

TITLE 13. LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAPTER 18. EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

SUBCHAPTER 1. PERMITS FOR OVERDIMENSIONAL OR OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES

13:18-1.1 Scope

(a) This Subchapter 1 replaces the following regulations previously adopted:

1. Subchapter 1 (Special Permits for Overdimensional Vehicles) of this Chapter;
2. Subchapter 2 (Permits in Book Form) of this Chapter;
3. Subchapter 3 (Special Permits for Overweight Vehicles) of this Chapter;
4. Subchapter 13 (Dimensional Restrictions) of Chapter 20 (Enforcement Service).

13:18-1.2 Requirement of permit

(a) Except as provided in (c) below, a single-trip permit is required for each one-way trip of an oversize or overweight vehicle that exceeds the dimension or weight provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3-84.

(b) In the event the vehicle is both oversize and overweight, a single-trip permit will be issued for each one-way trip.

(c) An annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit may be issued for a tractor semitrailer combination engaged in the transportation of sealed containers of the type commonly used for the conveyance of freight transportation in international ocean going commerce as follows:

1. Sealed containers transported under an annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit shall bear the seal of the United States Custom Service, the seal of another governmental agency or the seal of a shipper;

2. The combined gross vehicle weight of any tractor semitrailer combination, including load or content conveying sealed containers, shall not exceed 90,000 pounds. The tractor semitrailer combination per-axle combined weight shall not exceed 38,000 pounds for any one tandem axle unit in any tractor semitrailer combination and shall not exceed 56,400 pounds for any tri-axle trailer configuration. Additionally, vehicles shall conform with the axle limitations in N.J.S.A. 39:3-84 and the maximum tire load limit in N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.10(a)2. Vehicles or combination of vehicles that exceed these weight limits may not use an annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit and shall obtain a single-trip permit as described in (a) above;

3. The original annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit, as issued by the Motor Vehicle Commission, shall be carried in the tractor semitrailer combination whenever the trip requires such a permit. Photocopies or other reproductions of a permit shall specifically not be acceptable in lieu of the original permit. In the absence of the physical possession of the original permit, the trip shall be deemed as having been made without a valid permit;

4. Travel shall not be on segments of routes crossing structures identified by the New Jersey Department of Transportation on a valid permit as restricted to vehicles or combination of vehicles transporting ocean borne sealed containers described above. Information regarding the structures not accessible to these vehicles can be found on the permit, on the Department's website at

<http://nj.gotpermits.com> or by calling the New Jersey Department of Transportation Bureau of Structural Engineering at 609-530-2579. If travel over these routes cannot be avoided, a single-trip permit as described in (a) above shall be required and other restrictions may apply;

5. Annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permits shall not be valid for the transportation of oversized or overdimensional loads; and

6. Making timely application for the issuance or reissuance of an annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit shall be the sole responsibility of the person(s) who desires to have or utilize such permits. The Motor Vehicle Commission shall not be responsible for mailing annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit renewal forms to persons whose permits are about to expire.

13:18-1.3 Period of permit validity

(a) The periods of validity for permits issued pursuant to this subchapter are as follows:

1. A single-trip permit shall be valid for a period of five days;
2. An annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.2(c) shall be valid for a period not exceeding 365 days; and
3. A permit issued for an overweight vehicle utilizing a trailer with a Code 23 registration, as issued by the Commission, shall be valid for 30 days.

(b) In the event the one-way trip cannot be completed within the valid life of the single-trip permit due to hazardous road conditions or vehicle breakdown, a one-day extension may be granted provided that the request is made to the Motor Vehicle Commission before the single-trip permit expires.

13:18-1.4 Reservation of Commission's rights

The Motor Vehicle Commission reserves the right to designate the routes of travel, speed limits, exact day and time of operation, or to impose any other restrictions which may be necessary to minimize traffic delays or safety hazards.

13:18-1.5 Permit applications

(a) Applications for permits, as specified in N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.2, shall be obtained on the Department's website at <http://nj.gotpermits.com>.

