

APRAS Announcement for Certified Escorts for Superloads

[Act 55 of 2015](#) authorized the use of Certified Escort Vehicles (CEV) for the movement of certain permitted superloads within the Commonwealth. In these instances, CEVs will be authorized to escort superloads in lieu of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP).

This legislation required that (1) the driver of a CEV must be certified and licensed by PennDOT, and (2) the Department shall establish criteria for CEVs and for determining certification and licensing of CEV drivers and publish this information on the Department's website.

Information on the CEV driver application process will be posted on the Department's [Hauling Permit Information website](#) by October 1, 2016. Although the final details of the program are not yet complete, the Department can provide the following preliminary information on the anticipated Certified Escort program:

1. CEV driver applicants must be at least 21 years old, have at least 3 years' experience escorting oversized/overweight loads, and have a valid Commonwealth of Pennsylvania driver license or valid license in other state or jurisdiction of residence.
2. CEV driver applicants must complete a classroom-based CEV training program to be offered by PennDOT. This course will be modeled after the Pilot Car Escort Training Manual developed by FHWA, CVSA and SCRA.FHWA-HOP-04-028 October 2004. PennDOT may recognize the completion of training through another state's Escort Certification program.
3. CEV driver applicants must possess documentation of completion of a defensive driving course approved by the National Safety Council or an equivalent course.
4. CEV driver applicants must possess documentation of completion of a Flagger Training Course (See PennDOT Publication 408 Section 901.3(y))
5. A vehicle operating as a CEV must be a legal sized passenger car and possess specific equipment (consistent with CFR Title 49, Section 393.95 regarding Emergency Equipment and the MUTCD where applicable)
6. CEV's will be used under the following conditions:
 - When loads do not exceed 16' wide
 - When loads do not exceed 230' long
 - When loads move within established traffic patterns
7. PSP will escort superloads when the above conditions are exceeded or when the Department along with PSP decide it is the interest of public safety to utilize a PSP escort.
8. The use of CEVs will be phased in over time to establish a pool of certified escort drivers and to ensure public safety.
9. All fees associated with obtaining and maintaining CEV certification will be the responsibility of the applicant.

For more information, please contact the Central Permit Office at 717-787-4680 or RA-pdCenPermitOfc@pa.gov.