ROADS AUTHORITY
CNR. MANDUME NDEMUFAYO AVENUE
& DAVID HOSEA MERORO ROAD
SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL AREA
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

SAFE ROADS TO PROSPERITY

Our Ref: 16/8
Location: 2014 \ RL06 \ Admin \ Correspondence Out
Your Ref:

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16 July 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

PUBLIC NOTICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH VEHICLE MASS AND DIMENSION LIMITS AND THE USE OF WEIGHBRIDGES

The Roads Authority wishes to remind all truck operators, transporters and logistics companies of their legal obligation to ensure that vehicles operating on public roads comply with the prescribed axle load, gross vehicle mass and dimensional limits before commencing any journey.

Recent incidents have highlighted cases where vehicles travelling long distances were found to be overloaded, resulting in urgent applications for abnormal load permits only after arriving at their destinations. Such practices constitute non-compliance with applicable requirements and place unnecessary pressure on permit administration processes.

Accordingly, operators are advised as follows:

1. Submission of New Abnormal Load Permit Applications

- New abnormal load permit applications require up to three (3) working days for processing. Applications submitted before 10h00 will be prioritised for same-day processing, while applications received after 10h00 will only be collected on the following day for processing.
- To avoid unnecessary delays and administrative inconvenience, transporters must ensure that all permit applications are fully and accurately completed prior to submission.
- Incomplete permit applications will not be accepted. Transporters are therefore urged to ensure that the following information is provided in full:
  - Company name.
  - Contact details.
  - Vehicle dimensions.
  - Vehicle registration numbers.
  - Proposed route.
  - Axle configurations.
  - Mass distribution per axle group.

Established in terms of the Roads Authority Act, 1999 (Act 17 of 1999)
Board of Directors: Mr M. Kambulu (Chairperson), Dr S. Karuaihe (Deputy Chairperson), Dr R.R. Böhmer, Ms G. Xawes, Mr W. Ngashikuao, Ms C. Hengari, Mr H.K. Hamutenya

RE: PUBLIC NOTICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH VEHICLE MASS AND DIMENSION LIMITS AND THE USE OF WEIGHBRIDGES

2. Vehicle Registration Documentation

- Applicants must submit copies of valid vehicle registration documents for both the horse and trailer forming part of the abnormal load transport operation.
- The Roads Authority reserves the right to verify the registration status and particulars of all vehicles submitted as part of an application.
- Failure to provide valid registration documentation may result in the application being rejected or delayed pending verification.
- Operators remain responsible for ensuring that all vehicles used in transport operations are legally registered and licensed for use on public roads.

3. Mandatory Compliance Prior to Departure

- All truck operators must ensure that their loads and dimensions comply with the limits specified in the applicable abnormal load permit before commencing any journey. This includes verifying axle loads and gross vehicle mass at the point of origin.
- Operators must ensure that all vehicles used in the transportation of abnormal loads are roadworthy and comply with all applicable vehicle licensing, registration and road traffic requirements prior to departure.

4. Use of Weighbridges

- Truck operators are required to utilise all weighbridges situated along their approved routes to facilitate enforcement activities. Any permit holder found to have bypassed a weighbridge or otherwise violated permit conditions will be subject to the applicable legal and regulatory consequences.

5. Abnormal Load Permits

- Where a vehicle, load or dimension exceeds the prescribed limits, it is the responsibility of the operator to obtain an abnormal load permit before loading and transportation.
- Applications submitted after a journey has commenced will be regarded as non-compliance, and the operator and/or driver may be charged accordingly.
- The submission and approval of an abnormal load permit application do not absolve operators of their responsibility to provide accurate, complete, and lawful information. Any permit issued on the basis of false, misleading or incomplete information may be withdrawn, suspended or declared invalid without notice, and the operator may be subject to enforcement action.

6. No "Urgent" Processing for Non-Compliance

- While the Roads Authority remains committed to processing permit applications within the prescribed timeframes, it will not be compelled to issue "urgent" permits where operators have knowingly bypassed weighbridges or failed to undertake the necessary compliance checks before commencing a journey.

7. Risk to Infrastructure and Public Safety

- Vehicle overloading contributes significantly to pavement deterioration, bridge damage and increased road safety risks. Compliance with mass, dimension, and permit requirements is therefore essential to protect national road infrastructure and safeguard all road users.

8. Formal Requests for Emergency Applications

- All transporters seeking emergency processing of abnormal load permit applications must submit a formal written request clearly outlining the nature and justification of the emergency. Applications will be assessed and approved solely on the merits of each individual case.

9. Amendments to Abnormal Permit Specifications

- To accommodate genuine errors or subsequent changes requested by the transporter, a maximum of three (3) amendments per abnormal permit specification will be permitted.
- Amendments will not be approved where the proposed changes involve vehicle configurations, axle combinations, or the carrier's name.
- All amendment requests must be submitted formally in writing to the permit office.
- The amendment process is intended only to accommodate minor corrections or limited operational changes. Where requested amendments materially alter the original application, including substantial changes to vehicle registration numbers, dimensions, masses, routes, carriers, vehicle configurations, axle combinations or other operational parameters, the Roads Authority may require the submission of a new abnormal load permit application. Requests that effectively constitute a new application will not be processed as amendments.
- Repeated amendment requests that undermine the integrity of the original application or create discrepancies between the permit and the approved specifications may be declined. Operators are therefore encouraged to ensure that applications are complete and accurate at the time of initial submission.

10. Safety Precautions

- Transport operators must avoid operating vehicles in tightly packed convoys. Such arrangements present significant road safety hazards by impeding traffic flow, reducing overtaking opportunities and increasing risks to other road users.
- All cargo must be properly secured, balanced and tied down prior to departure. Effective load securement is essential to prevent load movement and maintain safe transport operations.
- Due to the extensive blind spots associated with abnormal vehicles, operators are required to exercise heightened situational awareness at all times, including continuous mirror monitoring and early signalling of intended manoeuvres.

- Drivers must adjust vehicle speeds appropriately, taking into account prevailing traffic conditions, blind spots, construction zones, road conditions, and adverse weather, in order to ensure the safety of all road users.

The Roads Authority remains committed to facilitating efficient transport operations while ensuring regulatory compliance. Operators are encouraged to plan their logistics requirements proactively and to engage with permit offices well in advance of any intended transportation activities.

Yours faithfully,

MBAHUPU HIPPY TJIVIKUA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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