

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. Overweight and Overdimensional Permits

1. The Highway Director or the official of the Highway Department designated by the director may, in his discretion, upon application and for good cause being shown therefore, issue a permit in writing authorizing the applicant to operate or move upon the State Highway System 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.
2. The original copy of every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle itself and shall be open to inspection by any police officer of state trooper or authorized agent of the Highway Department. For annual permits the original copy means the copy received in person or by mail from the State Highway Department Permit Office. For single trip permits the original copy means the original copy received by facsimile machine from the State Highway Department Permit Office or the original copy received in person or by mail from the State Highway Department Permit Office. Duplication of annual permits and single trip permits is prohibited.

II. Restrictions on Issuance of Permits

1. No permit shall be issued for transporting a load that can readily be dismantled or separated; however, bulldozers and similar construction equipment shall not be deemed readily separable.
2. No vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads whose width exceeds fourteen (14) feet will be permitted to travel on the Interstate Highway System. This rule may be waived upon request from the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, for the purpose of transporting U.S. Government property.

III. Restrictions on Issuance of Permits

1. The operator of the permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads shall also comply with the applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the State of Alabama, including but not limited to those of the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission, the Public Service Commission of Alabama, the Department of Public Safety of Alabama, the Department of Revenue of Alabama and Title 32, Code of Alabama (1975), as amended.
2. Mobile homes whose width does not exceed twelve (12) feet shall not travel between thirty minutes after sunset and thirty minutes before sunrise or during the following legal holidays: New Years Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. All other permitted vehicles or combination of vehicles and loads shall not travel between thirty minutes after sunset and thirty minutes before sunrise; or after noon on Saturday; or any time during Sunday; or during the following legal holidays: New Years Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.
3. The permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads shall not travel in foggy weather, in the snow or ice or at any other time when there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of five hundred (500) feet.
4. When routing is applicable, the permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads will not travel over any public road under State of Alabama Highway Department jurisdiction other than one described or allowed in the permit. For single trip permits the routing shall be described on the permit. For annual permits, the permitted party is responsible for requesting advance routing when applicable.

The described routing becomes a temporary part of the annual permit and must be carried in the permitted vehicle along with the annual permit for the duration of the relevant trip.

5. The operator of the permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads shall comply with load limitations placed on any bridge or section of highway, whether the limit is established by site posting or written announcement accompanying the permit. A list of bridges that are restricted to the legal weight limits set forth in § 32-9-20, Code of Alabama (1975), will be furnished with each annual permit.
6. When commodities or equipment whose weight exceeds the maximum limit specified by law are transported on any State highway, all appurtenances that will reduce the weight shall be removed and transported on a separate vehicle. This includes but is not limited to buckets, booms, counter-weights, etc. Bulldozer blades are excluded from the provisions of this rule (Act No. 837 of the Legislature of Alabama, 1978).
7. Anytime that the blade protrudes beyond the transporting vehicle, bulldozers, front-end-loaders and similar equipment shall be loaded with the rear of the machine facing the front when being transported on Alabama's highways. The exception to this rule is "V" blades and similar blade configurations used by the forest industry. Machines being transported with these blades intact shall be loaded with the blade toward the front.
8. Off the road equipment. Self-propelled equipment that is used for purposes that do not require movement upon highways but may occasionally need to be driven upon highways are restricted as follows:

If the single axle weight exceeds 25,000 pounds, the equipment may be permitted to move, self-propelled, a maximum of ten (10) miles on State highways. If the single axle weight exceeds 25,000 pounds the equipment must be transported as a load on an appropriate motor vehicle for moves of over ten(10) miles.
9. The permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads shall maintain 500-foot intervals between each vehicle load. When the normal flow of traffic becomes impeded, the vehicle or load shall move off the traveled portion of the public road until the traffic congestion has been cleared.
10. Escort Requirements
 - a. As a condition to the issuance of a permit, the State Highway Department, when it deems it necessary in the interest of public safety in any case, may require the use of front or rear escort, or both. Escorts are required, but not limited to the following:

Overheight vehicles or combination of vehicles and loads – Front escort is required for heights in excess of sixteen (16) feet. Depending on the route to be traveled, escorts may occasionally be required for lesser heights.

