

761—511.20(321E) Escorting.

511.20(1) Escort qualifications. To qualify as an escort or an escorting vehicle, the following requirements apply:

- a. The escort is a person aged 18 or over who possesses a valid driver’s license that allows driving unaccompanied and who carries proof of public liability insurance in the amounts of \$100,000/\$200,000/\$50,000.
- b. The escorting vehicle is a midsize automobile or motor truck with sufficient mobility to be able to assist in an emergency and designed to afford clear and unobstructed vision both front and rear. The escorting vehicle cannot be used to tow a trailer while performing escorting duties. In questionable cases, the permit-issuing authority is authorized to determine if a vehicle meets these conditions.
- c. The escorting vehicle has a flashing or strobe amber light that is visible for at least 500 feet and provides 360° warning. While escorting a permit load, the light is mounted on top of the escort vehicle and is burning. Additional escort vehicle markings may be approved or required by the permit-issuing authority.
- d. An 18-inch by 18-inch red or orange fluorescent flag is mounted on each corner of the front bumper of the escorting vehicle.
- e. The escort remains a distance of approximately 300 feet in front or to the rear of the load. However, when traveling within the corporate limits of a city, the escort maintains a reasonable and proper distance consistent with existing traffic conditions.
- f. A separate escort accompanies each load hauled under escort.
- g. The escort obeys all traffic laws and provisions of the oversize permit for the load.
- h. The escort shall not assume responsibility for stopping traffic. An on-duty peace officer, as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1, shall be contacted to provide any necessary traffic control.
- i. Immediately prior to an escorting trip, the escort determines that the escorting vehicle is in a safe operational condition and that the dimensions of the vehicle and load are in compliance with the permit issued.
- j. A pole used for measuring vertical clearances is mounted on the front escorting vehicle. The escort is required to measure all vertical clearances whenever the height of the permitted vehicle exceeds 14 feet 6 inches up to and including 20 feet.

511.20(2) Minimum escort and warning device requirements. The following chart explains the minimum escort and warning devices required for vehicles operating under permit.

Minimum Warning Devices and Escort Requirements
For Vehicles Operating Under Permit

	Flags/Signs	Lights	Escorts	
			4-Lane	2-Lane
Length				
75'1" up to and including 85'	yes	not required	not required	not required
Over 85' up to and including 120'	yes	yes	not required	not required
Over 120'	yes	not required	rear	rear
Projections				
Front: over 25'	not required	yes	not required	not required
Rear: over 4' up to and including 10'	flags only	not required	not required	not required
Rear: over 10'	flags only	yes	not required	not required
Height				
Over 14'6" up to and including 20'	yes	not required	front with a height pole	front with a height pole
Weight				
Over 80,000 lbs	not required	not required	not required	not required
Width				
Over 8'6" up to 12'0"	yes	not required	not required	not required
Over 12'0" up to and including 14'6"	yes	not required	rear *	front *
Over 14'6" up to and including 16'6"	yes	not required	rear *	front

Over 16'6" up to and including 18'	yes	not required	rear	front
------------------------------------	-----	--------------	------	-------

*In lieu of an escort, a carrier can display an amber light or strobe light on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load.

yes = required

511.20(3) *Flags, lights and signs.* The following criteria apply to the required flags, signs and lights on an escorting vehicle:

a. Red or orange fluorescent flags at least 18" square are mounted as follows: one flag at each front corner of the towing unit, one flag at each rear corner of the load, and a flag at any additional protrusion in the width of the load.

b. A sign reading "Oversize Load," which is at least 18" high by 7' long with a minimum of 10" black letters, with a 1½" stroke, on a yellow background is used. The sign is mounted on the front bumper and on the rear of the load unless a mobile home or factory-built structure, in which case, the rear sign is mounted at least 7' above the highway surface, measuring from the bottom of the sign.

c. A flashing or strobe amber light that is visible for at least 500 feet and provides 360° warning is mounted on the towing unit and is visible from front and rear. More than one light may be necessary.

d. The flags, lights and signs are removed or covered when the vehicle is within legal dimensions.

511.20(4) *Additional escorts.* The permit-issuing authority may require additional escorts when deemed necessary.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321E.8, 321E.14, 321E.15, 321E.24 and 321E.34.

[ARC 9512C, IAB 8/20/25, effective 9/24/25]