

GUIDELINES FOR MOVEMENT OVER SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAYS OF OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES AND LOADS

Statutory Authority: Section 56-5-4010 through 56-5-4230 and 57-3-130 through 57-3-160

A. Implements of husbandry transported by commercial vehicle, fire apparatus, forestry equipment or road machinery are exempted from the laws governing size and weight, except that any such equipment which exceeds 12 feet in width and has a gross weight of 90,000 lbs. or more should first obtain from the Department routing permission as prescribed on January 1, 1970, by the State Highway Engineer and approved by the Chief Highway Commissioner.

B. The Department, on application (Form 2039) may exercise its discretion in issuing permits for the movement of other types of vehicles which exceed the legal size and weight limits; provided

- (1) the load carried thereon cannot be readily disassembled so as to reduce the size and/or gross weight to the legal limits except in an emergency when approved by the Director
- (2) that every such movement shall be routed over highways having 12 foot wide or wider lanes whenever possible, except in emergencies or where there is good cause to show that such movement is in the public interest
- (3) that the Department may limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicles
- (4) may require such insurance and/or other security as it deems necessary, and
- (5) that such movements are made so as not to damage the highways nor unduly interfere with highway traffic.

C. The South Carolina Department of Transportation will accept an advance deposit in the initial amount of \$200.00 or more for the future purchase of oversize or overweight permits. An amount may be added to this deposit as long as that amount, when added to the present balance, equals \$200.00 or more. A monthly statement will be furnished to the depositor, showing the current balance.

D. THE FOLLOWING ARE GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL OVERSIZE AND/OR OVERWEIGHT LOADS

- (1) the Department may require the vehicle owner, operator or mover to furnish a bond or insurance prior to the move in an amount to be determined by the Department as a guarantee that the provisions of the permit will be carried out and to reimburse the Department for any damage that may be done to the highway or structures by reason of the movement, also to pay the cost of any expenses for inspection of the move by the Department. If no damage is done and the Department does not have any expense as a result of the move, the bond will be reimbursed
- (2) an overweight permit will not be granted for the movement of a vehicle with load, which is not licensed to its full limit
- (3) the granting of a permit shall not be construed as waiving any weight limitation which has been or may be established on any highway or any bridge thereon
- (4) permit will not be granted for the movement of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the legal weight limitation, with or without load, which is not equipped with pneumatic tires
- (5) the Department may, if deemed necessary, require the applicant to furnish a "weight ticket" on each axle and the gross weight of the vehicle or vehicle combination and may require the weighing in the presence of a representative of the Department at a State approved scale
- (6) a load shall be so transported by a vehicle or combination of vehicles so that the least width or length dimension becomes the width of the load. The load shall be transported such that no part of it will extend across the centerline of the road except when necessary to avoid a collision with objects located near the edge of the road
- (7) the Department may, at its discretion, grant an extension of time to the permittee

where the same is made necessary because of weather, road conditions or other circumstances which are beyond the control of the vehicle operator

(8) all vehicles shall meet the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations

(9) the trailer of mobile homes shall be equipped with satisfactory electric or air brakes

(10) overwidth loads or mobile homes shall be moved over sections of highways selected by the Department

(11) the towing vehicle for a load or mobile home 10 feet wide or less shall be a three-quarter (3/4) ton or larger truck or truck-tractor with dual rear wheels

(12) the towing vehicle for a load or mobile home over 10 feet wide up to and including 12 feet wide shall be a one and one-half (1 1/2) ton or larger truck or truck-tractor with dual rear wheels

(13) the towing vehicle for a load or mobile home over 12 feet wide shall be a two and one-half (2 1/2) ton or larger truck or truck-tractor with dual rear wheels

(14) the mobile home shall not exceed 80 feet in length as measured from the center of the ball cup on the trailer hitch to the extreme end of the mobile home

(15) the permittee shall provide signs, front and rear, reading WIDE LOAD or OVERSIZE LOAD with letters 12 inches high and at least 1 1/2 inches wide on all loads and mobile homes 12 feet wide or wider. Red flags must be displayed at each outer four corners of the load or mobile home. Turn signals and brake lights in working order must be displayed

(16) the permittee must provide a rotating amber beacon or strobe light on the rear of the mobile home or load in excess of 12 feet wide up to and including 14 feet wide at a location readily visible to following traffic

(17) the permittee must provide a rotating amber beacon or strobe light on each outer rear corner of all loads or mobile homes over 14 feet wide up to and including 16 feet wide.

E. ESCORT REQUIREMENTS

(1) a front escort must be present on all loads or mobile homes which exceed 12 feet in width up to and including 14 feet in width on two lane highways. The Department reserves the right to require a rear escort where it is deemed necessary for safety purposes

(2) a front and rear escort must be present at all times on all loads or mobile homes which exceeds 14 feet in width up to and including 16 feet in width

(3) a rotating amber beacon or strobe light must be displayed on top of all escort vehicles. The escort vehicles must also display a WIDE LOAD or OVERSIZE LOAD sign on the front of the lead escort vehicle and on the rear of the following escort vehicle. There must be radio contact between the escort vehicles and the towing vehicles at all times

F. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

(1) No movement shall be allowed during inclement weather such as heavy rain or fog when visibility is restricted to less than 1,000 feet. Movement shall also be prohibited during periods of high winds or when highways are slippery or hazardous due to ice, snow or sleet. The South Carolina Department of Public Safety Transport Police may direct or escort a vehicle off the highway to a place of safety

(2) on **non-Interstate** highways, no person shall drive a vehicle which is towing a mobile home at a speed in excess of 45 MPH or a load in excess of 55 MPH

(3) the maximum speed on the **Interstate** highways of this State for a **new** mobile home shall be 10 MPH **less** than posted, not to exceed 55 MPH. All other mobile homes are not to exceed 45 MPH. Loads shall not exceed 55 MPH on the Interstate.

(4) the driver shall remove the towing vehicle along with the load or mobile home from the traveled way to allow any closely following traffic (5 vehicles maximum) to pass and proceed

(5) travel shall be made between one-half (1/2) hour after sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour before sunset Monday through Saturday. **NO** travel will be allowed on Sunday, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day **OR** after 12:00 noon before each holiday and before 12:00 noon after each holiday (not including Sunday)

(6) movement is prohibited on Friday and Saturday from Memorial Day through Labor Day over Routes 378, 327, 76, 576, 501 and 9 East of I-95 to and from the Myrtle Beach area and on Route 17 from the North Carolina line to points South of Myrtle Beach and on any other Routes in the Myrtle Beach vicinity

(7) no loads or mobile homes over 12 feet wide up to and including 14 feet box width plus a maximum 12 inches top overhang for mobile homes and 15 feet wide for all other loads are to move over the States highways in and in close proximity of large urban areas between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 A.M. or 3:00 and 6:00 P.M. during school days or 7:00 and 9:00 A.M. or 4:30 and 6:00 P.M. other days

(8) all loads over 15 feet wide and mobile homes over 14 feet box width up to and including 16 feet wide must be moved Monday through Saturday between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. during school days and 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. other days

(9) all loads and mobile homes over 14 feet wide up to and including 16 feet wide must travel on four-lane highways. Travel on two-lane highways will be restricted to 12 foot wide or wider lane width where possible

(10) all loads or mobile homes over 14 feet wide up to and including 16 feet wide must be the only vehicle on any bridge that is 18 feet wide or less.

G. APPLICATION FOR OVERWEIGHT AND OVERSIZE PERMITS

(1) single trip permits

(a) a single trip permit application may be made by phone (803-737-9752) or on Form No. 2039 provided by the Department furnishing all the necessary information required

(b) each application must be accompanied by the permit fee (\$20.00) before it can be issued. The permit fee accompanying any application that is turned down will be returned to the person or company named within the application

(c) permits may be picked up in person or be sent by mail or FAX. The permittee must advise the Permit Office how they wish the permit be sent

(d) special oversize and/or overweight trip permits for movement of vehicles or combinations of vehicles with non-divisible loads thereon in excess of the maximum sizes and weights allowed must receive special consideration by and have prior approval of the Department prior to any part of the move to be undertaken

(2) multiple trip permits

(a) application for a multiple trip permit shall be made on Form MT-01

(b) multiple trip permits will be issued for 14 feet wide or less, legal height and a maximum gross weight of 90,000 lbs. (40,000 lbs. per tandem on 5 axles)

(3) all permits may be secured from the **Oversize Permit Office** at the **South Carolina Department of Transportation, P. O. Box 191, Annex 3, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202. Telephone No. (803)737-9752.** The Permit Office maintains hours between 8:00 A. M. and 4:30 P. M. except Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

