

Abnormal Loads Team

The abnormal loads team is part of the Bridges Section. We work with haulage companies and transport operators to safeguard our bridges from damage by heavy and high vehicles (abnormal loads) to ensure public safety.

We coordinate the movement of abnormal loads on the local authority road network in West Yorkshire on behalf of the five West Yorkshire highway authorities: Leeds CC, Kirklees MC, Calderdale MBC, Wakefield MDC and Bradford MDC.

Abnormal load regulations

The dimensions and weights of vehicles used on British roads are regulated by the [Road Vehicles \(Construction & Use\) Regulations 1986](#) (C&U) Regs and the [Road Vehicles \(Authorised Weight\) Regulations 1998](#) (AW) Regs.

Special type's vehicles are those which don't meet the C&U and AW Regs but can be used outside these rules under the authority of the [Road Vehicles \(Authorisation of Special Types\) \(General\) Order 2003](#) (STGO).

Abnormal loads can potentially travel on any public road but a haulier must comply with any highway restrictions such as weight, width or height. They must also comply with the notification process and time periods set out in the STGO regulations. This involves informing all the highway authorities and bridge owners such as Local Authorities and Network Rail along the proposed route and giving them details of the vehicle in terms of length, width, gross weight and axle weight.

Notification of abnormal loads

In accordance with STGO hauliers and crane operators must give a minimum of two clear days notice to the Highway Authority and bridge owners before moving an abnormal load. If any vehicle or vehicle combination has a gross weight greater than 80 tonnes then hauliers must give a minimum of five clear days notice. (These do not include Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays)

The Haulier or Crane Operator must provide an indemnity to each highway authority and bridge owner before the vehicle is moved to protect the authority in the event of any damage being caused to one of their highway structures on the route.

Leeds City Council operate a 'short notice' movement request policy which is to be used when it is proposed to deviate from the notification periods set in the STGO legislation. This policy requires hauliers to contact the abnormal loads team by telephone before making the movement. After 3 pm details may be left on the answer machine so that the team can take action the next working day. If your movement is for the next day then it should not take place until you have received verbal authorisation from a member of the abnormal loads team.

Information required to be supplied

STGO, Schedule 9 provides a list of information required to be supplied by Hauliers or Crane Operators when they make their movement request to Leeds City Council. These details include:

- Vehicle length, width, height, axle loadings and axle spacing's;
- Nature of the load;
- Address for the 'Point of Departure' and 'Point of Destination';
- The proposed route between these points.

The details are needed to assess the suitability of the proposed route and to ensure that the abnormal load can travel safely over or under local authority bridges. The Haulier or Crane Operator will be informed of any conflicts that are found and where possible an alternate route. It remains the responsibility of the haulier or crane operator to survey the route and complete a risk assessment prior to the movement, this is to ensure the load can safely negotiate the route.

The movement of Abnormal Load Vehicles should be notified on the following:

Leeds City Council:

Fax: 0113 3367276

E-mail: westyorksabloads@gmail.com

(Tel: 0113 3787030)

West Yorkshire Police:

Fax: 01924 293123

E-mail: abnloads@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

(Tel: 01924 293138)

Telephone: Leeds Contact Centre **0113 2224407**

By Minicom: **0845 1271113**

Email: Highways@leeds.gov.uk

Write: Highways & Transportation
Bridges Section
Middleton Ring Road,
Leeds LS10 4AX