

# Extended Semi-Trailer Pilot Project

## GUIDELINES

Nova Scotia Department of  
Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal  
January 8, 2020  
(Revised September 1, 2020)

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[novascotia.ca/tran](http://novascotia.ca/tran)

## Table of Contents

Overview .....	2
Submission of Interest .....	2
Permitting .....	2
Additional Information Required .....	2
General Conditions .....	3
Operational Conditions .....	3
Equipment Conditions .....	3
Carrier Conditions .....	4
Driver Conditions .....	4
Freight Conditions .....	4
Collision Notification .....	4
Evaluation of Pilot Project .....	5

## Overview

The Government of Nova Scotia's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal) is soliciting interest from carriers to test the suitability of Extended Semi-Trailers (up to 18.45 metres) on provincial infrastructure. Under this Pilot, a limited number of permits will be issued which will allow a carrier to use an extended semi-trailer, provided that the maximum length of the configuration does not exceed 23 metres.

## Submission of Interest

Interest for participating in the Pilot Project for Extended Semi-Trailers can be sent to Access Nova Scotia – Special Move Permits along with the following details:

- Detailed route description for where the vehicle will be traveling
- The frequency of travel
- Any other permits held by the carrier for the same route
- Approximate arrival and departure times
- Completed Carrier Company Agent Permission Form

Access Nova Scotia – Special Move Permits Contact

Email: [smp@novascotia.ca](mailto:smp@novascotia.ca)

Phone: 902-424-5851

## Permitting

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will issue annual permits to approved carriers. A permit is required for each tractor participating in the pilot. The annual permit fee for the pilot project can be found on the Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services website. The fee is to be paid upon approval of the permit.

## Additional Information Required

As part of the approval process the carrier and/or shipper may be required to submit some or all of the following information:

- Operational Details
  - o Registered owner of the tractor and trailer
  - o Carrier name
  - o Contact person
  - o Telephone
  - o Fax
  - o E-Mail Address
  - o Street Address
  - o City
  - o Postal Code
  - o Province
  - o Insurance Company
  - o Policy Number
- Tractor Details
  - o Year
  - o Make

- License Plate Number
- Province
- Full Serial Number
- Horsepower
- Torque
- ABS
- ESC
- Speed Recording Device
- Vehicle Length
- Wheelbase
- Route Details
  - Origin
  - Detailed Route Description (including road names and exit numbers)
  - Civic Addresses of Stop(s)
  - Frequency of travel
  - Approximate arrival and departure times.

## General Conditions

- Permits will be valid for one year.
- The permit must be in the possession of the driver
- The vehicle must report to all compliance stations
- For roads not owned by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal the carrier must have approval from the Municipality who owns the road
- The carrier will be held responsible for all damages
- The permit cannot be combined with any other permit for width, height, length, or weight

## Operational Conditions

- The permitted vehicle must not deviate from the specified route except for emergencies.
- When the speed of the vehicle travelling on the highway network drops to 70 km/h or less the driver must manually turn on 4-way flashing lights.
- The maximum speed shall be the lesser of 100 km/h or the posted speed limit.

## Equipment Conditions

- Extended semi-trailers may have a maximum overall length of 18.45 metres.
- Tractors hauling Extended Semi-Trailers must have a wheelbase between 5.0 metres and 5.5 metres.
- All other weights and dimensions must conform to the requirements of the Weights and Dimensions of Vehicles Regulations (N.S. Reg 137/2001).
- The trailer must display a "Wide Right Turns" sign, with a minimum size of 800 cm<sup>2</sup>, mounted between 1.2 m and 2.0 m above the road surface at the rear of the trailer. In a container chassis, running empty, the sign may be mounted as low as 0.70 m above the road surface.
- The tractor and trailer must be equipped with a functioning ABS, compliant with Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 121.
- The tractor must be equipped with a functioning Electronic Stability Control system that, as a minimum, monitors steering angle, yaw and lateral acceleration and selectively applies the tractor and semitrailer brakes when necessary to maintain vehicle control.

- The tractor must be equipped with a functioning and accurate electronic on-board device that records speed, time and date at regular intervals not exceeding 5 minutes in length. The speed recording device must be a Global Position Satellite (GPS) or similar tracking system and must display in a legible table, including rows and columns. Tachograph and tachograph charts are not acceptable speed recording devices. Data from this device must be retained for at least 90 days.

## Carrier Conditions

- Carriers must have and maintain a Carrier Safety Rating of Satisfactory, Unaudited, or better.
- Carriers and/or shippers agree to maintain a record of each trip under an Extended Semi-Trailer permit.
- Recorded information will include: Date and time of trip, permit number used for the trip, origin and all stops for the trip, route taken, and kilometres travelled.
- Each month's recorded information will be provided to the Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy Branch of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal using a provided Microsoft Excel document within 10 business days of the month's end.

## Driver Conditions

- Drivers must have a valid Nova Scotia Class 1 driver's license with Air Brake endorsement, or equivalent from another jurisdiction.
- Drivers must have a minimum of 5 years of tractor semi-trailer driving experience.
- Carriers may be requested to provide documentation to support their driver's qualifications.

## Freight Conditions

- Dangerous goods as regulated by the Dangerous Goods Transportation Act and regulations are to be limited to non-placard able amounts.
- Livestock are not permitted to be transported.
- The load on the Extended Semi-Trailer should be assembled to prevent cargo movement.

## Collision Notification

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will use the information provided on Service Nova Scotia collision reporting form as completed by the appropriate police officer. However, to complete a full analysis of an extended semi-trailer collision, additional data must be provided to the Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy Branch of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal by the carrier within 48 hours of the incident. This information will be subject to the same confidentiality agreements as the form completed by the police. The data to be provided include:

1. GVW of unit at time of collision
2. Cargo type
3. Description of load and placement of load on the trailer of the unit
4. Copy of on-board speed record at time of accident
5. Copy of Driver's license
6. Description of vehicle trip (e.g. origin and time of trip start, route to destination)
7. Copy of the driver's log book for this trip
8. Tractor and trailer registration numbers
9. Driver's description of weather along route and at collision site

10. Driver's experience on Extended Semi-Trailers. Estimate Extended Semi-Trailer trips and total distance driven.
11. Any additional information that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal deems relevant to their investigation.

## Evaluation of Pilot Project

Evaluation of this pilot project will be performed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to determine how to proceed with the Extended Semi-Trailer configuration. Evaluation will include data from: recorded information provided by the carrier and/or shipper, comments or concerns raised by the public, municipalities, or other stakeholders, collision data, potential reduction in truck trips, impact of using the current loading/unloading facilities, or any other relevant data sources that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal deem relevant for decision making purposes.