

1.1 **Department of Public Safety**

1.2 **Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to Pilot/Escort Vehicles Accompanying Oversize**
1.3 **Vehicles**

1.4 **7455.0100 DEFINITIONS.**

1.5 Subpart 1. **Scope.** The terms used in this chapter have the meanings given them in
1.6 this part.

1.7 Subp. 2. **Certified licensed peace officer.** "Certified licensed peace officer" means a
1.8 law enforcement officer ~~operating~~ licensed under Minnesota Statutes, sections 626.84 to
1.9 626.863, who holds a certificate under Minnesota Statutes, section 299D.085, and may
1.10 operate an authorized emergency vehicle that can and direct and control traffic and require
1.11 traffic to yield to an overdimensional load.

1.12 Subp. 3. **Certified pilot/escort driver (CPED).** "Certified pilot/escort driver
1.13 (CPED)" means an individual who holds a certificate under Minnesota Statutes, section
1.14 299D.085, authorized to control and direct traffic as a flagger during the movement of
1.15 an overdimensional load following the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
1.16 (MUTCD) standards as defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and
1.17 adopted by reference under Minnesota Statutes, section 169.06, subdivision 4. A certified
1.18 pilot/escort driver is prohibited from allowing the driver's vehicle to cross the roadway
1.19 center during traffic direction and shall not control traffic within an intersection controlled
1.20 by a lighted traffic control device.

1.21 Subp. 4. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Minnesota
1.22 Department of Public Safety.

1.23 Subp. 5. **Department.** "Department" means the Minnesota Department of Public
1.24 Safety.

2.1 Subp. 6. **Flagger.** "Flagger" means a person who actively controls the flow of
2.2 vehicular traffic into, through, or into and through a temporary traffic control zone using
2.3 hand-signaling devices or an automated flagger assistance device (AFAD).

2.4 Subp. 7. **Minnesota Department of Transportation's Minnesota Flagging**
2.5 **Handbook.** "Minnesota Department of Transportation's Minnesota Flagging Handbook"
2.6 means the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Minnesota Flagging Handbook
2.7 which is part of the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, authored
2.8 and published by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, February 2011, and is
2.9 incorporated by reference. This handbook is reviewed and updated every four years or
2.10 when a change is made to the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or
2.11 changes in statutes and is available to the public for viewing and free downloading at
2.12 <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/publ/mutcd/index.html>.

2.13 Subp. ~~6.~~ **8. MUTCD.** "MUTCD" means the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
2.14 Devices, authored and published by the Federal Highway Administration, December
2.15 2009, and is incorporated by reference. This MUTCD is updated approximately every
2.16 five to six years and is available to the public for viewing and free downloading at
2.17 http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno_2009r1r2.htm.

2.18 Subp. ~~7.~~ **9. Overdimensional load.** "Overdimensional load" has the meaning given
2.19 in Minnesota Statutes, section 299D.085, subdivision 1.

2.20 Subp. 10. **Pilot/Escort Training Manual - Best Practices Guidelines.** "Pilot/Escort
2.21 Training Manual - Best Practices Guidelines" means the Pilot/Escort Training Manual
2.22 - Best Practices Guidelines as endorsed by the Specialized Carriers and Rigging
2.23 Association (SC&RA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the
2.24 Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), authored and published cooperatively by
2.25 the SC&RA, FHWA, and CVSA, October 2004, and is incorporated by reference. This

3.1 manual is subject to change and is available to the public for viewing and free downloading
3.2 at http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/documents/pilotcar_bpguideline/index.htm.

3.3 Subp. 8- 11. Section. "Section" means the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section
3.4 of the Minnesota State Patrol.

3.5 Subp. 12. Tillerman/steerman. "Tillerman/steerman" means a person that has the
3.6 designated responsibility and duty of controlling the steering of the rear axles of a
3.7 commercial vehicle using a wired or wireless remote control device while the commercial
3.8 vehicle is operating on any public highway.

