

NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



# OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMIT HANDBOOK

OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMIT UNIT



# Oversize/Overweight

## Permit Handbook

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## Introduction

When reviewing a request for the issuance of an oversize/overweight permit, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's top priority is the safety of the motoring public and the protection of our state highway system.

The NCDOT Oversize/Overweight Permit Handbook is provided to answer questions relating to movement of qualified vehicles and/or commodities that exceed the specified limits in North Carolina law.

This booklet is for general information. Specific publications are available upon request. Please refer to page 25.

## North Carolina Laws

### **Width**

102 inches (8 feet 6 inches) – on all roads in North Carolina

### **Height**

13 feet 6 inches

### **Weight**

Gross weight is determined by the extreme axle measurement (federal bridge law)

Single axle – 20,000 pounds

Tandem axle – 38,000 pounds

### **Length**

Two-axle vehicle – 40 feet

Three-axle vehicle – 40 feet

Vehicle combination – 60 feet

**Exception:** (Truck tractor/48-foot semi-trailer combination with no overall length limitation is allowed on all roads and truck tractor/53-foot semi-trailer combination, with no overall length limitation is allowed on all North Carolina primary (NC, US and Interstate) routes unless restricted.

**\*\*\*Publication M-13\*\*\***

### **Overhang**

Rear overhang in excess of 4 feet is required to display a 12-inch-square red flag for daytime travel and clearance lights during nighttime travel. Loads shall not extend more than 14 feet beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle. Maximum overhang is limited to 14 feet.

**\*\*\*Publication L-14\*\*\***



## Permits

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## Qualification

### To qualify for a permit:

**1 Overweight**

One item/commodity qualifies for overweight; multiple items do not qualify for an overweight permit.

**2 Overwidth**

One item/commodity or multiple items loaded in line qualifies for overwidth; multiple items cannot be loaded side by side creating width exceeding 8 feet 6 inches.

**3 Overlength**

One item/commodity of continuous length qualifies for overlength; multiple items cannot be loaded in line creating overlength in excess of limits specified by North Carolina law dependent upon route of travel.

**4 Overheight**

One item/commodity qualifies for overheight; stacked items/commodities cannot exceed the legal height of 13 feet 6 inches.

*It is the responsibility of the permittee to reduce all overdimension and/or overweight loads to the least dimension and weight prior to application for a N.C. permit.*

## Application

### Telephone

A total of four permit requests may be accepted during one telephone request. Multiple permits for one multi-sectional mobile home is considered one permit request.

**Toll Free Calls**

1-888-574-6683 (single trip permit)

1-888-221-8166 (administrative personnel/  
annual permit/superload permit)

**Local Calls**

(919) 733-7154 (single trip permit)

(919) 733-4740 (administrative personnel/  
annual permit/superload permit)

**Fax**

*Toll-Free Fax:* 1-888-222-8347

*Local Fax:* (919) 733-7828; (919) 733-7921

**Address (walk-in and mail)**

(annual and single trip permit)

Oversize/Overweight Permit Unit

1425 Rock Quarry Road, Suite 109

Raleigh, NC

*Directions:* I-40, Exit 300

**Internet**

The Internet Permit Application System provides an easy way to apply for single trip permits.

To use this system, you must register with our office. A user identification and password is

required for access to the system. Internet

Explorer 4.0 or Netscape 4.5 or above is required.

For a registration packet including more

information, call the NCDOT Central Permit Office

at (919) 733-4740 or 1-888-221-8166.

## Method of Payment

**Cash or Company Check**

NO PERSONAL CHECKS ARE ACCEPTED.

**Credit Card**

American Express, MasterCard, Discover or

VISA are accepted.

**Direct Fax Credit Permit Account**

(single trip permits only)

An application and security deposit are required to

establish the credit account allowing a participant

to receive permits directly from the Central Permit

Office. Billing invoices for cumulative permit fees

due are mailed monthly.

*\*\*\*Publication DF-4\*\*\**

**Permit Service Agencies**

(single trip permits only)

Contact the Central Permit Office for a current

listing of permit service agencies doing business

with our office.

*\*\*\*Publication PSA-10\*\*\**

# Permit Type

## Annual Permit

<b>Fee</b>	\$100 per vehicle (non-divisible general commodities) \$200 per vehicle (mobile homes)
<b>Valid</b>	One year from effective date
<b>Width</b>	12 feet maximum* (14 feet farm equipment)
<b>Length</b>	75 feet hauling one item commodity or truck tractor/48-foot semi-trailer combination hauling multiple commodities in line  60 feet with truck/trailer combination hauling multiple commodities in line 105-foot toter/mobile home combination
<b>Height</b>	13 feet 6 inches (legal)
<b>Overweight</b> (One item)	Minimum 51-foot wheelbase, vehicle combinations can qualify for movement up to 90,000 pounds. (Travel not authorized on posted roads or posted bridges.)  Over 90,000 pounds, route specific (exact origin, detailed route and destination).
<b>Identified by</b>	Power unit license and serial number
<b>Issued to</b>	Registered owner of power unit

