PA Vehicle Platooning Policy

Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference (TESC)

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Vehicle Platooning – Act 117 of 2018

§ 3317. Platooning.

- (a) General rule.--The department shall be the lead Commonwealth agency on platooning.
- (b) Exception.--Nonlead vehicles in a platoon shall not be subject to section 3310 (relating to following too closely).
- (c) Visual identifier.--Each vehicle in a platoon must be marked with a visual identifier on the power unit. The department, after consultation with the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, shall establish the criteria and placement of the visual identifier under subsection (e).
- (d) Restrictions.--A platoon shall observe the following restrictions:
 - (1) A maximum of three vehicles shall be in a platoon.
 - (2) Vehicles in a platoon shall travel only on limited access highways or interstate highways, unless otherwise permitted by the department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, as applicable.



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- (d) Restrictions.--A platoon shall observe the following restrictions:
 - (3) The department or the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, as applicable under paragraph (2), may restrict vehicle movement under this section for operational or safety reasons, including, but not limited to, emergency conditions.
 - (4) A driver shall be in each vehicle of a platoon.
- (e) Plan for general platoon operations.--A person may operate a platoon on a highway of this Commonwealth if the person files a plan for general platoon operations with the department. The department shall review the plan in consultation with the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, as applicable. If the plan is not rejected by the department within 30 days after receipt of the plan, the person may operate the platoon.



Vehicle Platooning Policy

- Published April 22, 2019
- Platoon
 - A platoon is defined as two (2) or three (3) buses, military vehicles or motor carrier vehicles traveling in a unified manner at electronically coordinated speeds at following distances that are closer than would be reasonable and prudent without the coordination.
- Establishes Criteria for Platoon Operations Plan
- Establishes Visual Identifier
- Establishes Operating Constraints
- Establishes Approved Routes



VEHICLE PLATOONING POLICY

April 22, 2019



Visual Identifier

Sticker

- Issued by PennDOT
- 6" x 6"
- Serialized
- Must be displayed at all times
- Displayed on the driver and passenger side of the power unit
- Located in close proximity to other federal and/or state regulated decals and stickers





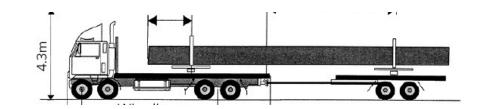
Operating Constraints

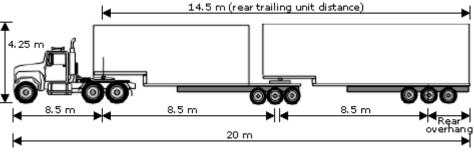
- The Department may restrict vehicle movement for operational or safety reasons, including, but not limited to, emergency conditions.
- Platooning operations are prohibited in work zones when workers are present, tunnels, or through toll plazas.
- Platooning operations are prohibited in any lanes where trucks are prohibited.
- Headways at least 40 feet when traveling over bridges
- To manage traffic flow and ensure road safety, platooning vehicles must disengage platooning technology when:
 - It is necessary to allow reasonable access for vehicles to enter or exit the highway;
 - It is necessary to ensure an overtaking/cutting-in vehicle to enter and occupy the space between the two vehicles without danger;
 - Operating on a segment of roadway with a hazardous grade speed limit;
 - Entering a Weigh Station

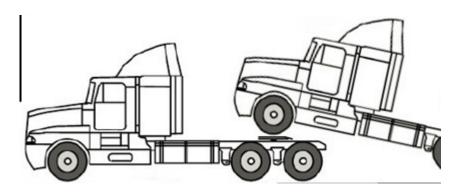


Prohibited Vehicles

- Vehicles carrying hazardous materials;
- Vehicles carrying oversize or overweight loads;
- Vehicles carrying fluids (e.g., tankers, concrete trucks);
- Vehicles carrying pipes, lumber, or similar types of loose loads;
- Vehicles carrying livestock;
- Automobile and boat transporter combinations
- (traditional and stinger-steered);
- Truck and pole combinations;
- B-Train combination;
- Lowboy tractor/trailer combinations (loaded and unloaded); and
- Saddlemount or saddlemount with fullmount combinations

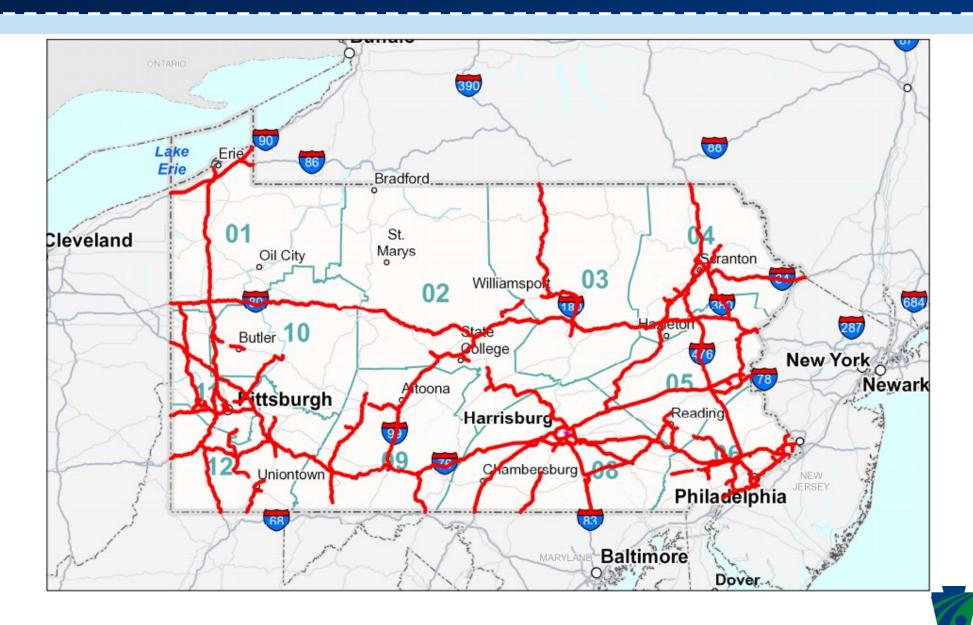








Approved Routes – Base Routes



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION