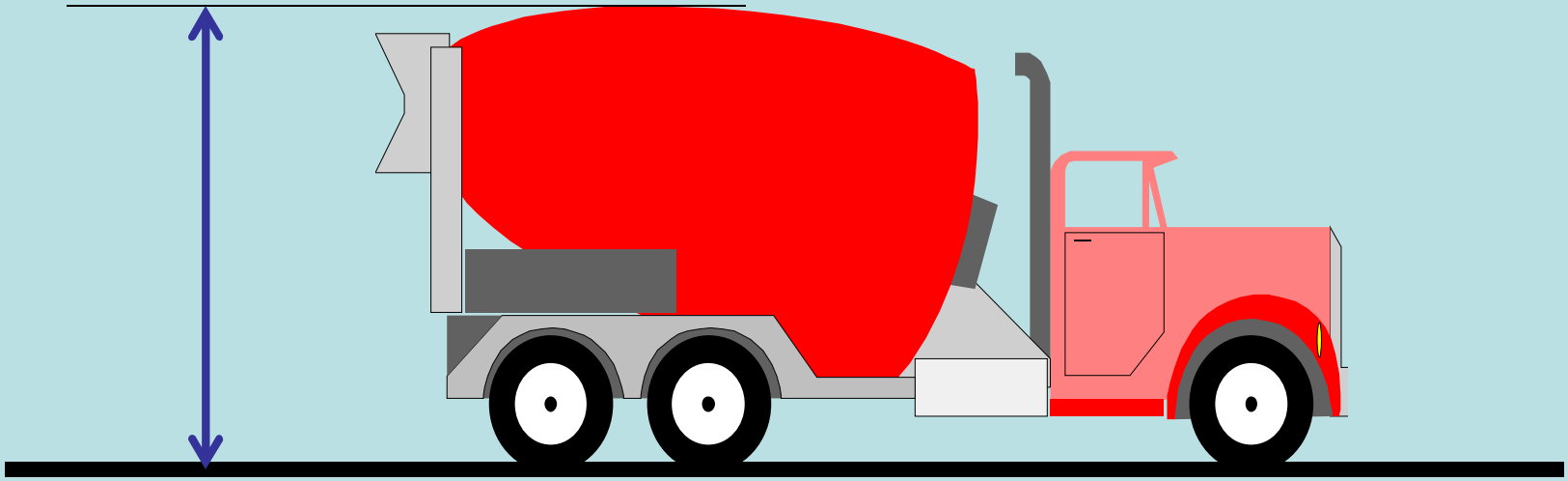
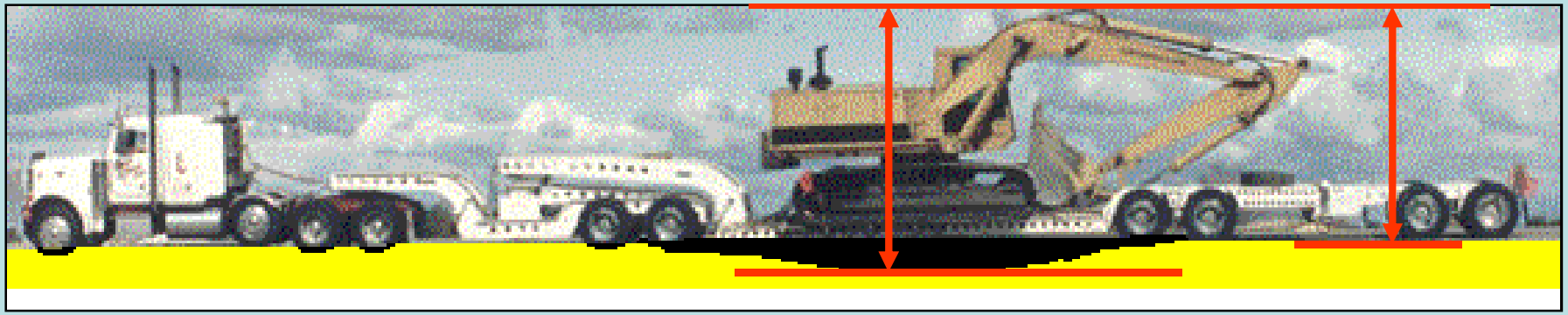
Overheight Loads

Legal Height

- Legal Height is 14 feet measured from the road surface to the top of load or vehicle



Variances in Height Due to Road Dynamics



The shape of the road and the length of the vehicle can make the clearance of the structure or wire much different.

