



**SUBJECT: Application Process for Overweight or Oversize Fire Apparatus Used for Public Fire Control Operations**

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Regional CVSE Managers  
Commercial Transport Insp.  
(Inspection Stations)

Law Enforcement Agencies  
BC Fire Departments

BC MoT Bridge Branch  
BC Municipalities

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**PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR**

To notify municipalities, cities, towns, regional districts, firetruck manufacturers and other interested parties of updates to BC's firetruck permit policies and processes. This Circular replaces Circular 05/09.

Depending on the size and weight of a firetruck, there are different 'levels' of authorization for its operation by a municipality or other public authority:

1. **Legal vehicles:** A firetruck that fits within the truck allowances set out in Division 7 of the Commercial Transport Regulations does not need a permit to operate on provincial highways.
2. **Policy-compliant firetrucks:** A new permit policy for firetrucks can be found in **Section 5.3.18, Chapter 5** of the Commercial Transport Procedures Manual. The policy is attached to this Circular as **Appendix A**. If the firetruck fits within the dimensions and weights shown in the policy, no additional approvals are needed: the registered owner of the firetruck can contact the Provincial Permit Centre at 1-800-559-9688 for permits. No fees are charged for permits issued to municipalities. For parties that are not public authorities, Section 5.3.18 shows the maximum weights and dimensions allowed for firetrucks.
3. **Custom permits for oversize/overweight municipal firetrucks:** Municipalities should use Form **CVSE1040** to request approval for firetruck weights and dimensions that exceed the policy described in #2, above. The new application form is attached to this Circular as **Appendix B**. It is important to note that permits resulting from these applications may limit, prohibit, or provide directions respecting the use of provincial roadway routes by a person or authority operating or in charge of the fire apparatus. The likelihood of having such conditions on the permit increases the more the vehicle being applied for exceeds the dimension and weight allowances described in #2, above. Holders of these permits are advised to consult CVSE prior to adding new equipment to the fire apparatus covered under the custom permit, in case adjustments to the permit will be required. If the vehicle no longer meets the specifications described in the custom permit, the permit is void.

## **CUSTOM PERMIT RENEWALS AND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR DELIVERY**

This section will address:

- Renewal of the custom approvals described in #3, above; and
- Requirements for carriers and manufacturers to use when requesting a Letter of Authorization for delivery of one of the firetrucks described in #3, above, to a municipality or other authority responsible for public fire control operations.

### **Custom Firetruck Permit Renewal Requests:**

It is recommended that renewal requests are submitted a minimum of 90 days prior to the current permit's expiry. The municipality or other authority responsible for public fire control must submit a new weigh scale certificate/slip from a certified weigh scale, showing the fully loaded operational axle weights, to [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca) for review. Any discrepancy from the weights in the previous LOA may result in the need for new structural analysis along the proposed route(s), which may delay the renewal process.

### **Letter of Authorization (LOA) Requests for Delivery Purposes:**

A primary or secondary vehicle manufacturer, or a carrier, may apply for an LOA to be able to obtain single trip overweight permits to deliver an overweight fire apparatus to a municipality or other authority responsible for public fire control operations, provided the application for permit from that municipality or authority has already been approved. Delivery routes should be limited to shortest possible route from borders, manufacturer and dealer locations.

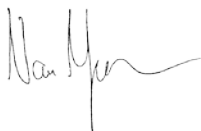
These requests are to be submitted to [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca) and shall include:

- Detailed vehicle information, as described in Form **CVSE1040**,
- Detailed routing information
- A copy of the custom permit issued to the municipality or other public authority responsible for public fire operations, or a letter or email from that municipality or other authority demonstrating an understanding of the need to apply for a permit.

## **BACKGROUND**

Fire apparatus, particularly new firetrucks used as aerial bucket or ladder trucks, regularly exceed provincial permit policy axle weights when fully outfitted for fire operations. Overweight vehicle(s) have a direct impact on MOTI's ability to provide a safe roadway network. Therefore, to meet MOTI's obligations while providing fire protection to the public, a permit with conditions will be issued to fire apparatus that exceed legal and policy axle weights.