Overwidth vehicles or combination of vehicles and loads – Front and rear escorts are required if the width is in excess of twelve (12) feet. For mobile homes, the rear escort may be replaced by the following described light system:

"The lighting system shall be in addition to all the safety and warning devices utilized in the rear of mobile homes using rear escorts. Two 5' flashing amber lights shall be mounted approximately 6 feet from ground level on the rear corners of the mobile homes. Control of the lighting system shall be from inside the tractor cab with a warning device to alert the driver in the event the lights malfunction."

Overlength vehicles or combination of vehicles and loads – A rear escort is required for lengths 76 feet to 105 feet, inclusive, except that mobile homes may use the above described lighting system in lieu of a rear escort. Front and rear escorts are required for lengths in excess of 105 feet. A rear escort is required for any permitted vehicle transporting a load extending more than five feet beyond the rear of the vehicle. A front escort is required for any permitted vehicle transporting a load extending ten feet or more beyond the front of the vehicle.

- b. Special escort requirements for bulldozers and other construction equipment being transported with blade intact:

Anytime that the blade protrudes beyond the transporting vehicle a minimum of one escort is required. The escort shall be a front escort for highways with only one lane in each direction and a rear escort for highways with two or more lanes in each direction. This requirement is in addition to, and not in place of all other escort requirements.

- c. An escort vehicle shall be a pickup truck or a passenger automobile, carry-all or station wagon. An escort vehicle shall be equipped with a flashing or revolving amber light. The escort vehicles must be able to contact each other and the permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads by radio.
- d. A sign shall be mounted on the front and rear of any overwidth or overlength vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads. When escorts are required, a sign shall be mounted on the front of the escort vehicle (for a front escort) and to the rear of the escort vehicle (for a rear escort). The sign shall contain the wording "OVERSIZE LOAD" and be seven (7) feet wide by eighteen (18) inches high in black letters ten (10) inches high with 1 5/8 inch (series "C") brush stroke on a yellow or orange background. For signs mounted on escort vehicles, the height and the length of the sign may be modified to fit the escort vehicle while maintaining specified color scheme and letter size.
- e. A square red flag, 18 inches on a side, shall be displayed at the corner of both sides of overdimensional vehicle or load, at both the front and rear thereof.

11. Liability insurance or indemnify bond:

- a. Annual Permits

All existing insurance requirements of Alabama, including, but not limited to those of the Public Service Commission shall be observed. In addition the amount of liability or bond specified by § 32-9-29, Code of Alabama (1975), as amended, is required. No annual permit shall be issued until the applicant furnishes proof that he is in compliance with these insurance or bond requirements. The State of Alabama Highway Department shall be listed as a Certificate holder with the applicants Insurance Company and the Department shall be notified by the Insurance Company of any changes in the applicants coverage. Should the insurance or bond become void by expiration, cancellation or for any other reason during the effective period of the permit, the permit shall immediately become forever void. Should the permit holder reinstate his insurance or bond coverage he must re-apply for an annual permit and pay the full price for a new permit.

- b. Single Trip Permits

All existing insurance requirements of Alabama, including, but not limited to those of the Public Service Commission shall be observed. Proof of the minimum insurance required by the Public Service Commission must be on file with the State of Alabama Highway Department Permit Office prior to a permit being issued to transport a vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads whose width exceeds fourteen (14) feet.

- c. Further, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the State Highway Department from requiring any additional undertaking or security as may be deemed necessary to compensate the State for any injury to public road therein, including a bridge. Upon request, the company, corporation, or individual receiving a permit shall furnish the Department with a copy of the policy of insurance required herein. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as to make the State Highway Department liable for any damage to a public road or bridge or to persons or private property caused by a permitted vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads, or its escort vehicle. The party receiving the permit thereby agrees to hold the State Highway Department harmless from such claims and to recompense the State Highway Department for any expenditures made by the State Highway Department to repair damages caused by the permitted vehicle or load to a public road under State Highway Department jurisdiction.
12. Vehicles or combination of vehicles and loads using single trip permits are allowed five (5) days to complete trip. Single trip permits are valid for one round trip. Time extensions will not be granted unless the trip is interrupted by acts of nature such as floods, snow, ice, storms, etc.; provided further that these interruptions must be such that the movement of the traffic as a whole is affected in the area.

