

# **GUIDANCE ON TRANSPORT OF OAR PROPELLED RACING BOATS**



The Amateur Rowing Association (ARA)



To be called 'British Rowing' from 26 September 2009

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)





## **FOREWORD**

In recent years there has been much debate and misunderstanding surrounding the legislation that applies to the carriage of oar-propelled racing boats on vehicles, including trailers. The main issue is the distance by which the boat projects beyond the extremities of the vehicle and the action that needs to be taken by the driver to remain within the law.

The law on the transport of abnormal loads is complex and there is an exemption that applies only to oar propelled racing boats that removes some of the requirements that apply to abnormal loads in general.

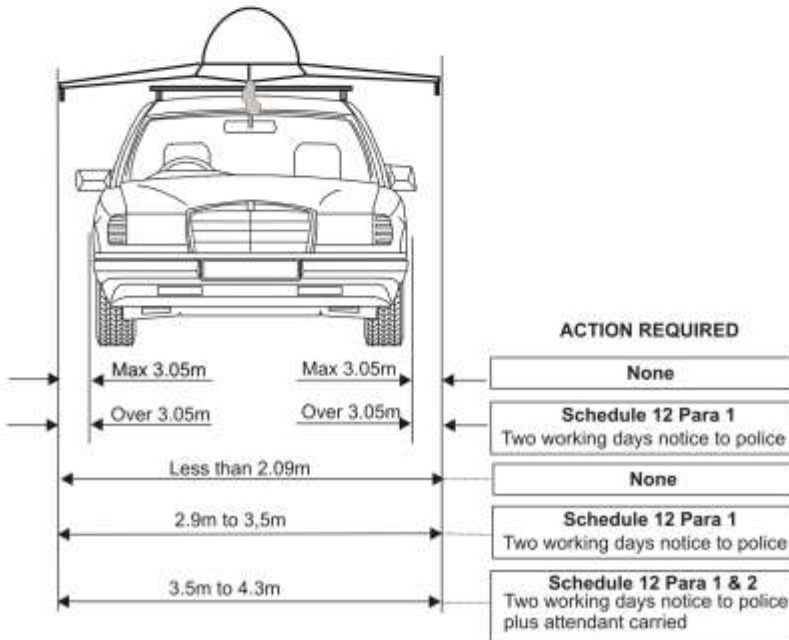
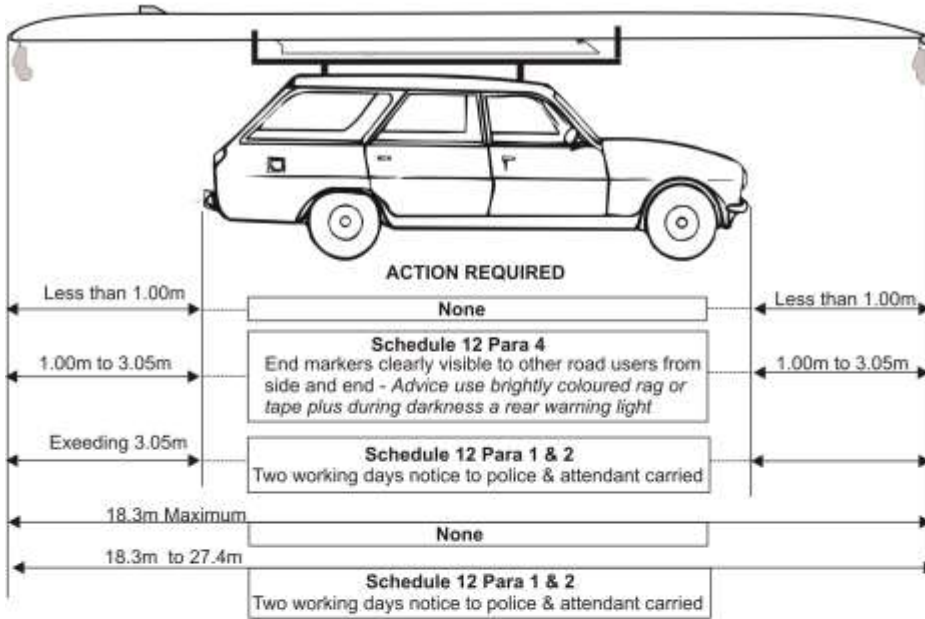
This booklet is intended to clarify this specific part of the legislation for members of the Amateur Rowing Association and police officers who come into contact with these vehicles on our roads.

Mick Giannasi  
Chief Constable  
ACPO Head of Roads Policing

## **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

The latest regulations are contained in the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986: coded '1986 No 1078'. The relevant projection information appears on pages 109 – 113 covered by Regulations 81 & 82 and Schedule 12.

**REGULATIONS RELATING TO CARRIAGE ON MOTOR VEHICLES**





There is a 'grey area' when considering trailer length. Shown in the sketch is the exact method disregarding the 'A' frame (towing device) and measuring the load supporting section. However in the case of a trailer, such as might be used to transport a sail or power boat, consisting largely of an 'A' frame type shape, then the theory of measuring from the end of the tow hitch to the rear would seem sensible. A case for common sense to be applied.

All the sketches apply to the allowance in the regulations for "if the load consists of a racing boat propelled solely by oars". If the trailer is classed as a 'special type for the transport of indivisible loads of exceptional length' then other legislation applies.

In addition, other regulations may apply; for instance in Central London, where Police permission is required for the movement between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays of loads exceeding 10.98m (36ft) in length or one and three quarter times the length of the carrying vehicle. This also applies if the rear projection exceeds 2.6m (8ft 6in).





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