Yours truly,

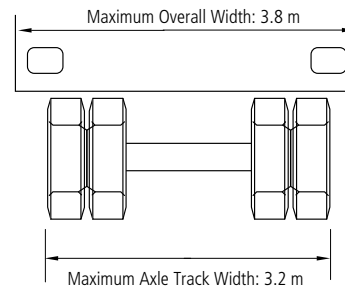
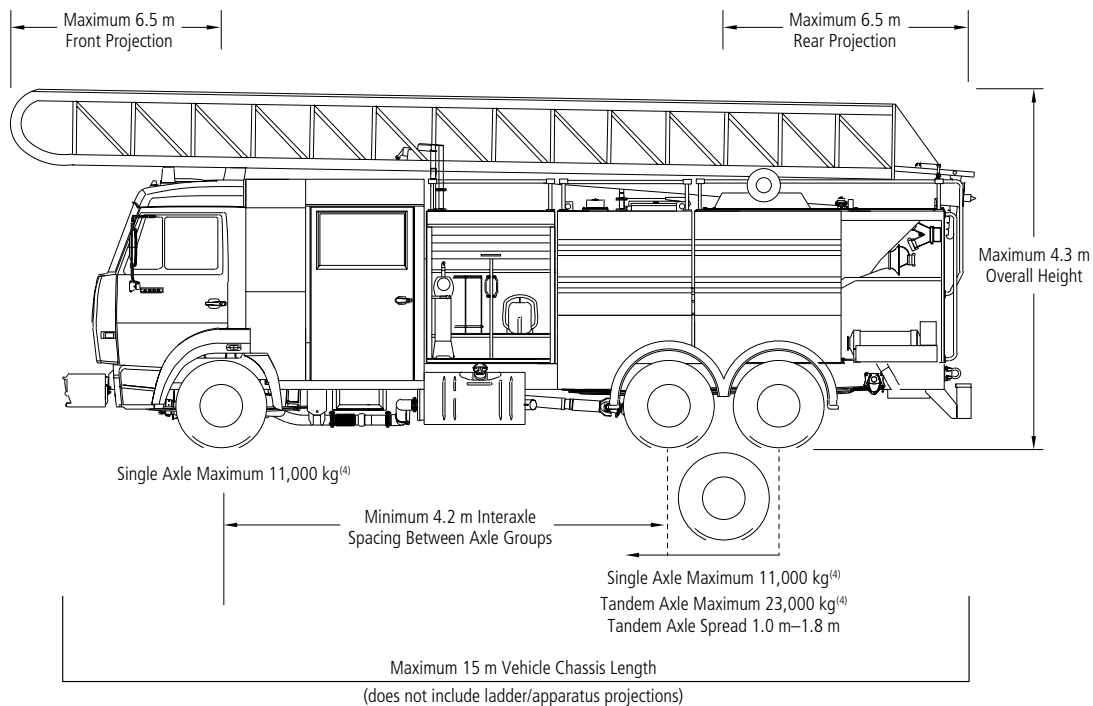


Nam Nguyen  
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Attachment: **Appendix A** – New Permit Policy for Firetrucks, from Section 5.3.18, [Chapter 5](#),  
Commercial Transport Procedures Manual  
**Appendix B** – Link to Form [CVSE1040](#)

5.3 OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES

5.3.18.A Municipal Fire Trucks



NOTES:

1. Bridge Formula applies to all axles, Maximum Permitted Weight = axle spacing (in cm) x 30 + 18,000 kg.
2. Legal Single axle weight maximum without permit is 9,100kg. Legal Tandem axle group maximum weight without a permit is 17,000 kg.
3. All weights subject to original equipment manufacturer gross vehicle weight, axle and tire rating.
4. Maximum 110 kg/cm tire width loading:

Single Tire		Dual Tire	
Tire Width (mm)	Max. Axle Load	Tire Width (mm)	Max. Axle Load
385	8,470 kg	235	10,340 kg
425	9,350 kg	245	10,780 kg

**Non-Compliant Fire Trucks**

For municipal fire trucks that do not comply with the dimensions and weights as outlined in this section, please refer to Compliance Circular No. 05/19

[www.cvse.ca/CTPM/Com\\_Circulars/2009/090615\\_comp\\_circular\\_05-19.pdf](http://www.cvse.ca/CTPM/Com_Circulars/2009/090615_comp_circular_05-19.pdf)

These special permits are issued out of the Commercial Transport Office in Victoria and are ONLY available for B.C. municipal fire trucks.



FIRETRUCK APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES

This application form is to be used by municipalities, cities, towns and regional districts only, for firetrucks that exceed the weights and/or dimensions set out in Section 5.3.18, Chapter 5, Commercial Transport Procedures Manual. Firetrucks operated by other parties must not exceed the dimensions and weights set out in Section 5.3.18. Carriers seeking to deliver firetrucks to municipalities must apply for a special permit, using this form. See Circular 05-19 for more information. An approval resulting from this application will be valid on provincial infrastructure only.

Applicant Name and Contact Information (Municipality or other Public Authority)

Name of Municipality:
Contact Person:
Phone: Email:
Address that the firetruck will operate from:

Area of operation: Please attach location and "radial" route information for the primary response area, including diagrams/maps showing the provincial roadways and maximum distances.

If the vehicle is intended to be used in a mutual response area, please include that information in a separate attachment, including diagrams/maps.

Vehicle Description

Year: Make:
Model: VIN:
Total number of axles on the vehicle:

Vehicle Weight Information, in kg:

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)
The original equipment manufacturer's maximum weight rating for the entire vehicle:
Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) - Steer Axle
The original equipment manufacturer's rating for maximum weight on the steer axle (Axle 1):
Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) - Rear Axle Group
The original equipment manufacturer's rating for maximum weight on the rear axle(s) (Axle 2 or 2+3):

Weigh scale slip: Please attach a weigh scale certificate/slip from a certified weigh scale or manufacturer's certified weight estimates showing fully loaded operational axle weights.



Tire Information:

Number of tires on the steer axle (Axle 1): \_\_\_\_\_

Size of tires on the steer axle (Axle 1): \_\_\_\_\_

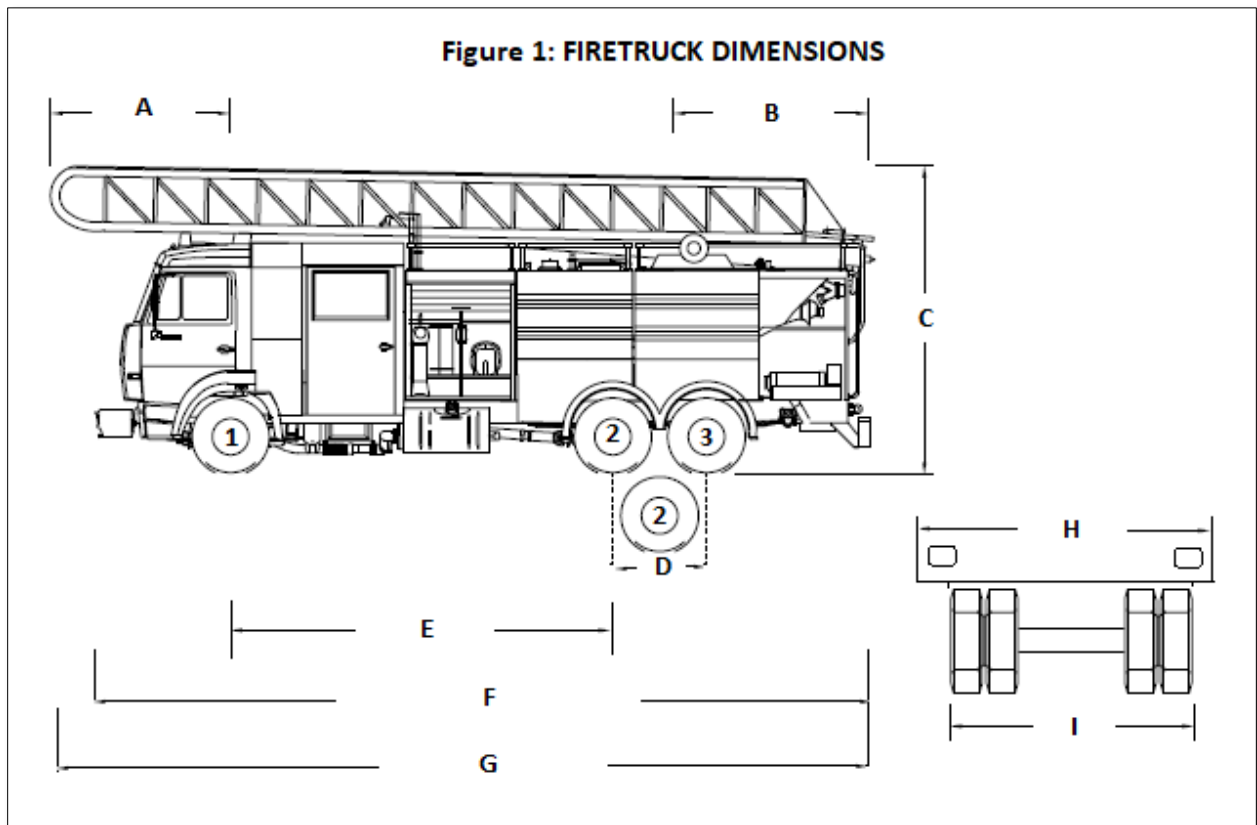
Tire load rating for front tires, in kg: \_\_\_\_\_  
The original equipment manufacturer's rating for maximum weight on each front tire