IV. Conditions for Movement of Houses

1. No house shall be moved whose width exceeds 28 feet or whose height exceeds 16.5 feet.
2. The movement of the house will be confined to the route approved on the permit, and in no case will exceed a distance of 50 miles.
3. All mail boxes that are obstacles to the move of the house shall be removed as the house approaches and re-erected immediately after the house passes in equal or better condition than prior to removal.
4. The company, corporation, or individual receiving a permit to move a house is responsible for any damage to private or public property caused by the move. This includes but is not limited to damage to utilities.
5. Highway signs and other traffic control devices that may be removed to accommodate a house move will be removed and re-erected by the State of Alabama Highway Department of the responsible political subdivision at the expense of the company, corporation, individual receiving the permit.
6. The company, corporation, or individual receiving a permit to move a house shall contact the State Highway Department District Engineer, for the area involved, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the move.
7. In the interest of public safety, permits may be issued to move houses in urban areas during hours prohibited by Section III, Paragraph 2, of these rules. Such moves must be coordinated with the local City Government and have a police escort.
8. Liability insurance requirements shall be as specified in Section III, Subtitle 11, of these rules.

V. Permit Procedure

1. All permits will be issued on prepaid basis or be guaranteed by funds on deposit with the State Highway Department.
2. Firms or corporations may deposit funds with the State Highway Department to guarantee payment for permits. These firms or corporations will be billed monthly. A minimum of \$300 will be accepted for deposit. After records show that a firm or corporation has purchased permits equal to 80% of their deposit, no further permits will be issued until bill is paid or funds are added to their deposit.

- 3. Permit service companies, with machines in the permit office may deposit funds with the State Highway Department to guarantee payment for permits sent on their machines. The permit companies will be billed weekly. After records show that permits have been charged to the company equal to 90% of their deposit, no further permits will be issued until bill is paid or funds are added to their deposit.
- 4. Annual permits must be applied for in writing and paid for in advance. Application forms are available from the Permit Office of the State of Alabama Highway Department.
- 5. An application for a single trip permit may be made by telephone, by letter, by telegram, or in person.
- 6. Fee Schedule
 - a. Annual Permits \$100.00

The Highway Director of the official of the Highway Department designated by the Director, may pursuant to the provision of this section issue an annual permit which shall permit the vehicle or combination of 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 (a) whose total gross weight exceeds 150,000 pounds, provided further that gross weights over 100,000 pounds shall require advance routing by the Highway Department; (b) whose single axle weight exceeds 22,000 pounds; (c) whose total length exceeds 75 feet, with the exception of mobile homes whose length limitations, including towing vehicle, shall be 85 feet; (d) whose total width exceeds 120 inches or whose load width exceeds 144 inches, with the exception of mobile homes whose width limitations shall be 168 inches. However, mobile homes whose width exceeds 144 inches shall require advance route approval by the Highway Department; or (e) whose height exceeds 14 feet, provided, however, that a permit to operate a vehicle which exceeds the statutory limits of height, weight, or length shall be issued only on condition of payment of an indemnity bond or proof of insurance protection for \$300,000. Said bond or insurance protection conditioned for payment to the Highway 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 such over height 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 agents, or operators.”

- b. Single Trip Permits
 - (1) Mobile homes, modular homes, sectional houses, portable buildings, and boats:
 - (i) Up to and including 12 feet wide, 75 feet long \$10.00
 - (ii) Boats in excess of 12 feet wide \$20.00
 - (iii) Mobile homes, modular homes, sectional houses, and portable building in excess of 12 feet wide and/or 75 feet long \$20.00
 - (2) Heavy commodities or equipment. This is for vehicles or combination of vehicle and loads whose weight exceeds the maximum limit specified by law.
 - (i) 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

(ii) When the overweight vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads is over the maximum length, height, or width specified by law, an additional \$10.00 is added to the fee.

(3) Miscellaneous

- (i) Houses \$20.00
- (ii) Off the road equipment \$10.00
- (iii) Other oversized vehicles, loads, and equipment not herein specified. \$20.00
- (iv) Other overheight loads no herein specified. \$10.00

7. Payment for permits may be by company checks, cash, money order, and by certified or cashier's check. A personal check will not be accepted

These rules are promulgated in accordance with the provision of § 32-9-29, code of Alabama (1975), as amended. The Director of the State of Alabama Highway Department may in his discretion, in the interest of public safety or public interest, modify these rules; provided further that no modifications shall be made without the consent of the Highway Director.