

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

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Route Color Classification and Red Route Summary Table Revision Guide

1. Overview:

This document is intended to provide guidelines of requesting and determining state route classification changes for routing oversize-overweight permit loads in California. "Route classification" refers to the color of a route on the [single trip](#) and [annual pilot car maps](#). State routes are categorized by five colors based on factors like the number of lanes, lane width, and shoulder width (see section 2 below). In the event a route's roadway condition has changed (e.g., widened), the respective [Caltrans District Truck Staff](#) (District) shall follow the provided guidelines outlined in sections 2 through 4 below to update the route classification or reclassification. Completed documentation shall be sent to Headquarters (HQ), Division of Traffic Operations, Office of Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) for evaluation. If HQ CVO and the District jointly agree to the reclassification after thorough review, the request will be processed, and the changes will be made to the [Route Clearing Database](#).

When a route color classification change pertains to "Red" as defined in section 2 below, changes will also need to be made to that route's restrictions in the [Red Route Summary Table](#). This table details all red route restrictions by district in ascending route number. Changes may also be made to this table without a route color classification change if a red route's restrictions have been reevaluated by District Truck Staff and undergone similar review as noted above with HQ CVO.

2. Route Color Classification:

Route colors are used in pilot car maps (single trip and annual). See the [Single Trip Pilot Car Map Legend \(PDF\)](#) for more detailed information.

1. Yellow: Multilane freeway or highway (no two-lane route).
2. Green: Non-standard freeway or two-lane road with 12' wide lane and shoulder width greater than or equal to 4'.
3. Blue: Two-lane road with lane width greater than or equal to 11' and shoulder width less than 4'.
4. Brown: Two-lane road with lane width less than 11' and minimal or no paved shoulder.
5. Red: In general, two-lane road with operational restrictions due to route geometry and curvature. A red route is the most restrictive route color for permit loads.

6. Dashed: Used for all routes with a kingpin advisory. A pilot car is required when KPRA is greater than 38'.

3. Justifications Checklist

If requesting a route color classification change and/or changing a restriction in the Red Route Summary table, address all pertinent issues including but not limited to the following:

1. Input from subject matter experts, public agencies, California Highway Patrol, local law enforcement, transportation industry representatives (California Trucking Association, etc.), local businesses and the public.
2. Truck encroachment into opposing lanes.
3. Decision sight distance for opposing vehicle and extra-legal transport equipment.
4. Alignment and grade.
5. Availability of shoulder or shoulder width
6. Collision records.
7. Operational problems (cross traffic, bike lane etc.).
8. Traffic volume (including truck).
9. Pedestrian volume and surroundings (schools, roadside attractions, etc.).
10. Prevailing weather and road conditions.
11. Any other safety, operational or other influencing factors.

4. Submittal Checklist to HQ CVO:

- I. A memo from the district in which the route(s) are located, signed by District Truck Access Manager (download a template from Section 4 II below) with:
 - A. The requested color classification.
 - B. The reason for the change.
 - C. Route information pertaining to the area being classified:
 - i. Type of route (two-lane divided, expressway, etc.)
 - ii. Limits using postmiles and cross streets (e.g., From ... To)
 - iii. Cross sectional dimensions (before and after construction if applicable)
 - iv. Shoulder width
 - D. Effective date of classification (i.e. date when change can be made)
- II. A copy of the [memo template \(DOCX\)](#).

A request may be submitted in person or using electronic or regular mail. Allow a minimum of 30 calendar days for a decision. If you have any questions, call 916-322-1297 referring to a "route color classification request."