3.9 **7455.0200 OVERDIMENSIONAL LOAD ESCORT REQUIREMENT.**

3.10 When escort services are required by law in the movement of an overdimensional
3.11 load, the services may only be provided by:

3.12 A. a certified licensed peace officer; or

3.13 B. a certified pilot/escort driver.

3.14 **7455.0300 PILOT/ESCORT DRIVER CERTIFICATION PROCESS.**

3.15 Subpart 1. **Certification course.**

3.16 A. Drivers domiciled in Minnesota shall complete a pilot/escort certification course
3.17 accepted, approved, or authorized by the department. ~~Upon successful completion of the~~
3.18 ~~certification course, drivers must be issued a certification card by a Minnesota-authorized~~
3.19 ~~training program.~~ Upon a driver's successful completion of a training program authorized
3.20 by the commissioner, the training program must issue the driver proof of course
3.21 completion. The commissioner shall issue a certification card to drivers who demonstrate
3.22 that they are at least 18 years of age, possess a valid operator's license for the type of
3.23 vehicle being operated, have successfully completed a training program authorized by
3.24 the commissioner, and meet all additional requirements in this chapter. The cost of the

4.1 initial certification course shall be set at \$180. The cost of one additional four-year
4.2 certification shall be set at \$90.

4.3 B. The Department of Public Safety partnering with Minnesota State Colleges and
4.4 Universities (MnSCU) shall develop training curriculum and utilize experienced instructors
4.5 within the department and MnSCU to provide the training through MnSCU facilities.

4.6 C. The civilian course curriculum shall include, at a minimum, the following:

4.7 (1) driver requirements;

4.8 (2) vehicle requirements;

4.9 (3) permitting and reading an overdimensional load permit;

4.10 (4) pilot/escort vehicle positioning and maneuvering;

4.11 (5) authority while escorting, flagging and traffic control;

4.12 (6) insurance;

4.13 (7) pretrip planning and meeting;

4.14 (8) communication;

4.15 (9) height pole usage;

4.16 (10) liability issues;

4.17 (11) ground clearance;

4.18 (12) route surveys and how to conduct them;

4.19 (13) hours of service; and

4.20 (14) railroad grade crossing safety.

4.21 D. The law enforcement course curriculum shall include, at a minimum, the
4.22 following:

4.23 (1) permit review;

- 5.1 (2) hours of service;
- 5.2 (3) route planning;
- 5.3 (4) pretrip meeting;
- 5.4 (5) vehicle positioning and maneuvering;
- 5.5 (6) hand traffic direction;
- 5.6 (7) following distances;
- 5.7 (8) right-of-way rules;
- 5.8 (9) traffic signals and signs;
- 5.9 (10) duties - front and rear;
- 5.10 (11) authority while escorting; and
- 5.11 (12) crash incident management.

5.12 Subp. 2. **Certification period.** Initial certification is valid for four years from the
5.13 date of issue. One additional four-year certification may be obtained through a mail-in
5.14 or online recertification process provided by a Minnesota-authorized training program.
5.15 Pilot/escort drivers must attend a full certification course every eight years.

5.16 Subp. 3. **Certification reciprocity.** Pilot/escort drivers domiciled outside of Minnesota
5.17 may operate as a certified pilot/escort driver with another state's certification credential,
5.18 provided the course meets the minimum requirements outlined in the Pilot/Escort Training
5.19 Manual - Best Practices Guidelines as endorsed by the Specialized Carriers and Rigging
5.20 Association, Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Commercial
5.21 Vehicle Safety Alliance, which is incorporated by reference.

5.22 ~~The department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with any other state if that state~~
5.23 ~~demonstrates that its course materials are comprehensive and meet the requirements~~

6.1 ~~outlined by the department, which must include flagging, height pole operations,~~
6.2 ~~insurance, instructor credentials, and auditing of this state's program.~~

6.3 The department shall enter into a reciprocal agreement with any other state if that state
6.4 demonstrates that its course meets the minimum requirements outlined in the Pilot/Escort
6.5 Training Manual - Best Practices Guidelines referenced in this subpart and complies with
6.6 the requirements in this chapter.

6.7 Subp. 4. **Driver's license requirements.** Pilot/escort drivers shall provide a certified
6.8 and current (within 30 days) driver's license record to the Minnesota-authorized training
6.9 program at the time of the course.

6.10 ~~Subp. 5. **Expiration.** Pilot/escort driver certification expires four years from the~~
6.11 ~~date issued. Upon expiration of the certification, an operator must again comply with~~
6.12 ~~the department's certification process. It is the responsibility of the driver to maintain~~
6.13 ~~certification.~~

6.14 **7455.0400 SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS SUSPENSION, REVOCATION,**
6.15 **AND DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION.**

6.16 ~~If the commissioner determines that a pilot/escort driver has committed a disqualifying~~
6.17 ~~offense within the previous four years, the commissioner shall deny, suspend, or revoke~~
6.18 ~~the driver's certification.~~

6.19 ~~A. Disqualifying offenses are convictions of the following traffic violations during~~
6.20 ~~the movement of an overdimensional load: Conviction of one of the following traffic~~
6.21 ~~violations during the movement of an overdimensional load within the past four years shall~~
6.22 ~~constitute grounds for denial of certification or disciplinary action against a certification:~~
6.23 ~~driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, reckless driving, careless~~
6.24 ~~driving, excessive speeding (15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit),~~
6.25 ~~driving left of roadway center, failing to obey a traffic control device, and any other or a~~
6.26 ~~driving violation likely to result in that resulted in bodily injury.~~

7.1 B. ~~The department shall suspend the certification for a first offense for up to one year.~~
7.2 ~~Subsequent offenses may result in the permanent revocation of the convicted driver's~~
7.3 ~~certification.~~ The certification shall be suspended for up to one year following the first
7.4 conviction, depending upon the seriousness of the underlying conduct. Subsequent
7.5 convictions shall constitute grounds for revocation of certification.

7.6 **7455.0500 APPEALS PROCESS.**

7.7 When a driver's certification is denied, suspended, or revoked, the ~~individual may~~
7.8 ~~file an appeal. All appeals and hearings must be requested, provided, and conducted~~
7.9 ~~pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14.~~
7.10 ~~Appeals must be made in writing and filed with the section commander.~~ department
7.11 shall notify the individual of the right to appeal the department's determination under
7.12 the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14.
7.13 The notice of appeal shall be in writing and shall be filed with the section commander,
7.14 Minnesota State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Section, 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 410,
7.15 Mendota Heights, Minnesota, 55120, within 30 days of the individual's receipt of the
7.16 department's determination. The section commander shall thereafter initiate a contested
7.17 case proceeding following the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act, Minnesota
7.18 Statutes, chapter 14.

7.19 **7455.0600 PILOT/ESCORT DRIVER REQUIREMENTS.**

7.20 ~~Individuals who operate a pilot/escort vehicle~~ Certified pilot/escort drivers and certified
7.21 licensed peace officers operating a pilot or escort vehicle must meet the following
7.22 requirements:

7.23 A. ~~must~~ be a minimum of 18 years of age;

7.24 B. ~~must~~ possess a valid operator's license for the type of vehicle being operated;

7.25 C. ~~must~~ have the issued certification card in the driver's possession at all times while
7.26 in pilot/escort operations;

8.1 D. when operating a vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or gross
8.2 vehicle weight rating, ~~must~~ comply with the regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier
8.3 Safety Administration (FMCSA) in Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, parts ~~300~~
8.4 ~~through 399~~ 382, 383, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, and 397; and

8.5 E. if operating as a front or rear pilot car driver, ~~may~~ shall not perform as a
8.6 tillerman/steerman for the load being escorted. A tillerman/steerman ~~may~~ shall not be in
8.7 the pilot/escort vehicle when a steering activity is being performed.

8.8 **7455.0700 ~~PILOT/ESCORT VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS.~~**

8.9 A. Vehicles must be in sound and safe operating condition.

8.10 B. Vehicles must be properly licensed and registered based on state of registration.

8.11 C. Vehicles must be a passenger automobile, light duty van, or a two-axle pickup
8.12 or a two-axle single unit truck.

8.13 D. The minimum wheel base of the vehicle must be 100 inches.

8.14 E. ~~The vehicle must not use equipment designated for use by emergency vehicles.~~

8.15 F. Vehicles must not carry loads of cargo that reduce the visibility of the driver of
8.16 the vehicle.

8.17 ~~G.~~ F. Trailers must not be towed during the movement of the overdimensional load:
8.18 unless:

8.19 (1) the party involved is a building mover licensed by the commissioner of
8.20 transportation under Minnesota Statutes, section 221.81; and

8.21 (2) the building being moved is not a temporary structure or manufactured housing.

8.22 ~~H.~~ G. A vehicle must not contain a passenger under 16 years of age during the
8.23 movement of the overdimensional load.

9.1 ~~F.~~ H. A vehicle must contain a two-way simplex communication device with a
9.2 transmission and receiving range of a minimum of one-half mile. This communication
9.3 device must be compatible with accompanying pilot/escort vehicles, overdimensional load
9.4 drivers, law enforcement officers if involved, and utility company vehicles if involved.

9.5 ~~J.~~ I. Vehicles must have identification showing a company name, a federal Department
9.6 of Transportation (USDOT) identification, or a city, state, and contact number, which
9.7 must be legible from a distance of 50 feet.

9.8 **7455.0800 PILOT/ESCORT VEHICLE SIGNING REQUIREMENTS.**

9.9 Sign requirements on pilot/escort vehicles are as follows:

9.10 A. A pilot/escort vehicle must display a ~~"LONG LOAD"~~ or ~~"WIDE LOAD"~~ an
9.11 "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign mounted on the top of the vehicle. This sign must be displayed
9.12 so that it is visible to both overtaking and oncoming traffic at all times during the
9.13 pilot/escort operation. The sign must be clearly readable and legible at all times of
9.14 operation. Bumper-mounted signs only are prohibited on the pilot/escort vehicle.

9.15 B. The sign must be a rigid mount and (1) be a minimum of five feet in width, (2)
9.16 have ten inches of vertical visible surface space, and (3) display black letters that are eight
9.17 inches in height and have a one-inch brush stroke on a solid yellow surface. Solid is
9.18 defined as when being viewed from the front or rear at a 90-degree angle to the sign, no
9.19 light can transmit through the solid surface.

9.20 C. Red/orange 18-inch flags must be mounted in line with the "Oversize Load" sign and
9.21 mounted at approximately a 45-degree angle toward the sides of the pilot/escort vehicle.

9.22 D. Signs and flags must be removed or covered when pilot/escorts are not providing
9.23 services.

10.1 E. If a route survey is being performed by the pilot/escort, the "Oversize Load"
10.2 sign must be removed or covered. Route surveys may not be performed while escorting
10.3 an overdimensional load.

10.4 F. A sign, light, or flag may not extend more than six inches beyond the widest part of
10.5 the body of the pilot/escort vehicle.

10.6 **7455.0900 PILOT/ESCORT VEHICLE LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS.**

10.7 A. The pilot/escort vehicle, in addition to any other equipment required by the traffic
10.8 laws, must be equipped with at least one flashing yellow or amber light. These lights must
10.9 be mounted on the top of the pilot/escort vehicle and visible for 360 degrees for all traffic.
10.10 Two types of approved lighting are described as follows:

10.11 (1) Two AAMVA/SAE/USDOT-approved yellow or amber, flashing or oscillating,
10.12 strobe lights must be used with one mounted on each side of the top-mounted sign. These
10.13 lights must be visible for 360 degrees, illuminated at all times during operation, and
10.14 visible from a minimum distance of 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions.

10.15 (2) An AAMVA/SAE/USDOT-approved yellow or amber, flashing or oscillating,
10.16 strobe beacon light bar must be used, mounted on top of the pilot/escort vehicle. The light
10.17 bar must have a minimum of two lights within the housing of the light bar. The light bar
10.18 must be unobstructed and visible for 360 degrees.

10.19 "AAMVA/SAE/USDOT" refers to the American Association of Motor Vehicle
10.20 Administrators, the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the United States Department
10.21 of Transportation.

