

FAQs on Abnormal or Indivisible Loads

RSA

What is an abnormal load? It is a load which exceeds the weight, height, width or length limit(s) outlined in [S.I. No. 5 of 2003](#) of Road Traffic Construction Equipment and Use of Vehicles Regulations 2003.

What is an abnormal indivisible load (AIL)? It is a load which cannot be divided or broken down e.g. containers, large equipment etc. and exceeds the weight, height, width or length limit(s) set out in the above road traffic regulation.

How do I know if the load I am transporting exceeds the legal limits?

Depending on the vehicle or combination of vehicles and their design specification the limits differ. You can refer to our [weights and dimensions](#) information note which outlines the maximum legal weight, height, length and width limits for various vehicles or combinations.

I need to transport an abnormal load. What are the steps? You need to apply for an abnormal loads permit from either An Garda Síochána (AGS) or the [local authority](#) or in some cases both. An AGS permit applies to loads not exceeding 27.4 m in length and 4.3 m in width on [designated roads](#). All other abnormal loads require a local authority permit.

How do I know which permit to apply for?

Dimensions	Vehicle + Load	Type of permit needed
Height	Over 4.65 m	Local authority permit
	Over 4.65 m – agricultural baled* produce only	No permit needed
Length	27.4 m or less	An Garda Síochána permit for designated routes only. Local authority permit needed for non-designated routes.
	Over 27.4 m	Local authority
Width	4.3 m or less	An Garda Síochána permit for designated routes only. Local authority permit needed for non-designated routes.
	Over 4.3 m	Local authority
Weight	Exceeds maximum weights outlined in regulations	Local authority

**There is no height limit on agricultural baled produce e.g. hay, straw etc.*

Where can I find an application form for an abnormal loads permit? To view or download an AGS permit click [here](#). Application forms for local authorities differ from county to county, so to contact them click [here](#).

What happens if I am transporting an abnormal load both on a designated route and on local roads? You will need to apply to AGS for the designated route (see table above). Then you will need to apply to each local authority through whose area you are travelling.

I am transporting an abnormal load on local roads through two counties. Do I have to apply to both local authorities? Currently yes, however it is planned that this system will be updated and you will be able to apply for one permit to cover both counties.

How much does an abnormal load permit cost? AGS permits are free of charge. Local authority permits vary from county to county and depend on whether it is a daily, monthly or annual permit. You will need to contact your local authority directly.

What is the height limit for agricultural bales or baled produce? There is no height limit for baled produce e.g. hay, silage, straw etc. however the load must not exceed the vehicle's design gross vehicle weight and or individual axle weight limits. See our [weights and dimensions](#) leaflet for more information. In addition under road traffic law the bales must be [properly loaded](#) so that they are not liable to fall off, drag or cause danger to other road users and the load must be distributed in such a way that it is not likely to destabilise the vehicle.