

[Go to Previous Versions of this Section](#) ▾

2023 Code of Alabama

Title 32 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic.

Chapter 9 - Trucks, Trailers and Semitrailers.

Article 2 - Size and Weight.

Section 32-9-29 - Permits for Movement of Oversized Vehicles or Loads.

Universal Citation:

AL Code § 32-9-29 (2023) ○

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

Section 32-9-29

Permits for movement of oversized vehicles or loads.

(a) Authorized; application; issuance; seasonal, etc., limitations; refusal, revocation, or cancellation.

(1) The Director of the Department of Transportation or the official of the department designated by the director, upon application and for good cause being shown therefor, may issue a permit in writing authorizing the applicant to operate or move upon the state's public roads a vehicle or combination of no more than two vehicles and loads whose

weight, width, length, or height, or combination thereof, exceeds the maximum limit specified by law; provided, that the load transported by such vehicle or vehicles is of such nature that it is a unit which cannot be readily dismantled or separated; provided, however, that bulldozers and similar construction equipment shall not be deemed readily separable for purposes of this chapter; and further provided, that no permit shall be issued to any vehicle whose operation upon the public roads of this state threatens to unduly damage a road or any appurtenances thereto.

(2) Permits may be issued on application to the department to persons, firms, or corporations. The director shall adopt reasonable rules which are necessary or desirable governing the issuance of the permits; provided, that the rules shall not conflict with this title and other provisions of law.

(3) The original copy of every permit shall be carried in the vehicle itself and shall be open to inspection by any law enforcement officer or authorized agent of the department.

(4) The application for any permit shall specifically describe the type of permit applied for, as described in subsection (b), and the application for a single trip permit, in addition, shall describe the points of departure and destination.

(5) The director or the official of the department designated by the director may withhold such permit or, if such permit is issued, may establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicles described may be operated on the public road indicated, or may otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicle, when necessary to assure against undue damage to the road foundation, surfaces, or bridge structures, and require such undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to compensate the state for any injury to any roadway or bridge structure.

(6) For just cause, including, but not limited to, repeated and consistent past violations, the director or an official of the department designated by the director may refuse to issue, or may cancel, suspend, or revoke, the permit of an applicant or permittee.

(b) Duration and limits of permits; bond or insurance requirements.

(1)a. ANNUAL. The director or the official of the department designated by the director, pursuant to this section, may issue an annual permit which shall permit the vehicle or combination vehicle and load to be operated on the state highway system of this state for 12 months from the date the permit is issued, even though the vehicle or its load exceeds the maximum limits specified in this article; provided, that an annual permit shall not authorize the operation of a vehicle including all enforcement tolerances:

1. Whose total gross weight exceeds 150,000 pounds; provided, that gross weights over 100,000 pounds shall require advance routing by the department;
2. Whose single axle weight exceeds 22,000 pounds;
3. Whose total length exceeds 75 feet; with the exception of mobile homes, whose length limitations, including towing vehicle, shall be 85 feet;
4. Whose total width exceeds 120 inches or whose load width exceeds 144 inches; with the exception of mobile homes, whose width limitation shall be 168 inches; provided, that mobile homes whose width exceeds 144 inches shall require advance route approval by the department; or
5. Whose height exceeds 14 feet.

A permit to operate a vehicle which exceeds the statutory limits of height, weight, width, or length shall be issued only on condition of payment of an indemnity bond or proof of insurance protection for three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) the bond or insurance protection conditioned for payment to the department to be held in trust for the benefit of the owners of bridges and appurtenances thereof, traffic signals, signs, or other highway structures damaged by a vehicle operating under authority of the overweight permit. The liability under the bond or insurance certificate shall be contingent upon proof of negligence or fault on the part of the permittee, his or her agents, or operators.

b. Notwithstanding paragraph a., the director, pursuant to this section, may issue an annual permit to operate a vehicle which exceeds the maximum limits otherwise provided in this article for rubber-tired equipment used solely in the scope and operation of mining refractory grade bauxite. The equipment may not exceed the limits of paragraph a., except that the permit may not authorize the operation of a vehicle, including enforcement tolerances, which exceeds 16 feet in width, exceeds 18 feet in height, or exceeds a single axle weight of 27,000 pounds. In addition, the permit may not authorize the operation of the vehicle on any bridge, over or under any overpass, or on an interstate highway. The fee for the annual permit shall be one hundred dollars (\$100).