(b) Information to be provided by the applicant for a single-trip permit shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the permit applicant;
2. The vehicle information including, but not limited to, the type of tractor and trailer combination;
3. The vehicle height, length and width;
4. The axle configuration and weight over each axle;

5. The overall gross vehicle weight;

6. The dates of travel;

7. The details of the anticipated route of travel, including locations of the entrance to and exit from the New Jersey State highway system, including, but not limited to, the interstate highways, the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway south of Exit 105 and the Atlantic City Expressway; and

8. The name of insurance provider and policy number required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.7(b).

(c) Information to be provided by the applicant for an annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the permit applicant; and

2. The name of the applicant's insurance provider and policy number required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.7(b).

(d) Applications for single-trip permits will be reviewed for acceptability of the route being used in conjunction with the vehicle's load and axle configuration.

(e) Applications for single-trip permits will be rejected where the vehicle's load and axle configuration overstress the structures being crossed on the anticipated route of travel. Rejected applications will identify the structures on the proposed route being overstressed. Applicants can either modify the vehicle's load, weight over each axle or axle spacing to lessen the load impact or choose an alternative route. Applicants can contact the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Bureau of Structural Engineering at 609-530-2579 for assistance in the choice of acceptable alternative routes.

(f) Once issued, a single-trip permit may be revised, prior to the dates of travel, to modify the following information:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the permit applicant;

2. The vehicle information; or

3. The name of the applicant's insurance provider and policy number required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.7(b).

(g) Once issued, revisions to a single-trip permit to modify any of the following, prior to the dates of travel, will require a new permit application and associated fees:

1. The vehicle height, length and width;

2. The axle configuration and weight over each axle;

3. The overall gross vehicle weight;

4. The dates of travel; or

5. The details of the anticipated route of travel, including locations of the entrance to and exit from the New Jersey State highway system, including, but not limited to, the interstate highways, the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway south of Exit 105 and the Atlantic City Expressway.

(h) Once issued, an annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit may be revised, prior to the dates of permit validity, to modify the following information:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the permit applicant; or
2. The name of the applicant's insurance provider and policy number required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.7(b).

13:18-1.6 Fees

(a) The base permit fee shall be as follows:

1. For either an oversize or overweight vehicle single-trip permit - \$ 10.00;
2. For an oversize and overweight vehicle single-trip permit - \$ 20.00 and the additional oversize and overweight fees shall also apply; or
3. For an annual ocean borne containerized cargo multiple-trip permit issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.2(c) - \$ 100.00.

(b) There shall be an additional fee of \$ 1.00 for each foot or fractional portion thereof that the dimensions of any vehicle or combination of vehicles as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 39:3-84a, including load or contents or of any part or portion thereof, exceed 14 feet in width. There shall be an additional fee of \$ 1.00 for each foot or fractional portion thereof that the dimensions of any combination of vehicles as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 39:3-84a, including load or contents or of any part or portion thereof, exceed 63 feet in length. There shall be an additional fee of \$ 1.00 for each foot or fractional portion thereof that the dimensions of any house-type trailer and its towing vehicle or any house-type semitrailer and its towing vehicle exceed 70 feet in length.

(c) There shall be an additional fee of \$ 5.00 for each 2,000 pounds or fractional portion thereof that the weight of the vehicle, including load, exceeds either the axle or gross weight limits--whichever is greater--set forth in Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

(d) There shall be an additional fee of \$ 12.00 plus a service charge of five percent of the total permit fee, for each permit transaction. Single-trip permits issued for vehicles that are both oversize and overweight shall be charged this fee as one transaction.

(e) No fee, other than the transaction fee of \$ 12.00 plus a service charge of five percent of the total permit fee, shall be imposed for a permit issued to a vehicle owned or operated by the United States, the State or any government or local government subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof.

(f) No fee, other than the transaction fee of \$ 12.00 plus a service charge of five percent of the total permit fee, shall be imposed for a single-trip permit issued to a combination of vehicles utilizing a trailer with a Code 23 registration, as issued by the Commission.

(g) Upon notification to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the Chief Administrator may refund the fee for permits that are canceled before the first day of travel as identified on a valid permit.

13:18-1.7 Liability for damage; application requirements; insurance

(a) Any person driving any vehicle, object or contrivance subject to and in excess of statutory weight limitations and permit requirements upon any highway or highway structure, whether temporary or permanent, shall be liable for all damage which the highway or highway structure may sustain as a result of any such operation, driving or moving of such vehicle, object or contrivance.

1. Such damage may be recovered in a civil action brought by the authorities in control of such highway or highway structure.

2. The fact that the vehicle, object, or contrivance causing the damage was being operated, driven or moved within the authorized size and weight limitations or permitted by a special permit as provided by law, shall not be accepted as a defense to any action brought as provided in this subsection if damage is caused to highways or structures posted for weight limits less than those set forth by statute.

3. Whenever the driver is not the owner of such vehicle, object or contrivance, but is so operating, driving or moving with the express or implied permission of the owner, then the owner and the driver shall be jointly and severally liable for any damage.

(b) An application for a permit shall not be accepted unless the applicant provides proof of coverage by insurance in the following minimum limits:

1. \$ 100,000 for bodily injury or death to any one person in any one occurrence;
2. \$ 300,000 for bodily injury or death to two or more persons in any one occurrence;
3. \$ 100,000 for damage to or destruction of property in any one occurrence.

(c) The insurance policy shall contain a provision that there will be 10-day prior notice to the Motor Vehicle Commission in the event of cancellation or termination of the insurance.

13:18-1.8 Exceptions; insurance certificate requirement

The insurance provision found at N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.7 shall not be required in the case of an over-size permit issued for the operation of a private utility trailer, house-type trailer or semitrailer. In such cases, the provisions of the Compulsory Motor Vehicle Insurance Law (N.J.S.A. 39:6B-1 et seq.) and the Security-Responsibility Law (N.J.S.A. 39:6-23 et seq.) will apply.

13:18-1.9 Permits generally

(a) No permit shall be valid:

1. For the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting a load that can be dismembered, dismantled or divided in such a manner, so that the weight and dimensional limitations prescribed in Title 39 of the Revised Statutes are not exceeded, except for sealed containers of the type commonly used for the conveyance of freight transportation in international oceangoing commerce, bearing the seal of the United States Custom Service, the seal of another governmental agency or the seal of the shipper, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.2(c);

2. On any toll road, without the express approval of the tolling authority, including, but not limited to, the South Jersey Transportation Authority for the Atlantic City Expressway; and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway;

3. Unless there is compliance with all applicable requirements of this subchapter and pertinent statutory provisions.

13:18-1.10 Invalidity of overweight permits

(a) An overweight permit shall not be valid:

1. For the operation of a vehicle registered or required to be registered in New Jersey unless the vehicle is registered in this State at the maximum registration weight permitted under N.J.S.A. 39:3-20.

2. When the gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load, exceeds 800 pounds per inch in width of tires on all wheels, or when the load is distributed so as to impose a weight of more than 800 pounds per inch in width of tire on any one wheel.

(b) Overweight vehicles for which permits have been issued and which are incapable of being operated safely at a maximum speed of 40 miles per hour shall be prohibited from operating on the highways during hours when lighted lamps are required, or when visibility is limited to a distance of less than 500 feet, or when hazardous road conditions exist.

13:18-1.11 Invalidity of oversize permits

(a) An oversize permit shall not be valid for the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles on any highway where clear space available for use by passing traffic is less than ten feet, including roadway and improved shoulder.

(b) An oversize permit shall not be valid for the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day and the Friday before Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and the Friday before Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the operation shall not be permitted on the following Monday. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the operation shall not be permitted on the preceding Friday.

(c) An oversize permit shall not be valid for the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles:

1. During the nighttime hours of sunset to sunrise;

2. When visibility is limited to a distance of less than 500 feet during the daylight hours of sunrise to sunset; and

3. When hazardous road conditions exist.

(d) An oversize permit shall not be valid for the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles that are incapable of being operated safely at a maximum speed of 40 miles per hour during hours when lighted lamps are required.

(e) The Chief Administrator may grant a written waiver of the holiday or the nighttime restrictions under the following minimum situations. Any request for a waiver must accompany the permit application.

1. If it is determined that traffic congestion would be reduced by the waiver;

2. If the permit applicant can justify a business hardship caused by the restrictions; or
3. If an emergency condition exists.

13:18-1.12 Escort vehicle requirements

(a) One escort vehicle shall be required when the width, including load, exceeds 14 feet and/or when the length exceeds 100 feet.

(b) Two escort vehicles shall be required when the width, including load, exceeds 16 feet and/or when the length exceeds 120 feet.

