



**Minnesota Department of Transportation**  
**Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations**  
Oversize/Overweight Transportation Permit Office  
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 420  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

[www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/oversize.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/oversize.html)

## General Conditions for Oversize/Overweight Loads

The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) assume no responsibility for the property, vehicles, or load of the permit holder (Permittee). During movement under a Mn/DOT permit, the Permittee must meet the terms and conditions of the permit and must take all reasonable precautions to protect and safeguard the lives and property of the traveling public, adjacent property owners, and the roadway infrastructure.

The Mn/DOT permit and any revision(s) are void if the actual loaded weights or dimensions exceed what is indicated on the face of the permit or its revision.

A copy of the Mn/DOT permit and any revisions must be carried in the transporting vehicle during movement and made available upon demand by any authorized law enforcement officer or Mn/DOT representative. In lieu of a paper copy, an electronic copy of the permit may reside on a portable computer device in the vehicle as long as it is complete, legible and able to be properly viewed when requested.

1. **Right of Way.** If the Permittee is not able to yield the right way to oncoming traffic, or if the vehicle/load will encroach into an oncoming traffic lane, an escort by a licensed Peace Officer in an authorized emergency vehicle is required. The escort must comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 169.20 subd. 5, para (b).
2. **Vehicle Breakdown.** In the event of a vehicle breakdown, the vehicle(s) must be moved as far off the roadway as practical. Flares or reflective emergency triangles shall be placed around the vehicle as required by law to notify other motorists of a hazard.
3. **Posted Roadway or Bridge.** The movement of empty or loaded vehicles that exceed the posted weight limits shown on road and bridge signs is not authorized. Regardless of a route listed on a permit, the Permittee must comply with all restrictions posted on any bridge, underpass, or other structure on which the Permittee travels.
4. **Hours of Movement.** Authorized days and hours of movement are found under "Permit Travel Hours" at our Web site: [www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/oversize.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/oversize.html). However, a permit may have travel hours that are different for a specific movement. In that case, the travel hours and restrictions listed on the permit take precedence.
  - a. **Twin Cities Rush Hour Period:** The Twin Cities metro area rush hour restriction periods are 6:00 AM – 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM.
    1. Legal weight or over legal weight permitted vehicles/vehicle combinations up to 12'6" wide, 14' high, and 95' long can travel during rush hour restriction periods.
    2. The Twin Cities metropolitan area includes all of Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties as well as portions of Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Isanti, Le Sueur, Mille Lacs, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, and Wright counties.
  - b. **Duluth Rush Hour Period:** The Duluth metro area rush hour restriction periods are 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM.

Rush hour restrictions apply to weekdays only. More information on rush hour restrictions is found at our web site under Permit Travel Hours.

**Night Move:** An escort vehicle, or a State Patrol-approved LED lighting package, is required when moving at night with loaded dimensions between 10'0" and 12'6" wide and/or when combination length exceeds 95'0" long. An escort vehicle is required between 12'6" and 14'6" wide. One escort vehicle and a Peace Officer escort are required when width exceeds 14'6" wide.
    1. During darkness, signs must be lighted or of reflective material and visible from a minimum distance of 500 feet.
5. **Bad Weather and Road Surface Conditions.** Movement is not authorized when weather or road conditions are hazardous. These include slippery roads due to ice, moderate to heavy snow or rain, when

visibility is less than 500 feet or when winds or gusts are strong enough that vehicle cannot stay within its travel lane. It is the responsibility of the driver to monitor local weather reports and 511 for real time weather and road condition reports which may be used to determine whether road conditions are adverse. Minnesota-specific road condition information by county is available at the Web site [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org) or by phone by dialing 5-1-1.

6. **Hauling Unit.** An empty, over-legal size combination vehicle may be moved under a single trip permit when warranted.
7. **Use of Flags.** Red, yellow, or orange warning flags must be displayed when any projection extends more than 3 feet ahead of the front bumper or 4 feet or more beyond the rear of the vehicle; when a vehicle or load exceeds 9 feet in width; or when a vehicle/load exceeds legal vehicle length.
  - a) Flags must be 18 inches square and in good repair. The flags must be secured at the extreme tips of front and rear overhang, at the widest points of and each corner of over width loads and be clearly and fully visible to traffic. When long loads are transported with a pole dolly or steering dolly, warning flags must be attached to the underside of the load, and spaced no more than 20 feet apart.
  - b) For night travel, steady burning lights must be mounted at every location where a flag is normally required. Lights must be a minimum of 4 inches diameter and be visible from 500 feet with amber or yellow lenses facing to the front and sides and red lenses at the rear corners.
8. **Use of Signs/Flashing Lights.** Signs must be legible and warning lights visible from a distance of no less than 500 feet. If the sign material is flexible, it must be pulled taut and mounted on a flat surface. Flashing warning lights are needed whenever signs are required. When traveling during darkness, signs must be either of reflective material or illuminated.