(2) SINGLE TRIP. The director may issue a single trip permit, pursuant to this section, to any vehicle.

(c) Fees. The director may adopt rules concerning the issuance of permits and charge a fee for the issuance as follows:

(1) ANNUAL. Charges for the issuance of annual permits shall be as follows:

a. For modular homes, sectional houses, portable buildings, boats, and any vehicle or combination of vehicles, one hundred dollars (\$100.00); except, that a vehicle or combination of vehicles having trailer or combination of trailers with sidewalls or roof which has transported modular homes, sectional houses, and portable buildings, after depositing any load, may return unloaded to its point of origin, even though the unloaded vehicles exceed the 55-foot limitation provided for in this article, up to and including 12 feet wide and 75 feet long.

b. For heavy commodities or equipment, overweight, overlength, overheight, and overwidth, one hundred dollars (\$100.00). A tractor and trailer (low boy type), after depositing a load referred to in this subparagraph, may return to its point of origin, even though the unloaded tractor and trailer (low boy type) may exceed the 55-foot limitation provided for in this article up to and including 12 feet wide and 75 feet long.

c. For mobile homes up to and including 14 feet wide and 85 feet long, including towing vehicle, one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

(2) SINGLE TRIP. Charges for the issuance of single trip permits shall be as follows:

a. Mobile homes, modular homes, sectional houses, portable buildings, and boats:

1. Up to and including 12 feet wide and 75 feet long, ten dollars (\$10.00).

2. Boats in excess of 12 feet wide, twenty dollars (\$20.00).

3. Mobile homes, modular homes, sectional houses, and portable buildings in excess of 12 feet wide and/or 75 feet long, twenty dollars (\$20.00).

b. Heavy commodities or equipment:

1. Over on any limitations as to length, height, or width, ten dollars (\$10.00).

2. Over on weight, as follows:

WEIGHT PERMITTED	PERMIT FEE
From 80,001 pounds up to 100,000 pounds	\$ 10.00
From 100,001 pounds up to 125,000 pounds	30.00

From 125,001 pounds up to 150,000 pounds	60.00
From 150,001 pounds and over	100.00

c. Miscellaneous:

1. Houses, twenty dollars (\$20.00).
2. Off-the-road equipment, ten dollars (\$10.00).
3. Other oversized vehicles, loads, and equipment not herein specified, twenty dollars (\$20.00).
4. Other overheight loads not herein specified, ten dollars (\$10.00).

(d) Certain vehicles on interstate highways. Under this section, 14 feet-wide vehicles and combination vehicles and load may be issued a permit to travel the interstate highways.

(e) The Director of the Department of Transportation, by rule, may establish limits for combinations of commercial wreckers and towed disabled or abandoned vehicles that exceed the maximum height, weight, or length limitations established by law. The director may establish a permitting method for commercial wreckers and may establish a fee for any permits that are issued. The director may authorize exceptions to any permit required under this subsection or may waive any permit required under this subsection under emergency, exigent, or other extraordinary conditions. Permits may not be issued to a person or entity that is currently prohibited from operating by a federal or state agency responsible for vehicle safety. The permit authorized by this subsection shall be in addition to any registration requirements as provided for in Chapter 6 of this title and Chapter 12 of Title 40.

(f) Violations of federal law, etc. No permit shall be issued under this section if the issuance of the permit would violate United States law or would cause the State of Alabama to lose federal-aid funds. Notwithstanding any provisions of any statute to the contrary, all permit fees collected in accordance with this section shall be paid to the Public Road and Bridge Fund in addition to any sums appropriated therefor to the department.

(g) Farm and agricultural commodities and equipment exempt. The term heavy commodities or equipment, as used in this section, is not intended to include farm and

agricultural commodities or equipment, and such farm or agricultural commodities and equipment are exempt from the requirement of obtaining permits for movement on the state highway system of Alabama.

(Acts 1932, Ex. Sess., No. 58, p. 68; Acts 1939, No. 484, p. 687; Code 1940, T. 36, §91; Acts 1977, No. 775, p. 1332, §§1 through 3; Acts 1977, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 78, p. 1506; Acts 1978, No. 837, p. 1241; Act 98-321, p. 562, §1; Act 2019-473, §1.)

< Previous

Next >

Disclaimer: These codes may not be the most recent version. Alabama may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained on this site or the information linked to on the state site. Please check official sources.

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply.