drivers domiciled outside of Colorado may participate in the Colorado certification program and complete the requirements for Colorado certification or they may operate as a certified pilot escort driver with another State's certification credential, provided the state has signed a reciprocity agreement with Colorado as outlined in paragraph C. below.

**C.** The Department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with other states that demonstrate that course materials are comprehensive and meet minimum

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requirements outlined by the "Best Practices Guidelines" published by the US DOT Federal Highway Administration, publication FHWA-HOP-04-028. A list of reciprocal states may be obtained from the Department's website at [www.dot.state.co.us/truckpermits/](http://www.dot.state.co.us/truckpermits/) or by calling the Permit Office at (303) 757-9539.

## 5-3 Denials, Suspensions and Revocations of Pilot Escort Driver Certification

**A.** Pilot escort drivers may have their certification revoked by the Department if convicted of a disqualifying offense.

**B.** The certification may be revoked on the date and to the extent the Pilot Escort driver's motor vehicle driver's license is canceled, suspended or revoked or if conviction of a drug and alcohol related offense, or if a single moving violation penalty assessment of six (6) or more points have been assessed against the driver's license pursuant to § 42-2-122 to § 42-2-208, C.R.S. The Pilot Escort driver must notify the Department immediately of any such cancellation, suspension or revocation, and must provide to the Department a copy of any written notice of same.

**C.** The Department may revoke for first offenses up to one year or the term of the driver's license revocation, whichever is longer, after which time the applicant may reapply for a new certification by submitting a new application as required in these rules. Subsequent offenses may result in permanent revocation of Pilot Escort driver certification.

**D.** In addition, the Department may deny, suspend or revoke a certificate, pursuant to § 24-4-104 and § 24-4-105, C.R.S., for:

1. Failure to satisfy the requirements of Section 5-1 above, or failure to give the required or correct information on the application for certification as a Pilot Escort driver, or the commission of any fraud in making the application.
2. Violation of the Rules.
3. Failure to notify the Department of any cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the operator's motor vehicle driver's license by the "DMV" within five working days of the Pilot Escort driver's receipt of notice of the same.
4. Conduct while operating a motor vehicle or a Pilot Escort Vehicle, which, as determined by the Department, threatens the public safety or welfare of Highway users or creates unreasonable interference with the efficient movement of traffic.
5. Allowing or permitting an uncertified person to operate a Pilot Escort Vehicle under the Pilot Escort driver's supervision or direction.

## 5-4 Appeal Process

When a Pilot Escort driver is denied, suspended or revoked of his/her pilot escort certification the individual may file an appeal. All appeals and hearings shall be requested, provided and conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) § 24-4-101, et seq. C.R.S. Appeals shall be made in writing and filed with the Chief Engineer of the Department as outlined in Chapter 9 of these rules.

## 5-5 Pilot Escort Vehicle Standards

**A.** The Pilot Escort driver shall ensure that the Pilot Escort Vehicle is in safe operating condition at all times when the Pilot Escort Vehicle is escorting an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.

**B.** The Pilot Escort Vehicle shall:

1. Be either a passenger vehicle or a two-Axle Truck;
2. Not exceed a maximum Gross Vehicle Weight of 16,000 pounds;
3. Be at least 60 inches wide; and
4. Properly registered and licensed.

**C.** Not exceed the Legal Limits of size and weight, as defined in Section 2-21 of the Rules.

**D.** Equipment and load shall not reduce visibility or mobility of pilot escort vehicle while in operation.

**E.** Pilot Escort drivers shall not tow trailers at any time while in Pilot Escort operations.

**F.** Pilot escort vehicles shall be equipped with a two-way radio capable of transmitting and receiving voice messages over a minimum distance of one-half mile. Radio communications must be compatible with all accompanying pilot escort vehicles, utility company vehicles, and permitted vehicle operator as applicable.

**G.** The Pilot Escort driver shall not carry any item(s) or equipment or Load in or on the Pilot Escort Vehicle which:

1. Exceeds the Height, Length, or Width of the Pilot Escort Vehicle, or Overhangs the Pilot Escort Vehicle, or otherwise impairs its immediate recognition as a safety Pilot Escort Vehicle by the motoring public; however when it is not in use, the height pole may be tied down or secured to the vehicle and extend beyond the rear of the Pilot Escort Vehicle up to but not exceeding 4'; or
2. Obstructs the view of the flashing yellow or amber lights or the signs used by the Pilot Escort Vehicle; or
3. Causes safety risks; or
4. Otherwise impairs the performance by the Pilot Escort driver or the Pilot Escort Vehicle of the duties required by the Rules.

**H.** The Pilot Escort driver shall properly load and secure any item(s) or equipment or load carried by the Pilot

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Escort Vehicle to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Section.

## 5-6 Pilot Escort Vehicle Signing Requirements

- A.** A Pilot Escort Vehicle shall display "Wide Load", "Long Load", or "Oversize Load" signs, as applicable.
1. All such signs shall be a minimum of five feet wide, ten inches high with one inch wide brush stroke, black letters a minimum of eight inches high on yellow background, or shall be a maximum of seven feet wide, eighteen inches high, with a 1.41 inch brush stroke, black letters a minimum of ten inches high on yellow background.
  2. The signs must be mounted on the top of the pilot/escort vehicle.
  3. The sign for the front/pilot escort vehicle shall be displayed so as to be clearly legible and readable by oncoming traffic at all times.
  4. The rear pilot/escort vehicle shall display its sign so as to be readable by traffic overtaking from the rear and clearly legible at all times.

**B.** Pilot Escort Identification signs or placards shall be displayed on the Pilot Escort Vehicle at all times when escorting an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load. The sign or placard must:

1. Appear on both sides of the Pilot Escort Vehicle.
2. Be in letters that contrast sharply in color with the background on which the letters are placed.
3. Be readily legible, during Hours of Daylight, from a distance of 50 feet while the Vehicle is stationary; and
4. Be kept and maintained in a manner that retains the legibility required by subparagraph 3. of this subsection.

**C.** A route survey identification sign shall be displayed on the Pilot Escort Vehicle at all times when the driver is conducting a route survey and has the height pole extended above legal height.

1. Such sign shall state "Height Survey in Progress" and be displayed in the same manner as the Oversize Load sign used when piloting loads.
2. All such signs shall be a minimum of five feet wide, ten inches high with one inch wide brush stroke, black letters a minimum of eight inches high on yellow background, or shall be a maximum of seven feet wide, eighteen inches high, with a 1.41 inch brush stroke, black letters a minimum of ten inches high on yellow background.
3. A route survey may not be conducted during the piloting of an Extra-Legal Vehicle or Load move.

## 5-7 Pilot Escort Vehicle Lighting Requirements

**A.** A Pilot Escort Vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment required by the traffic laws, be equipped with at least one, but not more than three, Flashing Yellow or amber light, as defined in Section 2-12 of the Rules. The

Flashing Yellow or amber light(s) shall be top mount and visible to approaching traffic from the front and the rear of the Pilot Escort Vehicle.

**B.** Two methods of lighting are authorized by the Department as follows:

1. Two AAMVA approved Yellow or Amber Flashing Lights mounted on each side of the required top mounted sign. These shall be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter with a capacity of 60 flashes per minute with warning lights illuminated at all times during operation, or
2. An AAMVA approved yellow or amber rotating, oscillating or flashing beacon/light bar mounted on top of the pilot escort vehicle. This beacon/light bar must be unobstructed and visible for 360 degrees for at least 500 feet.

**C.** Incandescent, strobe or diode (LED) lights may be used provided they meet the above criteria.

**D.** The Pilot Escort Vehicle shall use its headlights at all times during operation when escorting an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.

## 5-8 Pilot Escort Vehicle Equipment Requirements

**A.** Pilot Escort vehicles shall be equipped with the following safety items:

1. Standard 18 inch or 24 inch red/white "STOP" and black/orange "SLOW" paddle signs. Construction zone flagging requires the 24-inch sign.
2. At least 3 reflective bi-directional triangles or their equivalent.
3. Eight red-burning flares, glow sticks or equivalent illumination device approved by the Department.
4. Three orange traffic cones which are a minimum of 18 inches high.
5. Flashlight, which uses two or more D cell batteries, with a minimum 1 ½" lens diameter, with extra batteries or charger (emergency type shake or crank will not be allowed); And a 9" minimum length red or orange cone flashlight for use when directing traffic.
6. Orange or white hardhat and Type 2 reflective orange safety vest for each personnel involved in pilot escort operations.
7. For front escort vehicles piloting loads greater than 16' high, a height-measuring pole with a non-conductive tip, made of non-destructive, flexible material.
  - a. A Pilot Escort Vehicle shall use a Height pole at all times when escorting an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load exceeding sixteen feet in Height, unless otherwise expressly authorized by the Department on the permit.
  - b. The Height pole shall not extend more than six inches above the maximum Height of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load the Pilot Escort Vehicle is escorting.
  - c. When the Pilot Escort Vehicle is not escorting an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load but is moving on the

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Highway, the Height pole shall be removed, tied down, or shortened to within Legal Limits.

8. One 5 lb B.C. fire extinguisher.
9. A minimum of two red or orange flags mounted to the top of the vehicle at approximately 45 degree angles and not extending more than 6" on either side of the vehicle.
10. One spare "oversize load" sign, a minimum of 5 feet wide by 10 inches high or a maximum of 7 feet wide by 18 inches high.
11. At least 2 Handheld two-way simplex radios or other form of communication for operations outside pilot escort vehicles.
12. First aid kit must be clearly marked.
13. Serviceable spare tire, tire jack and lug wrench.

**B.** Vehicles shall not have unauthorized equipment on or in the vehicle similar to that used by emergency or law enforcement personnel. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A lamp or device that is designed to display, or that is capable of displaying if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light visible directly in front of the center of the vehicle.
2. A flashing, oscillating, or rotating red light, blue light, white light, or blue light in combination with white.
3. An audible device such as a siren or a horn that, if used, would give other drivers the impression that they must yield the right-of-way or pull over.

**C.** The operator of the Pilot Escort Vehicle shall use the Pilot Escort Vehicle and the equipment described herein only in compliance with the Rules.

**D.** When a Pilot Escort Vehicle is not escorting an Extra-legal Vehicle or Load but is moving on the Highway, the signs described in Section 5-6, A. of the Rules shall either be removed or covered, and the Flashing Yellow or Amber Lights described in Section 5-7, A. of the Rules shall not be operated.

## 5-9 Insurance

Drivers shall carry proof of current insurance as authorized under Section 5-1, D. 4.

## 5-10 Pilot Escort Vehicles Operating Conditions

**A.** A Pilot Escort Vehicle is prohibited from escorting more than one Extra-legal Vehicle or Load at the same time, unless expressly so authorized under a Chapter 6 Special permit.

**B.** When the Pilot Escort Vehicle is in front of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load being escorted, the operator shall:

1. Warn oncoming traffic of the presence of the Vehicle or Load by use of lights and signs as provided in Sections 5-6 (A) and 5-7 (A) of the Rules.
2. Notify the driver of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load by two-way radio of all hazards; overhead clearances; obstructions; traffic congestion; pedestrians; and any

other circumstances evident to the operator that could affect either the safe movement of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load, the safety of the traveling public, or the efficient movement of traffic in sufficient time for the driver of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to take remedial action, as necessary.

3. To the extent necessary, locate safe places (if available) adjacent to the Highway and notify the driver of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load thereof to allow the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load and the Pilot Escort Vehicle(s) to clear the Highway, so that following traffic can safely pass or for any other reasons necessary to protect public safety and the efficient movement of traffic.

4. Be far enough in front of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to signal oncoming motorists to stop in a timely manner, pursuant to this Section 5-10 (D), before such motorists enter any narrow structures or other restrictions on the Highway to permit the safe passage of the Vehicle or Load.

**C.** When the Pilot Escort Vehicle is behind the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load, the Pilot Escort driver shall:

1. Warn traffic approaching from the rear of the presence of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load ahead, by use of lights and signs as provided in Section 5-6 (A) and 5-7 (A) of the Rules.

2. Notify the driver of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load by two-way radio of flat tires or other problems with the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load; objects coming loose from the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load; other traffic approaching or passing the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load; and any other circumstances evident to the operator that could affect either the safe movement of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load, the safety of the traveling public, or the efficient movement of traffic in sufficient time for the driver of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to take remedial action, as necessary.

3. Notify the front Pilot Escort driver and the driver of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load by two-way radio of traffic build-up and other delays to the normal flow and efficient movement of traffic caused by the movement of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.

4. Notify the driver of the Vehicle or Load by two-way radio of other Vehicles attempting to pass the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.

5. Be far enough behind the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to signal motorists following the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to slow or stop in a timely manner, pursuant to this Section 5-10 (D), before narrow structures or other restrictions in the Highway to permit the safe passage of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.

