

## Pilots and escort training and recognition

This information sheet provides a brief overview of the current pilot and escort requirements in all jurisdictions in Australia.

This information has been sourced from jurisdictional road authorities and was correct at the time of publication.

For up-to-date information, please contact the relevant state or territory road authority (Table 5).

### Background

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) provides definitions for ‘pilot vehicle’ and ‘escort vehicle’ (Table 1).

State and territory road authorities govern the requirements for becoming a pilot or escort.

The *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation* (MDL Regulation) makes requirements for pilot and escort vehicle operation, such as warning lights, warning signs, headlights, positioning of vehicles and communication.

**Table 1 HVNL definitions**

Term	Definition	Source
<b>Pilot vehicle</b>	A motor vehicle that accompanies an oversize vehicle to warn other road users of the oversize vehicle’s presence.	HVNL
<b>Escort vehicle</b>	An escort vehicle that is driven by a Police officer or another person authorised to direct traffic under an Australian road law.	HVNL

### Pilots

A pilot vehicle is used to advise other road users of the oversize vehicle or combination being used on the road, to assist with the safe movement of the vehicle or combination.

The roles and responsibilities of heavy vehicle pilots are regulated by state and territory road authorities.

In some jurisdictions, the role of a heavy vehicle pilot can include an authority to direct traffic.

Table 2 provides details of who can provide pilot services in each jurisdiction.

### Escorts

An escort is authorised to direct traffic under Australian road law.

Escort roles are performed by different authorised entities, depending on which jurisdiction they are operating in.

Table 2 provides details of who can provide escort services in each jurisdiction.

### Accreditation/Licence

Pilot accreditation is not a requirement in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales or South Australia.

Pilots in Western Australia must complete the Western Australian Heavy Vehicle Pilot Licence course.

The Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria have adopted a two-tier system that provides two levels of pilots—in Queensland this is for both pilots and escorts—with different levels of requirements and qualifications.

Table 2 shows when pilot accreditation is required and who performs the role of an escort in each jurisdiction.

**Table 2 Accreditation pilot and escort overview**

State/territory	Pilot		Escort
	Level 1	Level 2	
ACT	No		Police
NSW	No		Police
NT	No	Yes	NT Accredited Oversize Escort Operator or Police
QLD	Yes	Yes	Level 2 Escort Vehicle Driver or Police
SA	No		Police
TAS	No	Yes	Transport Safety Services or Police
VIC	No	Yes	Safety Compliance Officers (SCO)
WA	Yes		Traffic Escort Warden

## Units of competency

Where a state or territory requires accreditation or licencing to operate as a pilot or Level 2 pilot (or certified pilot or escort), the training varies depending on the state or territory and level. These requirements are outlined in Table 3.

**Table 3 Units of competency for pilots (L1 and L2) and escort (E)**

Code	Course name/ training required	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
TLIB2004	Carry out vehicle inspection	x	x	L2	x	x	L2	L2	P
TLIF3060	Control traffic as a pilot vehicle operator*	x	x	L2	x	x	L2*	L2*	P
TLIF3013	Coordinate breakdown and emergencies	x	x	L2	x	x	L2	L2	P
TLIF0075	Demonstrate awareness of interacting with other road users	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
TLIC3010	Pilot or escort oversized and/or overmassed loads	x	x	L2	* L1# L2 E	x	L2	L2	P
TLIH3002	Plan and navigate routes	x	x	E	x	x	x	x	x
TLIE3009	Use pilot and escort communication	x	x	L2	x	x	L2	L2	P
Bridge supervision		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	P
Knowledge test undertaken at issuing authority		x	x	x	L1#	x	x	x	x
Level 2 Load experience required – number of trips		x	x	10 loads greater than 4.5m wide	Minimum of 12 trips	x	Minimum of 40 oversize load movements during the 3 years	Minimum of 40 oversize load movements during the 3 years	x
Escort		x	x	10 loads piloted in a 2-pilot situation and 5 loads involving an NT Accredited Oversize Escort Operator or Authorised Officer (Police).	Minimum of 12 trips	x	x	x	x
Driver's licence: – Provisional or above (PR) – Full licence (F)		PR	PR	F	F	PR	F	F	F
*Refresher course every three years									
# In Queensland, Level 1 pilot must complete one of either the knowledge test or the TLIC3010. TLIC3010 must be completed prior to obtaining Level 2 escort accreditation.									

## Working interstate and mutual recognition of pilots and escorts

Different requirements exist for pilots and escorts operating interstate.

Table 4 provides an overview of requirements for pilots and escorts when operating in a visiting state or territory. For additional information, please contact the relevant jurisdiction road authority (Table 5)