10.22 B. Incandescent, strobe, or diode (LED) lights may be used if they meet the criteria
10.23 in item A.

10.24 C. A light is defined as a single housing.

11.1 ~~D. Pilot/escort vehicles must not be equipped with lighting or equipment that is~~
11.2 ~~reserved for emergency vehicles.~~

11.3 **7455.1000 PILOT/ESCORT VEHICLE SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

11.4 Pilot/escort Vehicles used in escort operations must be equipped with the following
11.5 safety items:

11.6 A. for vehicles operated by certified pilot/escort drivers (CPED):

11.7 ~~A. (1)~~ a minimum of one 18-to-24-inch STOP/SLOW paddle. This sign must be
11.8 reflectorized for nighttime flagging operations. A 24-inch orange/red flag on a 36-inch
11.9 staff may be used in an emergency flagging operation only;₂

11.10 ~~B. a hardhat approved by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration,~~
11.11 ~~for use by the pilot/escort driver.~~

11.12 ~~C. (2)~~ a class 3 2 safety vest approved by the American National Standards Institute
11.13 for use during any time the pilot/escort driver is outside the pilot/escort vehicle on any
11.14 roadway as per current MUTCD standards;₂

11.15 ~~D. (3)~~ one flashlight with a lens width of 1.5 inches with extra batteries or charger.
11.16 Emergency self-charging flashlights do not meet this requirement;₂

11.17 ~~E. (4)~~ one six-inch-long orange/red cone to fit the flashlight. Traffic wands are an
11.18 acceptable alternative to the orange/red cone;₂

11.19 ~~F. (5)~~ nine reflective triangles or reflectorized 18-inch orange traffic cones with a
11.20 single reflective band of six inches in height;₂

11.21 ~~G. (6)~~ eight fuses, flares, red glow sticks, or USDOT-approved alternative
11.22 red-light-producing devices;₂

11.23 ~~H. (7)~~ three standard 18-inch orange traffic cones;₂

12.1 I. (8) one yellow, vinyl, or mesh "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign, seven feet wide by 18
12.2 inches tall with the letter a minimum height of ten inches with a 1.41-inch brush stroke;

12.3 J. (9) first aid kit clearly marked and labeled;

12.4 K. (10) a height pole, if required as a condition of the overdimensional load permit,
12.5 which must be nonconductive, nondestructive, flexible, and ~~frangible~~ readily breakable
12.6 and installed and in use by the front pilot car at all times when an overdimensional load
12.7 exceeds 15 feet six inches in height;

12.8 L. (11) one ~~ten-pound~~ five-pound capacity ~~or two five-pound capacity~~ serviceable
12.9 fire ~~extinguishers~~ extinguisher with an ABC rating;

12.10 M. (12) one handheld simplex two-way compatible communication device with a
12.11 minimum transmission and receiving range of one-half mile. This device must be used in
12.12 a flagging situation where the pilot/escort driver is outside the pilot/escort vehicle; and

12.13 B. for vehicles operated by certified licensed peace officers:

12.14 (1) a class 2 safety vest approved by the American National Standards Institute for
12.15 use during any time the peace officer is outside the squad car on any roadway;

12.16 (2) one flashlight with a lens width of 1.5 inches with extra batteries or charger.
12.17 Emergency self-charging flashlights do not meet this requirement;

12.18 (3) one six-inch long orange/red cone to fit the flashlight. Traffic wands are an
12.19 acceptable alternative to the orange/red cone;

12.20 (4) eight fuses, flares, red glow sticks, or USDOT-approved alternative red-light
12.21 producing devices;

12.22 (5) first aid kit clearly marked and labeled;

12.23 (6) one five-pound capacity serviceable fire extinguisher with an ABC rating; and

13.1 (7) one handheld simplex two-way compatible communication device with a
13.2 minimum transmission and receiving range of one-half mile. This device must be provided
13.3 by the carrier or pilot/escort company prior to the movement of the overdimensional load.