**D.** In the performance of the duties required by the Rules, the Pilot Escort driver may direct other traffic to stop, slow, or proceed in situations where such direction

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is necessary to allow the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to continue moving safely, except as provided below.

1. The Pilot Escort driver shall signal the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load to stop, and the Extra-legal Vehicle shall stop, as far off of the roadway as practicable to allow other traffic to pass the stopped Extra-legal Vehicle or Load in the following situations:
  - a. When the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load becomes disabled; or
  - b. When the movement of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load on a particular section of State Highway presents a safety risk or unreasonably interferes with the efficient movement of other traffic, based upon such factors as the Widths of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load and the roadway, volume of other traffic, visibility and limited sight distance, and mountainous terrain; or
  - c. When driving conditions for the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load are hazardous for any other reason, including weather. When the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load has been stopped pursuant to this Subsection D, the Pilot Escort driver shall then direct other traffic past the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load, as necessary, until such time as the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load can re-enter the roadway and continue moving without presenting a safety risk or unreasonably interfering with the efficient movement of other traffic.
2. When directing traffic in the situations described in this Section, Pilot Escort driver shall:
  - a. Stand outside the Pilot Escort Vehicle;
  - b. Use the paddle signs and other equipment identified in Section 5-8; and
  - c. Comply with the flagging procedures and requirements described in Section 6 (F)-4 through Section 6 (F)-7 of the M.U.T.C.D.

## E. Traffic lights procedure:

1. If the Pilot Escort Vehicle goes through a traffic light but the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load does not, then the Pilot Escort Vehicle must pull over to the right side of the Highway, where practicable, to wait for the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.
  2. If the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load goes through the traffic light but the Pilot Escort Vehicle does not, then the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load cannot proceed under the provisions of the permit to have a rear Pilot Escort.
- F. Pilot Escort drivers are responsible for all requirements utilizing pilot escorts as directed in Chapter 4 of these rules.

## 5-11 Convoy of Extra-Legal Vehicles or Loads

The movement of more than one permitted vehicles in convoy is not allowed except when that authorization is specifically stated on the oversize/overweight transport permit.

## 5-12 Trip Planning and Coordination Requirements

### A. Pre-trip planning shall be done as follows:

1. A coordination and planning meeting shall be held prior to load movement. The meeting can be held at the roadside when the required parties come together to organize the trip. The required parties may include some or all of the following: the driver(s) carrying or pulling the oversize load(s), the pilot escort vehicle driver(s), law enforcement officers (if assigned), Department personnel (if involved), and public utilities company representatives (if involved). This meeting shall include discussion and coordination on the conduct of the move, including at least the following topics:
  - a. The person designated as being in charge.
  - b. Authorized routing and permit conditions. Pilot Escort drivers shall ensure that all copies of permit and routing documentation is distributed to all appropriate individuals involved with the permitted load movement.
  - c. Coordination of the communication and signals to be used.
  - d. A verification or measurement of load dimensions with permitted dimensions shall be done jointly by the operator of the Extra-Legal Vehicle or Load and the Pilot Escort driver.
2. The operator of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load and the Pilot Escort driver shall comply with the following procedures:
  - a. Discuss aspects of the move, including the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load, the route, and specific responsibilities.
  - b. Review the permit conditions and distribute copies of the OS/OW permit to each Pilot Escort driver.
  - c. Review the permitted route with the highway restrictions specified in the Rules, Bridge Weight Limit map, Height Restriction map, Pilot Escort and Oversize Restriction map and the Transport permit.
  - d. Determine the proper position of the Pilot Escort Vehicle(s).
  - e. Check mandatory equipment.
  - f. Mount signs, adjust mirrors, and turn on lights.
  - g. Check each 2-way radio to ensure clear communication on a selected channel.

### B. During the trip the operator of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load and the Pilot Escort driver shall comply with the following procedures:

1. Obey all traffic laws.
2. Maintain proper distance between the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load and the Pilot Escort Vehicle.
  - a. The Pilot Escort driver shall not follow or precede Extra-legal Vehicle or Load more closely than is reasonably prudent, considering the speed of the Extra-legal Vehicle or Load, other traffic, and Highway conditions,
  - b. The Pilot Escort driver shall be close enough to warn other traffic of Extra-legal Vehicle or Load.