Number of tires on the rear axle group (Axle 2 or 2+3): \_\_\_\_\_

Size of tires on the rear axle group (Axle 2 or 2+3): \_\_\_\_\_

Tire load rating for the rear axle group, in kg: \_\_\_\_\_  
The original equipment manufacturer's rating for maximum weight on each rear tire

Vehicle Dimensions, in metric:



**A:** Front projection, measured from the centre of the steer axle \_\_\_\_\_

**B:** Rear projection, measured from the centre of the rear axle or axle group \_\_\_\_\_

**C:** Overall height, measured from the pavement to the highest point of the vehicle in travel mode \_\_\_\_\_

**D:** Axle spread on the rear axles, if applicable, measured from the centre of Axle 2 to the centre of Axle 3 \_\_\_\_\_



- E:** Interaxle spacing, measured from the centre of Axle 1 (the steer axle) to the centre of Axle 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- F:** Length of the vehicle, measured without overhead apparatus \_\_\_\_\_
- G:** Overall length of the vehicle including overhead apparatus \_\_\_\_\_
- H:** Overall width of the vehicle, measured from widest point to widest point, excluding mirrors \_\_\_\_\_
- I:** Axle track width, measured from the outside face of the outside tire on one side to the outside face of the outside tire on the opposite side of the vehicle, at any point above the lowest point of the rim \_\_\_\_\_

**Timelines and processes:**

Information provided on this application form will allow MOTI Bridge and Vehicle Engineers to carry out analysis on the provincially owned structures and road geometry that exist along the proposed route(s). Applicants should seek separate authorization for travel on roads that are not under provincial jurisdiction (i.e. from the municipalities in which they will need to operate). After provincial analysis is complete, MOTI will provide a permit for operation on provincial highways, which will be valid for a three-year period.

It is important to note that the permit may limit, prohibit, or provide directions respecting the use of provincial roadway routes by a person or authority operating or in charge of the fire apparatus. The likelihood of having such conditions on the permit increases the more the vehicle being applied for exceeds the dimension and weight allowances set out in Section 5.3.18, [Chapter 5](#), of the Commercial Transport Procedures Manual.

If you have questions about how to complete this application package, please contact [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca), (250) 953-4017.

It is recommended these requests be submitted well in advance of the delivery of the fire apparatus if possible, to prevent any delays in obtaining authorization to utilize the new equipment on provincial roadways. Complete application packages should be submitted to [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca)

**Authorized Signature for the Applicant**

**Date (mm/dd/yyyy)**

**Mandatory Attachments to Include:**

1. Primary Response Area Information, including diagrams/maps
2. Mutual Response Area Information, if applicable, including diagrams/maps
3. Weigh Scale Slip - *certificate/slip from a certified weigh scale or manufacturer's certified weight estimates showing fully loaded operational axle weights*