13.4 **7455.1100 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.**

13.5 Subpart 1. **Coverage for bodily injury and property damage.** A driver must possess
13.6 a current certificate of insurance or endorsement that indicates that the driver, or the
13.7 driver's employer, has in full force and effect insurance coverage for bodily injury and
13.8 property damage ~~as a result of~~ resulting from the operation of the ~~escort~~ pilot/escort
13.9 ~~vehicle, the escort vehicle operator, or both, causing the bodily injury or property damage~~
13.10 ~~arising out of~~ an act or omission by the operator of the pilot/escort vehicle operator of the
13.11 ~~escort duties required by this chapter, or both.~~ The insurance or endorsement must be no
13.12 less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit or \$1,000,000 per occurrence of commercial
13.13 liability coverage, as applicable, and must be maintained at all times during the term of
13.14 the certification. The insurance certificate must indicate on the face of the document
13.15 that the policy is for the operation of pilot/escort vehicles and for pilot/escort duties and
13.16 responsibilities as required by this chapter.

13.17 Subp. 2. **Liability coverage.** Pilot/escort vehicles must have a minimum amount of
13.18 \$1,000,000 liability insurance. This is not a cumulative amount.

13.19 **7455.1200 CERTIFIED PILOT/ESCORT DRIVER DUTIES.**

13.20 A. A ~~pilot/escort~~ vehicle used in escort operations by certified licensed peace
13.21 officers and certified pilot/escort drivers is prohibited from escorting more than one
13.22 overdimensional vehicle or load at the same time, unless expressly authorized by the
13.23 commissioner.

13.24 B. When ~~the pilot/escort vehicle is~~ vehicles used in escort operations are in front of
13.25 the overdimensional vehicle or load being escorted, the operator shall:

14.1 (1) warn oncoming traffic of the presence of the vehicle or load by use of lights
14.2 and signs as provided within this chapter;

14.3 (2) notify the driver of the overdimensional vehicle or load by two-way radio of
14.4 all hazards; overhead clearances; obstructions; traffic congestion; pedestrians; and any
14.5 other circumstances evident to the operator that could affect either the safe movement of
14.6 the overdimensional vehicle or load, the safety of the traveling public, or the efficient
14.7 movement of traffic in sufficient time for the driver of the overdimensional vehicle or
14.8 load to take remedial action, as necessary;

14.9 (3) to the extent necessary, locate safe places, if available, adjacent to the
14.10 highway and notify the driver of the overdimensional vehicle or load thereof to allow the
14.11 overdimensional vehicle or load and the pilot/escort vehicles to clear the highway, so that
14.12 following traffic can safely pass or for any other reason necessary to protect public safety
14.13 and the efficient movement of traffic; and

14.14 (4) be far enough in front of the overdimensional vehicle or load to signal oncoming
14.15 motorists to stop in a timely manner, before the motorists enter any narrow structures or
14.16 other restrictions on the highway to permit the safe passage of the vehicle or load.

14.17 C. When ~~the pilot/escort vehicle is~~ vehicles used in escort operations are behind the
14.18 overdimensional vehicle or load, the pilot/escort driver shall:

14.19 (1) warn traffic approaching from the rear of the presence of the overdimensional
14.20 vehicle or load ahead, by use of lights and signs as provided within this chapter;

14.21 (2) notify the driver of the overdimensional vehicle or load by two-way radio of
14.22 flat tires or other problems with the overdimensional vehicle or load; objects coming
14.23 loose from the overdimensional vehicle or load; other traffic approaching or passing the
14.24 overdimensional vehicle or load; and any other circumstances evident to the operator that
14.25 could affect either the safe movement of the overdimensional vehicle or load, the safety of

15.1 the traveling public, or the efficient movement of traffic in sufficient time for the driver of
15.2 the overdimensional vehicle or load to take remedial action, as necessary;

15.3 (3) notify the front pilot/escort driver and the driver of the overdimensional vehicle
15.4 or load by two-way radio of traffic buildup and other delays to the normal flow and efficient
15.5 movement of traffic caused by the movement of the overdimensional vehicle or load;

15.6 (4) notify the driver of the vehicle or load by two-way radio of other vehicles
15.7 attempting to pass the overdimensional vehicle or load; and

15.8 (5) ensure the pilot/escort vehicle is far enough behind the overdimensional
15.9 vehicle or load to signal motorists following the overdimensional vehicle or load to slow
15.10 or stop in a timely manner, before narrow structures or other restrictions on the highway,
15.11 to permit the safe passage of the overdimensional vehicle or load.