Flashing warning lights may be disk, strobe, or rotating beacon. Lights must have a flash rate of 60-90 flashes per minute and be a minimum of 4 inches in diameter. Single warning light – must be mounted as close to center of sign as practical. Dual warning lights - must be mounted as far apart as practical.

Permitted vehicle – when loaded width exceeds 12 feet or when vehicle combination length exceeds 95 feet, "Oversize Load" signs and flashing warning lights must be displayed on the front and rear of the permitted vehicle with lights at least 20 inches above the ground. Signs must have 10" series C black 1-3/8" letters on a yellow background and measure at least 18" high x 72" long.

Escort vehicle – when civilian or LPA escort vehicles are required, the vehicle must display either a "Long Load" or "Wide Load" sign mounted on top of the escort vehicle. These signs must have 8" series C 1-1/8" black lettering on a yellow background and measure at least 12" high x 60" long. Signs cannot extend beyond the fender line on the driver's side or more than six inches beyond the fender line on the passenger side of the vehicle.
9. **Escorts.** An escort vehicle may be a passenger car, van, SUV or pickup truck in proper operating condition. The vehicle's driver must be at least 18 years of age with a current, valid driver's license. Whenever a loaded vehicle crosses centerline and will encroach into oncoming traffic a lead Peace Officer escort is required. An LPA escort can perform traffic control duties when escorting, as defined in MN Statutes § 326.338, but cannot use red lights to do so and cannot require oncoming traffic to yield right of way. A civilian escort cannot perform traffic control duties; it can only provide early warning. See our web site for more information on Escorts.
10. **Towing Unit Requirement.** The Permittee must ensure that the towing vehicle is adequate to handle the movement safely and meets federal and state vehicle safety requirements.
11. **Side Overhang.** Although centered loading is preferred, offset loading is permissible. When offset loading is necessary, the majority of the overhang should be on the right side of the vehicle as much as practical.
12. **Divisible Loading.** A load must be reduced to its smallest practical size and/or weight. **Tire Limit.** Under permit, tire weights cannot exceed 600 pounds per inch of tire width, or the manufacturer's recommended tire load, whichever is less.
13. **Legal Dimension Limitations.** Legal width is 8'6"; overall legal height is 13'6"; overall legal length is as follows: single motor vehicle is 45 feet; mobile truck crane is 48 feet; semitrailer is 53 feet, with distance from king pin to center of rearmost axle group of 43 feet or less; single trailer, including tow bar is 45 feet; overall combination length is 75 feet.
14. **Legal Weight Limitations.** Minnesota statutes relating to legal weight limitations are included in the following sections: M.S. §169.822 through 169.844, and §169.87. The specific language of these statutes can be found at [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/)
15. **License Plate, Motor Vehicle Registration and Tax Laws.** This Mn/DOT permit has no bearing on vehicle (truck) license registration. A permitted, over-legal weight vehicle must be properly licensed through the MN Dept. of Public Safety for its total gross operating weight.
16. **Responsibility during Movement.** When Mn/DOT agrees to allow an alteration of state property, it must be noted on the permit. When a Permittee must alter any portion of a roadway, bridge, signage, or right-

of-way during a permit move, the Permittee is responsible for returning the roadway and right-of-way to the same condition, or better, than it was prior to the move. All alteration materials or supplies must be removed from the highway and right-of-way immediately after the move.

17. **Liability for Damage.** The Permittee is responsible for any damage to the highway or its structures resulting from a willful or negligent act by the Permittee, as set forth in Minnesota Statute 169.88. Damages may be recovered through civil action or other remedial action defined by the department. In addition, the Permittee may be responsible for any personal property damage or injuries caused as a result of the Permittee's movement.
18. **Other Jurisdictions.** Authorization for movement over streets and roads, other than state trunk highways and/or the Interstate system, must be obtained from the local authorities having jurisdiction over those streets and roads.

### **SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

- S1. No movement allowed if wind gusts prevents vehicle from staying in its travel lane.
- S2. Flag (lights at night) at widest point(s) of load.
- S3. Flag (lights at night) at end of overhang
- S4. Flag (lights at night) every 20 feet along outside of load/vehicle(s)
- S5. Oversize load sign (reflective material or lighted at night) with flashing amber light(s) required.
- S6. Lead escort plus radio communication amongst all in convoy required.
- S7. Rear escort plus radio communication amongst all in convoy required
- S8. At night, when over 10 feet wide or when combination is over 95 feet long a lead and rear escort is required. (A MN State Patrol-approved LED lighting package may be used to outline a load that is between 10'0" and 12'6" wide in lieu of the escort requirement).

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