H. FRAME BUILDINGS OR OTHER LOADS OF SIMILAR SIZE

(1) the application for a permit, Form 2039, along with an 8x10 portion or portions of a DOT map marked to clearly show each road involved, to move a building or load in excess of 16 feet in width shall be made with the Resident Maintenance Engineer in each County the move is to take place or with the Oversize Permit Office in Columbia. The application must be signed by the Resident Maintenance Engineer to signify their approval or disapproval and may add any special provisions or conditions. It will then be faxed to the Oversize Permit Office within five (5) working days. The approved permit will then be issued. A copy of the permit will also be sent to the Resident Maintenance Engineers office

(2) the maximum travel distance for a frame building or load in excess of 16 feet is thirty (30) miles providing the overall dimensions and highway conditions are favorable

(3) a permit will be issued for the movement of a frame building or load in excess of 16 feet during hours and over highways selected and/or approved by the Department

(4) a permit will not be issued for the movement of a frame building or load of any width across a bridge unless the width of subject load is 24 inches less than the distance between the guard rails of the bridge or if subject load is loaded such that it will clear the top of the rails by not less than 12 inches

(5) the mover shall be responsible for checking all overhead vertical clearances and shall make all provisions for raising or removal of overhead wires, cables, traffic signals, etc. sufficiently in advance (minimum of 3 working days) of the move to eliminate delays to the highway traffic

(6) the mover must provide sufficient flagmen and/or escort vehicles to warn all approaching traffic during the move

(7) a minimum of three (3) escorts, two in front and one in rear for ALL moves over 16 feet wide, are required. The foremost escort is to be a reasonable distance ahead of the move to alert oncoming traffic in sufficient time of the impending hazard ahead

(8) for moves taking place in hours of darkness, sufficient lighting must be placed on the transporter and building or load to alert traffic.

I. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SIZES AND WEIGHTS GRANTED BY PERMIT

(1) overall length

(a) mobile homes - 100 feet (mobile home 80 feet or less)

(b) loads - permits may be issued for a non-divisible load with a maximum rear overhang of 15 feet on a trailer that is **LESS** than 48 feet and a maximum rear overhang of 10 feet on a 48 ft. or 53 ft. trailer provided they have flags and a rotating amber beacon or strobe light on the rear of the load or flags and a rear escort with such warning devices as may be required by the Department and upon such routes as the Department may require. A maximum of three (3) feet front overhang on trailer is allowed

(c) in all cases, loads on expandable or pole trailers with more than a six (6) foot rear overhang shall be equipped with flags and a rotating amber beacon or strobe light on the rear of the load or flags and a rear escort with such warning devices as may be required by the Department. The maximum overall length shall be 125 feet

(d) exceptions to this length may be granted only by furnishing a drawing of the proposed load and proposed routing of the contemplated move. Any approval will be based on the necessity of such a move and to what extent it will affect highway traffic

(2) Loads on straight trucks

(a) maximum of five (5) ft. rear overhang allowed

(3) overall height

(a) the maximum overall height of any permitted load must be at least six (6) inches less than any overhead structures on a route granted by the permit

(4) overall width

(a) mobile homes - sixteen (16) feet

(b) loads - sixteen (16) feet

(5) gross weights

(a) two axle single unit vehicle 40,000 lbs.

(b) three axle single unit vehicle 50,000 lbs.

(c) four or more axle single unit vehicle 65,000 lbs.

(d) combination of vehicles with three axles 55,000 lbs.

(e) combination of vehicles with four axles 70,000 lbs.

(f) combination of vehicles with five axles 90,000 lbs.

(g) combination of vehicles with six axles 110,000 lbs.

(h) combination of vehicles with seven axles 130,000 lbs.

(6) gross tandem weights

(a) single axle 20,000 lbs.

(b) two axle tandem 40,000 lbs.

- (c) three axle tandem 60,000 lbs.
- (d) four axle tandem 80,000 lbs.

(7) loads that are grossing 130,000 lbs. ONLY may have continuous travel as long as they can flow with the traffic. Loads in excess of 130,000 lbs. can travel Monday through Friday only

(8) any exceptions to these maximum limits must be submitted with appropriate drawings, pictures and reasons for the moves to the Department well in advance (5 days minimum) of the proposed move for approval or disapproval.

J. In all cases, the Department reserves the right to recall or not issue permits in accordance with the above limitations if there is an abuse of the permit or such a permit would cause an unnecessary amount of disruption in the normal traffic flow.