



# BRIDGWATER GUY FAWKES CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

## CODE OF PRACTICE 2018



To enter Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival procession, all mounted entries are required by law to hold a valid and current Vehicle Special Order (VSO) licence issued by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) and be taxed and insured for use on the public highway.

### 1 DIMENSION - OVERALL SOLID CONSTRUCTION

All entries must comply with the terms of the VSO under section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, except in so far as that the order refers to the overall length and width of the vehicle construction which during the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Procession will not exceed:-

Maximum length of entry	30.48 metres (100 feet)
Maximum width of entry	3.50 metres (11.48 feet) includes walking entries
Maximum height of entry	5.00 metres (16 feet 6 inches) includes walking entries

During the procession entries must not exceed the above measurements. To enable adequate inspections of the mechanical and structural parts of each entry by both clubs and outside agencies it is recommended that all carts, decorated vehicles and generator trailers have a minimum skirt height of 200mm from the road surface at all times.

### 2 CONSTRUCTION OF CARTS

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that the construction and structure of the cart and other vehicles in the train are safe, able to withstand the stresses and strains that will be experienced during the procession and travelling. **NOTE:** Trailers must be designed for quick and safe disconnection of carts in the event of an emergency during line up or procession.

### 3 DECORATED TOWING VEHICLES

Towing vehicles **MUST** have sufficient visibility around their vehicles and/or combinations, and personnel placed on the vehicles do not obscure the driver's vision. Towing vehicles **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** in the procession where driver's movement or visibility is restricted due to the towing vehicle build up or the position of personnel.

During lining up and the procession, clubs and club members **MUST** co-operate and comply with instructions given by marshals who, under the direction of the Procession Director, are responsible for ensuring that the procession day runs smoothly and safely.

### 4 SAFETY OF PERSONNEL ON CARTS

Due care must be taken to ensure as far as reasonably practical, the safety and welfare of personnel on carts and ground crews walking with the entry, including; adequate guarding of moving parts, guarding or harnessing to prevent individuals falling from a height and prevention of individuals coming into contact with live electricity.

Any use of special effects, pyrotechnics and/or moving parts must have a detailed risk assessment with operators being suitably trained and qualified. BGFC should be notified if you wish to use such effects and relevant paperwork supplied.

Each vehicle in the train **MUST** be fitted at the rear of the mounted entry with easily accessible and suitable fire extinguishers with a valid expiry date. Each mounted entry **MUST** carry a First Aid Kit.

### 5 GROUND CREWS

The recommended number of road crew minimum age 18 years old in classes 1 – 6 are: for a 1 part entry between 5 – 7; for a 2 part entry between 7 – 9 and for a 3 part entry between 9 – 13 should you (subject to your club's risk assessment) choose to exceed these numbers please be aware that this may affect the ability for the judges to fully and fairly judge your entry. All ground crew members must be easily identifiable with two being designated "Travelling Marshals"..

A nominated club person (supported by the vehicle driver) will co-ordinate the safe movement of the towing vehicle, cart and generator when lining up prior to the procession, during the procession and following the procession to the designated parking point. This will include the safety of club personnel and the general public, with the nominated person being easily identifiable to club members and crew, procession marshals and the emergency services etc.

**NOTE: the ultimate responsibility for the vehicle train movement lies with the driver.**

A 'no-go' area must be maintained by the ground crew around the vehicle train and at all tow points to prevent access. Care must be taken with regards to personnel and public on starting off and during the movement of the vehicle train.

## **6 TOWBARS AND TOWPINS**

Tow bars and tow pins must be substantially constructed and properly fitted, having safety clips fitted to the tow pins. Safety chains must comply with VSO Regulation condition 18. Persons are not permitted to walk between towing vehicle-cart or cart-generator when the entry is moving, including electricians and sound technicians.

A solid tow bar must be available for use in the event of a breakdown to enable connection to the recovery vehicle with all decorated towing vehicles being constructed to make this easily possible.

## **7 WHEELS, TYRES AND BRAKES**

All tyres must meet the Department for Transport standards, with tractor tyres providing sufficient grip to the road surfaces to pull all vehicles in the train.

Clubs must ensure that all vehicles are equipped with adequate braking systems and that all towed units in the train meet the required standards stipulated in the VSO.

## **8 INSURANCE**

Clubs **MUST** ensure there is adequate insurance to cover: The towing vehicle (must specifically cover use in the carnival procession), third party insurance, Public Liability Claims (£5 million minimum), cart personnel and ground crews associated with vehicles train should be covered by Personal Accident Insurance.

## **9 POWER WEIGHT RATIO OF PULLING VEHICLES**

Vehicles pulling the train **MUST** be more than adequate for the task.

**AS A GUIDE:** In procession tractors pulling a total cart and generator weight of 10 tons should be of a power at least 90 BHP and for 20 tons should be at least 100 BHP.

## **10 AFTER THE PROCESSION**

Following the procession all entries will be directed over the river bridge into The Clink to unload personnel only as directed by the marshals (no uncoupling) and then proceed into Bristol Road between the Cross Rifles roundabout to Wylds Road junction to reduce to travelling length. Those not needing to break down will be directed to the left after crossing the river bridge to unload personnel and then proceed down Wylds Road.

Entries that are over the VSO maximum length of 24.5 metres (80 ft) and travelling outside the official VSO zone for Bridgwater Carnival must uncouple in Bristol Road. The VSO zone for Bridgwater Carnival is Parkway and associated roads used for the lining up, Bath Road, Monmouth Street, Broadway (Monmouth Street to Taunton Road), Taunton Road (Broadway to St Mary Street), St Mary Street, Cornhill, High Street, Penel Orliou, Mount Street, Northgate, The Clink and Bristol Road from the Cross Rifles roundabout to Wylds Road).

All entries into Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Procession must abide by this Code of Practice, the DfT and VSA regulations and the Procession Instructions issued by the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Secretary.

### **ANY CLUB FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES IS LIABLE TO DISQUALIFICATION**

On behalf of Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Committee:

President      Signed      *Malcolm Cattle*      Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Chairman      Signed      *Dave Croker*      Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

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