

**Greetings all. Today's Bulletin is about Pilot and Escort Vehicles.**

As you know most mobile cranes are 'over size' meaning they have at least 1 dimension over the general limits, usually width. This sometimes creates the need for one or more Escorts or Pilot Vehicles to warn other road users of the over size crane and also to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> set of eyes for the crane driver. The location, terrain, forced 10kph slow-downs, need for road centreline travel and traffic density can also dictate the need for an escort or pilot vehicle.

Let's start with some definitions.

**Pilot** – A person who holds a full driver's licence and drives a vehicle that complies with Schedule 8, Division 5 of the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation.

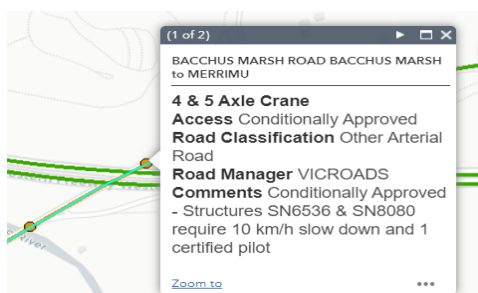
**Certified Pilot** – A person with the requisite training, including a minimum number of trips every 12 months, who holds a full driver's licence and drives a vehicle that complies with [Schedule 8, Division 5 of the MDL Regs](#). These call for 'warning signs' or vehicle mounted Variable Message Sign (VMS) boards of which the Victorian requirements are outlined [here](#).

More information for Certified Pilots **Training** can be found [here](#):

**Escort** – an authorised officer (generally a Transport Safety Services Officer in Victoria) that has the legal power to direct traffic under Australian road law.

*So how do you know what (if any) pilots and escorts are needed to move your crane?*

1. Is my crane general access? If Yes, then none are required. If No then go to next step.
2. Am I traveling under Gazette notice with map? If Yes then follow the corresponding [Map](#) and obey any instructions on the intended routes.



Note that there is a new notice for pilot/ escort requirements in Victoria's Mountainous Regions [here](#).

3. If you're not general access or traveling under a notice, you must be traveling under a permit which will outline any Pilot or Escort Requirements.

4. Depending on your location, the conditions and experience of your crane driver, you may wish to take extra pilots that are not required by law. This is very common when the operator has significant local knowledge of an area or its environmental conditions at the intended travel time.

**Booking a vehicle escort**

Since 8 December 2019, the Transport Safety Services Officers (TSS Officers) currently employed by VicRoads were moved to the NHVR as Safety and Compliance Officers (SCOs). The NHVR SCOs have the same authority to stop heavy vehicles to check compliance as the TSS Officers previously did. SCOs will monitor heavy vehicle compliance with the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), registration and licensing requirements and road rules as part of mobile patrols and at heavy vehicle checking stations located across Victoria. Here's a [link](#) with more details.



Before you book an escort service, ensure you have a permit for the journey as bookings cannot be done without a permit. Please also ensure invoices for previous bookings have been paid by the due date.

Please email [HVescorts@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:HVescorts@nhvr.gov.au) or call 0417 091 454.

At the end of the day, cranes (especially large cranes) are uncommon compared to the everyday freight and haulage traffic that the general public is familiar with. Correct piloting and escorting will ensure you are best protected against the hazards of moving large machines through densely populated areas and rural roads where driving conditions are often sub optimal. By warning other road users of the over size and or slower vehicle, they provide a crucial safeguard for the operator against the all too common unpredictable behaviour we see on our roads every day. [Stay Safe -CICA](#)