(c) Pursuant to the provisions of (a) and (b) above, one additional escort vehicle shall be required when an oversize vehicle or combination of vehicles has been granted a waiver, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:18-1.11(e), and is traveling during the nighttime hours of sunset to sunrise.

(d) When the height, including load, exceeds 14 feet, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-28 will apply.

(e) When one escort vehicle is required, it shall precede the escorted vehicles on highways having less than four traffic lanes and shall follow the escorted vehicles on highways having four or more traffic lanes.

(f) When two escort vehicles are required, one shall precede the escorted vehicles and one shall follow the escorted vehicles.

(g) When three escort vehicles are required, one shall precede the escorted vehicles, one shall follow the escorted vehicles and one shall travel in the adjacent lane alongside the escorted vehicles on all highways having three or more lanes. When three or more highway lanes are not available, the third escort vehicle shall also follow the escorted vehicles.

(h) The preceding escort vehicle shall maintain a distance of from 200 feet minimum to 500 feet maximum from the lead vehicle of the escorted combination of vehicles.

(i) The following escort vehicle shall maintain a distance of from 100 feet minimum to 250 feet maximum from the rearmost vehicle of the escorted combination of vehicles.

13:18-1.13 Warning signs

(a) The minimum size of a warning sign shall be six feet wide by one foot high.

(b) The term "WIDE LOAD" or "OVERSIZE LOAD" shall be displayed on the sign in black letters of 10 inches minimum height on a yellow background.

(c) When two escort vehicles are required, a warning sign shall be displayed on the front of the preceding escort vehicle and on the rear of the following escort vehicle.

(d) When only one escort vehicle is required, a warning sign shall be displayed on the rear of the rearmost vehicle in the escorted combination and on the front of the escort vehicle if it is preceding, or on the front of the lead vehicle of the escorted combination and on the rear of the escort vehicle if it is following.

(e) When no escort vehicles are required, warning signs shall be displayed on the front and rear of the oversize vehicle combination.

13:18-1.14 Warning flags

(a) A warning flag shall be red in color and its minimum size shall be 18 inches square.

(b) Warning flags shall be displayed on the two front corners of the preceding escort vehicle.

(c) Warning flags shall be displayed on the two rear corners of the following escort vehicle.

(d) Warning flags shall be placed at the four corners of an oversize vehicle.

(e) When a vehicle, whether oversize or not, is transporting a load which projects beyond the sides of the vehicle the warning flags shall be placed at the four corners of the load rather than the vehicle.

(f) If the load projects only beyond the rear of the transporting vehicle, two flags shall be placed on the two rear corners of the load.

(g) If the projecting load is round or some other shape without distinguishable corners, a warning flag shall be placed at the outermost extremity of the load on each side and/or to the rear of the vehicle.

13:18-1.15 Headlamps and taillamps

Low beam headlamps and red taillamps shall be illuminated on all escort vehicles, the towing vehicle and the towed vehicle.

13:18-1.16 Oversize private utility or house-type trailer or semitrailer

(a) Except as set forth in (f) below, a permit shall not be valid for the operation of any private utility or house-type trailer or semitrailer, on its own wheels, with a width of more than 14 feet.

(b) Any such vehicle whose width exceeds 14 feet shall be transported on a commercial-type low-bed trailer, semitrailer or properly registered dolly wheels.

(c) The towing vehicle shall be a truck, truck tractor or road tractor equipped with dual wheels on the drive axle and a heavy-duty towing hitch.

(d) If the trailer or semitrailer is not more than 10 feet wide, the towing vehicle shall have a capacity of 3/4 ton or more, and if the trailer or semitrailer is more than 10 feet wide, the towing vehicle capacity shall be 1 1/2 tons or more.

(e) A private utility or house-type trailer or semitrailer in excess of 12 feet in width, or its towing vehicle, shall be equipped with and have in operation two sway control devices between the towing vehicle and the towed vehicle.

(f) Notwithstanding (a) above, a permit shall be valid for the operation of a house-type trailer or semitrailer with an outside width of no more than 16 feet if the vehicle is a manufactured home on a transportation system that is designed in accordance with the "Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards," 24 CFR Part 3280.901, promulgated by the United States Department of

Housing and Urban Development, as amended and supplemented. A manufactured home with an outside width of more than 16 feet shall be transported on a commercial-type low-bed trailer, semi-trailer or properly registered dolly wheels.