



# ADVISORY DOCUMENT FOR CARNIVAL ESCORT VEHICLES



## Introduction

At a recent emergency services meeting Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Committee (BGFCC) were asked to highlight the role of escort vehicles and the important role they play in the safe movement of carts around the county.

**This pamphlet is written as an advisory document only and does not constitute any rules or regulations of BGFCC.**

Responsibility for movements/actions of carts and escort vehicles remains the sole responsibility of the vehicle drivers and carnival clubs.



## Purpose of the Escort Vehicle

The role of any escort vehicle is to: -

- Safely alert other road users and pedestrians to the presence of an abnormal load/cart.
- Assist the abnormal load/cart in safely negotiating the transport route.

The driver of the escort vehicle should act as the focal point with others involved in escorting the load/cart and other road users.

## Vehicle Specification

The escort vehicle must have good clear all around visibility and should be fitted with exterior mirrors on both sides.

The escort vehicle should **NOT** form any part of the units carrying or hauling the cart/trailer.

## Markings and Identification

The front of the vehicle should be marked clearly to identify that the vehicle is an "Escort vehicle" or "Escort".

Ideally the lettering will be of a minimum of 150 mm high and a width to height ratio approaching one in font Helvetica or Arial. Shadowing, italics and other lettering effects, texts or logos should not be used.

## Warning Lighting



In addition to the normal vehicle lighting requirements, the escort vehicle should be fitted with an additional flashing amber warning beacon on the roof to warn other road users/pedestrians of the presence of an abnormal load/cart.

### Warning Lighting Cont.

The only times you should use your amber warning beacons when you are: -

- Escorting a very long or wide vehicle/cart
- At the scene of an emergency.
- At or near an accident or broken-down vehicle.
- To let people know you are there.

### The Law



**Escort vehicles are subject to the same laws as other road users.**

**Failure to observe these rules could lead to prosecution by the police resulting in penalty points, fines disqualification etc.**

**Further information can be obtained from the following Web Sites: -**

[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)  
[www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk)  
[www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

### Web Sites Cont.

[www.roadsafetycouncil.com](http://www.roadsafetycouncil.com)  
[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)  
[www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

### Pre Start Checks

All drivers have a duty of care to ensure they are fit/capable to drive. This means: -

- Not being under the influence of drink/drugs.
- Not tired or feeling overly sleepy.
- Has a correct licence type for the vehicle to be driven.
- Has adequate insurance and vehicle has correct documents.
- Has discussed route and actions to be taken with all drivers with the load/cart.

Before travelling, each driver should conduct/review their risk assessment and should sign to say all vehicles have been subject to pre-start checks to ensure they in a roadworthy condition, meeting Construction & Use Regs.



New Escort Drivers should be given training/evaluation by experienced club escort drivers prior to their first escorting duties.

### Pre Start Check List

#### **Fluid Levels**

*Oil, Radiator, Power, break fluid, Steering & Washer Bottle*

#### **Tyres**

*Inflation, condition & ware including spare*

#### **Lights**

*Front & rear driving lights, indicators/hazards, brake lights & reflectors clean*

#### **Visual**

*Windows clean & not obstructed, wipers & mirrors*

#### **General**

*Body work secure, seat belts, electrics, brakes & suspension, additional signs, beacons are secure.*

#### **Documents**

*Tax, Insurance, MOT, VSO, public Liability etc*

#### **Driver**

*Are you feeling fit and able to drive?*

**Signed** .....

**Date** ..... **Registration** .....