

Ministry of Works and Transport
Transport Division

MEMORANDUM

From: Transport Commissioner

To: **Assistant Transport Commissioners**
Motor Vehicle Inspectors
Motor Vehicle Attendants

DATED: **January 29th, 2024**

SUBJECT: **GUIDELINES FOR LIFTING VEHICLES**

Please be advised, with effect from February 1st, 2024 the attached Guidelines for Lifting Vehicles dated January 26th, 2024 takes effect. (See Attached **Annex I**).

Motor Vehicle Inspectors and Motor Vehicle Attendants are also to be guided by relevant instructions given to the Vehicle Testing Stations (See **Annex II**).

Please be guided accordingly.



Transport Commissioner





Ministry of Works and Transport

Licensing Division

Guidelines for Lifting Vehicles

As of January 26th, 2024

A. Non-Approval:

- a) Vehicles increase in height not exceeding 17.78cm (7 inches) from the Original Manufacturer's height.
- b) Use of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or Reputable Aftermarket Equipment Manufacturer Body-Lift and Suspension- Lift Kits & other relevant components.
- c) Motor Vehicle Tare must not increase beyond 250kg of the Original Tare.
- d) Permissible Fender flare not exceeding 15.5cm (6.1 inches) on each side.
- e) Bumper (Steel/Other Material or OEM Utility Bumper) with attached **tow bar** permissible. Tow-Bars are restricted to 20.32cm (8 inches) beyond the face of the Bumper.
- f) Wheels must be fitted within the Wheel-Wells or Within the Fender-Flares where installed.
- g) Width of Vehicle must not exceed 2.13 Meters (7ft) (**measurements to be taken from the extreme faces of the fender to the other fender**).
- h) Notwithstanding the above, a record update with the Licensing Authority is required pertaining to the following:
 - i.) Vehicle Tare Weight - Notice of Change Transaction.
 - ii.) Roof rack permissible - Requires a Notice of Change and Tare Weight.
 - iii.) Installation of Winch Permissible - Requires a Notice of Change and Tare Weight.

B. Approval required by the Licensing:

- a) Vehicles increase in height above 17.8cm (7 inches) from the original Manufacturer's height.
- b) Modification must not exceed the manufacturer's stipulated Gross Weight.
- c) Modification permissible up to **300kg under** the Manufacturer's Gross Weight.
- d) Use of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or Reputable Aftermarket Equipment Manufacturer Body-Lift and Suspension- Lift Kits & other relevant components.
- e) Vehicle width beyond 2.13 Meters (7ft), be guided by the Following:
"overall width" means the width measured between parallel lines passing



*through the extreme projecting points of the vehicle exclusive of any driving mirror or of any direction indicator when in operation, and of so much of the distortion of any tyre as is caused by the weight of the vehicle; **Section 2 Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act 48:50.***

*“no motor vehicle or trailer shall exceed two and a half metres in overall width;” Regulations 28 (1),b – **Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act 48:50.***

- f) Fender flare exceeding 15.5cm (6.1 inches).
- g) Bumper (Steel/Other Material or OEM Utility Bumper) with attached tow bar permissible. Tow-Bars are restricted to 20.32cm (8 inches) beyond the face of the Bumper.
- h) Requires a record update with the Licensing Authority with regard to the following:
 - a. Vehicle Tare Weight - Notice of Change Transaction.
 - b. Roof rack permissible - Requires a Notice of Change and Tare Weight.
 - c. Installation of Winch Permissible - Requires a Notice of Change and Tare Weight.

Vehicle Stability:

Cautionary Notes for vehicles lifted 17.78 cm (7 inches) and greater:

Vehicle Centre-of-Gravity (CoG) is raised from manufacturer original height when a 4x4 vehicle is lifted above original height. A nominal body lift raises only the body & tray leaving the larger combined mass of engine, chassis, suspension and drive-train at the original manufacturer's height. Whereas a nominal suspension lift raises almost the entire vehicle, including the larger combined mass of engine, chassis and drive-line components. A suspension lift therefore has the more significant effect on vehicle Centre of Gravity and roll stability.

Adequate Mechanisms must be installed with OEM Parts or Reputable After-Market Equipment Manufacturers which are engineered and designed to ensure stability of lifted vehicles, including a proper braking system. Areas for consideration:

a) Increased Track Width:

Vehicle track width can be increased using reputable manufacturers' off-set rims with larger back-spacing where practicable, along with wider internationally DOT Approved Tyres.

Proportionally increased Track-Width significantly compensates for higher CoG.

NB: Wider tyres must be covered by fender flares and the overall vehicle width must be kept within stipulated maximum vehicle width of 2.13 metres (7 ft).

b) Stiffer Damping and Higher Spring Rates:

Reputable After-Market Heavy duty shock-dampers and higher spring rates



engineered to be vehicle specific, improves vehicle stability by compensating for the lift-effects on vehicle roll-centre and CoG.

c) Anti-Roll Bars:

Use of OEM and/or Reputable After-Market Anti-Roll Bars can improve vehicle stability on the road by resisting the tendency of the vehicle to lean during cornering & sudden direction changes (swerving).

d) Traction Bars:

Use of Traction-Bars, more specifically for modified high-power/high horse-power engines, can assist with minimizing wheel-hop and optimizing traction.

e) Upgraded Brake System:

The larger the tyre diameter above original manufacturer's size the higher the leverage on the brakes. This can be compensated for by using improved OEM or Reputable After-Market brake upgrades. For example, upgrades such as larger rotor disc and associated larger calipers, high quality brake pads and larger servo-assist brake-boosters can improve braking efficiency and stopping distance.

Additionally, the use of internationally DOT Approved Off-Road (All-Terrain & Mud-Terrain) radial-tyres with grooved lugs and/or **siping** (mini-grooves/mini-cuts in the individual tread-blocks) assists greatly with improved wet-road braking and stopping distance. This ensures improved safety in wet weather on-road vehicle use.

Other:

- ***Any additional lights will require approval of the Licensing Authority.***
- ***Use of Tow-Bars*** - Be guided by the following:
Regulations 20 – Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act 48:50
20. He shall not, without the written permission of the Licensing Authority, tow anything except another motor vehicle in case of necessity, or a single registered trailer, except that in the case of an agricultural tractor he may tow not more than two trailers.



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January 29th, 2024

**Proprietors and Examiners
Vehicle Testing Stations**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Guidelines 1 of 2024

Please be advised, with effect from February 1st, 2024 all Vehicle Testing Stations (VTS) are to be guided in accordance with the following:

Altered Vehicles

All vehicles that **appear** to be raised above seven (7) inches (17.78cm) of the manufacturer's specification must be referred to the Licensing Authority for approval prior to inspection. Examiners are to be guided by the approved Guidelines for Lifting Vehicles dated January 26th, 2024 (See Attached **Annex I**).

Further be advised, with regards to item 'h', referred to 'record update', takes effect from September 2nd, 2024. As a result, Examiners can now proceed to inspect raised vehicles seven (7) inches and under without the necessary 'record update' until September 2nd, 2024.

Vehicles modified above seven (7) Inches (17.78cm) are required to visit the Licensing Office (Caroni, Port of Spain) for re-weighing prior to inspection.

Registered Owners for Vehicles which have been inspected on or before September 2nd, 2024 are to ensure the relevant Tare Weight and Change of Description are completed prior to the subsequent inspection.

Please be guided accordingly.


Transport Commissioner