Liability

The carrier is responsible for reviewing the route and overheight clearances, which may include a pre-running of the route

Superload Heights

- Loads exceeding 16 feet high
- Special review is required
- Detailed route survey is required
- No special review for loads up to 16 feet high

Routing Overheight Loads

Permits may be obtained for loads that exceed the height clearance but require detours

- An “Up and Over” detour may be possible
  - Using the off and on ramps
- County/City streets may be taken to detour, with local approval
- Monthly permits allow up to 15 feet high and the carrier must review each route before moving
- 14 feet 6 inches high is authorized at night with a permit (Special approval is not required)

Marking of Structures

- Overcrossings must be marked with the height when less than 15 feet 3 inches
- Overcrossings less than 14 feet require advance posting of signs and more extensive warnings

WSDOT Bridge List

- Guidelines for overheight clearances are available in the WSDOT Bridge List Book
- Available on line www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle
  (Under Publications)
- Indicates minimum and maximum height of structures

(Example next slide)

Bridge List

I-5 SRMP 172.76 JAN, 2002 BRIDGE LIST PAGE 58

STATE BRIDGE NUMBER	ROUTE MILE POST	CROSSING NAME		LOCATION	STRUCTURE IDENT. NUMBER	RDWY. WIDTH < 20'	VERTICAL CLEARANCES N BOUND OR E BOUND MAX.	MIN.	S BOUND OR W BOUND MAX.	MIN.	LENGTH	SPAN	TYPE
5/588W	172.76	NORTHGATE WAY OC		2.0 N JCT SR 522	0012197B	--					166		PCB
		SOUTHBOUND COLLECTOR-DISTRIBUTOR											
		5/588SCD SBCD NORTHGATE WAY OC			0007156I	--					166		PCB
		NE 107TH TO I-5 NORTHBOUND											
		5/588N-N N-N RAMP NE 110TH OC			0014539A	--					164		PCB
5/589	173.15	NE 117TH ST UC		2.4 N JCT SR 522	0007270A	--	1804	1803	1702	1700	312		CBOX
5/590	[redacted]												
523/5	174.58	SR 523 UC	1784	3.8 N JCT SR 522	0007270E	--	1705	1605	2104	2004	249		CBOX
	174.58	JCT SR 523		3.8 N JCT SR 522									
5/593E	175.11	NE 155TH ST OC	1728	0.5 N JCT SR 523	0007270C	--					147		CBOX
5/593W	175.11	NE 155TH ST OC	1728	0.5 N JCT SR 523	0007270D	--					147		CBOX
5/594	175.51	METRO OC	1728	0.9 N JCT SR 523	0013302A	--					40		CS
5/595E	176.13	NE 175TH ST OC	1728	1.6 N JCT SR 523	0007299A	--					163		CBOX
5/595W	176.13	NE 175TH ST OC	1728	1.6 N JCT SR 523	0007299B	--					163		CBOX
5/596	176.72	NE 185TH ST UC	1728	2.1 N JCT SR 523	0007299C	--	1703	1603	2102	2003	249		CBOX
5/598	177.21	PED UC NE 195TH ST	1728	2.6 N JCT SR 523	0007299D	--	2109	2101	1906	1801	268		PCB
	177.77	KING-SNOHOMISH CO LINE		3.2 N JCT SR 523									

BALLINGER LAKE INTERCHANGE
JCT I-5 - SR 104
SRMP 177.43 TO 178.10
CS 1728 U
3.2 N JCT SR 523

I-5 MAINLINE

5/599E	SR 104 OC	NE 205TH ST	0007071A	--	200	PCB
5/599W	SR 104 OC	NE 205TH ST	0007071B	--	188	PCB

I-5 SRMP 177.78

Prevention on the Highway

Measure overheight loads before moving

Pilot/Escort Vehicle Requirements

- Loads exceeding 14 feet 6 inches require front pilot/escort vehicle with a height pole
- Height pole must be 3 to 6 inches higher than the load
- Mobile Homes – Pilot/escort vehicle not required until load exceeds 15 feet in height
- Pilot/escort operator certification is required

Pilot/Escort Vehicle Communication

- Following distance for pilot/escort vehicle and load is described in regulation as “Reasonably prudent” to allow for changes in traffic and speed conditions
- Front pilot/escort operator must have sufficient time to notify load driver of overheight clearances
- Load should not approach undercrossing until front pilot/escort vehicle passes and operator verbally verifies clearance to load driver

Treat Every Overheight Load With Extra Attention

For Questions call WSDOT Commercial Vehicle Services

360-704-6340