15.12 D. Traffic lights procedure.

15.13 (1) If the front pilot/escort vehicle goes through a traffic light but the
15.14 overdimensional vehicle or load does not, then the driver of the front pilot/escort vehicle
15.15 shall pull the vehicle over to the right side of the highway, where practicable, to wait
15.16 for the overdimensional vehicle or load.

15.17 (2) If the overdimensional vehicle or load goes through the traffic light but the
15.18 rear pilot/escort vehicle does not, then the overdimensional vehicle or load must reduce
15.19 speed until the pilot/escort resumes position behind the load.

15.20 (3) Pilot/escort drivers are responsible for all requirements utilizing pilot escorts
15.21 as directed in this chapter.

15.22 **7455.1300 PRETRIP COORDINATION MEETING.**

15.23 Subpart 1. **Meeting requirements generally.** A pretrip planning and coordination
15.24 meeting must be conducted as follows:

16.1 A. The meeting must be held before load movement. The meeting may be held at
16.2 the roadside when the required parties come together to organize the trip.

16.3 B. The required parties include the drivers carrying or pulling the oversize loads,
16.4 the pilot escort vehicle drivers, law enforcement officers (if assigned), department
16.5 personnel (if involved), and public utilities company representatives (if involved).

16.6 C. This meeting must include discussion and coordination on the conduct of the
16.7 move.

16.8 D. The permittee or a designated representative shall conduct the meeting.

16.9 Subp. 2. **Meeting requirements for drivers.** In addition, the operator of the
16.10 overdimensional vehicle or load and the pilot/escort driver shall comply with the
16.11 following procedures:

16.12 A. Pilot/escort drivers shall ensure that all copies of permit and routing
16.13 documentation are distributed to all appropriate individuals involved with the permitted
16.14 load movement.

16.15 B. The meeting must also:

16.16 (1) coordinate the communication and signals to be used; and

16.17 (2) verify or measure the load dimensions, with permitted dimensions verified
16.18 jointly by the operator of the overdimensional vehicle or load and the pilot/escort driver.

16.19 C. The pilot/escort driver shall provide proof of a valid pilot/escort driver
16.20 certification and proof of insurance.

16.21 D. Drivers and operators shall also:

16.22 (1) discuss aspects of the move, including the overdimensional vehicle or
16.23 load, the route, and specific responsibilities;

- 17.1 (2) review the permit conditions and distribute copies of the oversize/overweight
17.2 permit to each pilot/escort driver;
- 17.3 (3) review the permitted route with any specified highway restrictions;
- 17.4 (4) determine the proper position of the pilot/escort vehicles;
- 17.5 (5) check mandatory equipment;
- 17.6 (6) mount signs, adjust mirrors, and turn on lights; and
- 17.7 (7) check each two-way radio to ensure clear communication on a selected
17.8 channel.

17.9 **7455.1400 PILOT/ESCORT FLAGGING REQUIREMENTS.**

17.10 During the movement of an overdimensional load, the pilot/escort driver, in the
17.11 performance of the flagging duties required by this chapter, may control and direct traffic
17.12 to stop, slow, or proceed in any situation when deemed necessary to protect the motoring
17.13 public from the hazards associated with the movement of the overdimensional load. The
17.14 pilot/escort driver, acting as a flagger, may aid the overdimensional load in the safe
17.15 movement along the highway designated on the overdimensional load permit and shall:

17.16 A. assume the proper flagger position outside the pilot/escort vehicle and, as a
17.17 minimum standard, have in use the necessary safety equipment as defined in section
17.18 6E.1 of the MUTCD;

17.19 B. use "STOP" or "SLOW" paddles or a 24-inch red/orange square flag to indicate
17.20 emergency situations, and other equipment as described in section 6E.1 of the MUTCD; and

17.21 C. comply with the flagging procedures and requirements ~~as set forth~~ in the MUTCD
17.22 and the Minnesota Department of Transportation Flagger Training Transportation's
17.23 Minnesota Flagging Handbook.