



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA



18.8.510A REGULATIONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR PILOT VEHICLES

- (1) A pilot vehicle may be any passenger car or two-axle truck a minimum of 60 inches wide. The maximum manufacturer's rating for the pilot vehicle shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds. Service or mechanic trucks owned or contracted by the permittee and used as a pilot vehicle shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds. A pilot vehicle may not exceed legal limits of size and weight. Trucks used as pilot vehicles shall be clearly distinguished from and identifiable as the escort vehicle. A pilot vehicle may pull a trailer or carry any item or equipment which:
 - (a) is within legal limits of size and weight;
 - (b) allows an unobstructed view of the flashing lights and signs used by the pilot vehicle;
 - (c) complies with all state traffic laws; and
 - (d) possesses current registration and valid insurance.
- (2) Service or mechanic trucks used as a pilot vehicle must not have a utility box which extends above the cab more than 12 inches or beyond the width of the cab more than 6 inches on either side.
- (3) A sign with the words "oversize load" or similar wording shall be visible from the front of the vehicle and rear of the vehicle at all times when piloting an oversize load. Letters shall not be less than 8 inches in height. The letters shall be black in color on a yellow colored background with the exception of digital signs. When not being operated as a pilot vehicle, signs must be removed.
- (4) Flashing amber lights, visible 360 degrees, shall be mounted at each end of a sign with the words "oversize load" or similar wording, on the roof of the pilot vehicle. A revolving or strobe light may be substituted for flashing lights. Lights shall be flashing at all times when piloting an oversize load.
- (5) All pilot vehicles shall be equipped with two-way communication.
- (6) Pilot vehicles must remain within 1,000 feet of the permitted vehicle or load.

Authorizing statute(s): 61-10-155, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 61-10-102, 61-10-121, 61-10-122, 61-10-123, 61-10-124, MCA

History: NEW, 1988 MAR p. 1704, Eff. 7/29/88; AMD, 1991 MAR p. 2219, Eff. 11/15/91; AMD, 1994 MAR p. 1148, Eff. 4/29/94; AMD, 2006 MAR p. 206, Eff. 1/27/06; AMD, 2012 MAR p. 1350, Eff. 7/13/12; AMD, 2013 MAR p. 839, Eff. 5/24/13; AMD, 2016 MAR p. 312, Eff. 2/20/16; AMD, 2020 MAR p. 1626, Eff. 8/29/20.