**Table 4 Mutual recognition conditions**

State/territory	Recognition
ACT, NSW, SA	Must hold appropriate level licence.
NT	<p><b>Level 1</b> Mutual recognition is not required for Level 1 pilots (for loads up to 3.5m wide), as there is no formal training or accreditation required by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL). A person with an appropriate driver's licence from a state or another territory may carry out the duties of a Level 1 pilot in the NT, provided their vehicle complies with the requirements in the <a href="#">NT Permit Guidelines for Oversize and Overmass Vehicles</a></p> <p><b>Level 2</b> No recognition – must hold NT accreditation and authorisation to display a traffic control device. Applications must be made to DIPL via the <a href="#">Application/Renewal – Oversize Load Pilot/Escort Vehicle Operator Appointment (VS9)</a></p> <p>Note that if a Level 2 pilot accredited in a state or another territory has already completed equivalent training requirements, training may be recognised by DIPL as part of an application.</p> <p><b>NT Escort</b> No recognition – must hold NT accreditation. Applications must be made to DIPL via the <a href="#">Application/Renewal – Oversize Load Pilot/Escort Vehicle Operator Appointment (VS9)</a></p>
QLD	<p><b>Pilot/escort vehicle driver from a state that has formal accreditation</b> Level 1 pilot vehicle drivers and level 2 escort vehicle drivers who are registered or licensed or certified or accredited in another state or territory (e.g. Northern Territory, Victoria and Western Australia) may operate under the <a href="#">Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland</a> provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the operation is restricted to the level of authority for which they are permitted to operate in their home state or territory; and</li> <li>they hold and have held for a total of at least 3 years during the 5 years before the day of entry into Queensland, a provisional or open licence to drive the motor vehicle; and</li> <li>operations are conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in the Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland; and</li> <li>Level 1 pilot vehicle drivers and Level 2 escort vehicle drivers provide evidence of achieved competency (including the ability to perform traffic control duties if a Level 2 escort vehicle driver) if requested to do so by an authorised officer.</li> </ol> <p><b>Pilot/escort vehicle drivers with no formal accreditation</b> Pilot vehicle drivers who reside in a jurisdiction that does not have a formal accreditation (such as the ACT, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania) are only permitted to carry out Level 1 pilot operations in Queensland provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the journey has commenced outside of Queensland; and</li> <li>they hold and have held for a total of at least 3 years during the 5 years before the day of entry into Queensland, a provisional or open licence to drive the motor vehicle; and</li> <li>they currently reside in the state or territory in which their driver licence was issued; and</li> <li>operations are conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in the Guideline for Pilot and Escort Operations in Queensland; and</li> <li>they comply with the mass or dimension exemption (for oversize heavy vehicles movements) issued under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (Queensland) Act; and</li> <li>they can provide evidence that they normally carry out pilot or escort operations as a means of earning a livelihood in their home state or territory (e.g. a letter from their employer on business letterhead), if requested by a Transport and Main Roads transport inspector or Queensland Police officer; and</li> <li>they only pilot a load going out of Queensland (a return journey) with the same transport company for which they piloted a load into Queensland.</li> </ol>
TAS, VIC	<p>Western Australian, Northern Territory and Queensland Level 2 pilots have mutual recognition provided they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hold a current qualification in their state of origin; and</li> <li>have successfully completed the traffic control competency within the past three years (TLIF3060 – Control traffic as a pilot vehicle operator) before they operate as a Certified Pilot in Victoria.</li> </ol>
WA	No recognition – must hold Western Australian accreditation.

## Additional information

For more information on piloting and escorting, please contact your jurisdictional road authority (Table 5).

**Table 5 State and territory road authority contact details**

State/territory	Website
ACT	Phone: (02) 6207 6565 Email: <a href="mailto:nhvract@act.gov.au">nhvract@act.gov.au</a> Website: <a href="https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths">https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths</a>
NSW	Website: <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/oversize-overmass/index.html">http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/oversize-overmass/index.html</a>
NT	Phone : 08 8999 3148 Fax: 08 8951 5181 Email: <a href="mailto:mvrpermits@nt.gov.au">mvrpermits@nt.gov.au</a> Website: <a href="https://nt.gov.au/driving/heavy/oversize-or-overmass-vehicles/oversize-load-pilot-operator-apply-or-renew">https://nt.gov.au/driving/heavy/oversize-or-overmass-vehicles/oversize-load-pilot-operator-apply-or-renew</a>
QLD	Website: <a href="https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Business-and-industry/Accreditations/Pilot-and-escort-vehicle-driver.aspx">https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Business-and-industry/Accreditations/Pilot-and-escort-vehicle-driver.aspx</a>
SA	Website: <a href="https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/heavy-vehicles/operating-a-heavy-vehicle/oversize-and-overmass-vehicles">https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/heavy-vehicles/operating-a-heavy-vehicle/oversize-and-overmass-vehicles</a>
TAS	Phone: (03) 6777 1936 Email: <a href="mailto:transport.safety@stategrowth.tas.gov.au">transport.safety@stategrowth.tas.gov.au</a>
VIC	Website: <a href="https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/escort-and-pilot-vehicles">https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/heavy-vehicle-industry/escort-and-pilot-vehicles</a>
NHVR VIC Escorts	Phone: 0417 091 454 Email: <a href="mailto:HVEscorts@nhvr.gov.au">HVEscorts@nhvr.gov.au</a> Visit <a href="#">National Services Transition</a> page for more information on NHVR Escorts.
WA	Phone: 138 486 Fax: (08) 9475 8455 Email: <a href="mailto:pilots@mainroads.wa.gov.au">pilots@mainroads.wa.gov.au</a> Website: <a href="https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/HVS/Pages/pilots.aspx">https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/HVS/Pages/pilots.aspx</a>

### For more information:

Visit: [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au)  
 Subscribe: [www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe)  
 Email: [info@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:info@nhvr.gov.au)  
 Phone: 1300 MYNHVR\* (1300 696 487)

\*Standard 1300 call charges apply. Please check with your phone provider.  
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