\* *Mobile homes not exceeding unit width of 14 feet with a total roof overhang of 12 inches may apply for an annual permit if either:*

- *moving within a 25-mile radius from a specific dealer sales lot (permit coissued) to customer's homesite, another dealer or out of state; or*
- *moving from a specific manufacturing facility to a specific dealer sales lot identified by dealer name and license number (maximum 30 routes).*

### **Requirements for Permit Issuance or Renewal**

- An Annual Permit Application (PF-2 or PF-27) for original issuance, a copy of the expiring annual permit or renewal notification
- Copy of current valid permanent registration for power unit
- \$100 fee for each vehicle (PF-2 general commodities)  
\$200 fee for each vehicle (PF-27 mobile homes)

## Gross Weights

**5, 6 or 7 axles** **90,000 lbs.**  
(minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(annual permit – not to cross posted roads or posted bridges)

**5 axles** **94,500 lbs.\***  
(\*112,000 pounds with minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(annual permit - up to 10 specific routes)

**6 axles** **108,000 lbs.\***  
(\*120,000 pounds with minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(annual permit - one specific route)

**7 axles** **122,000 lbs.\***  
(\*132,000 pounds with minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(annual permit - one specific route)

Annual Permit inquiries: 1-888-221-8166

## Single Trip Permit

**Fee** \$12 - \$48 (state fee)

**Valid** 10 calendar days for one single trip

**Width** 15 feet maximum (*mobile home may be permitted up to 16 feet in approved areas*)

**Length** No overall length limitations, with the following exception:  
105 feet maximum for mobile homes/total combination

**Height** Maximum determined by vertical clearance along authorized route of travel

**Overweight** One item route specific (exact origin, detailed route and destination)

**Identified by** Power unit license and serial number

**Issued to** Registered owner of power unit

- The following weights do not apply to self-propelled vehicles or off-road equipment.
- Maximum permit weight allowed is determined by the number of load supporting axles; allowable bridge structure weights.

### **Axle weights:**

Steer axle	12,000 lbs.
Single axle	25,000 lbs.
Tandem axles	50,000 lbs.
3 or more axle grouping	60,000 lbs.

## Gross Weights

**5 axles** **94,500 lbs.\* (\*\*)**  
(\*112,000 pounds with minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(single trip permit - one specific route)

**6 axles** **108,000 lbs.\***  
(\*120,000 pounds with minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(single trip permit - one specific route)

**7 axles** **122,000 lbs.\***  
(\*132,000 pounds with minimum 51-foot wheelbase)  
(single trip permit - one specific route)

\*\* *Maximum permitted weight for a vehicle combination with five or more axles transporting a sealed-ship container.*

**Route of Travel** – Must include exact origin, detailed route and exact destination. County/state road numbers and routes are required. County alpha and numeric listings are available for purchase. Call (919) 212-6000 or download an order form at: [www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits](http://www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits).

- May include a return trip to the original point of origin, if requested at original time of issue. The return trip must be completed within the validation date of the permit.
- Interstate Commerce Commission number, or ICC#, is required for interstate (across state lines) travel.

**\*\*\*Publication GP-1\*\*\***

## Superload Permit

- \$100 non-refundable application fee
- State fee (\$12 – \$48) will be charged in addition to \$3 per 1,000 pounds over 132,000 pounds gross weight.
- Gross weight exceeds 132,000 pounds.
- Gross weight on steer axle exceeds 12,000 pounds.
- Gross weight on a four- or more axle grouping exceeds 60,000 pounds (to a maximum of 68,000 pounds).
- Width exceeds 15 feet (shipper's letter required).
- Requires a written superload application (PF-20) to include vehicle combination schematics (axle spacing and distribution of weight) and documentation for variances.
- Request must be made at least 10 working days prior to the anticipated date of movement to allow for internal and bridge engineering reviews.

Superload inquiries: 1-888-221-8166

**\*\*\*Publication SL-6\*\*\***

## Responsibility of Permittee

- The permit is required to be issued in the name of the registered owner of the insured power unit. The permittee is responsible for total compliance with permit rules and regulations.
- Violations of weight, escort, dimension and other restrictions or conditions stated on the permit may result in your permit being considered invalid by the Central Permit Office and/or enforcement personnel. A violation or repeated violations may result in denial, suspension or revocation of North Carolina permit privileges.
- Must comply with legal requirements for proper license, insurance coverage and operating authority for each vehicle to be permitted.
- The object(s)/item(s) transported are to be loaded or reduced to the smallest dimensions and/or weight prior to applications for an over-dimension and/or overweight permit.
- Proof the permit document for accuracy prior to travel on North Carolina highways. If the document is incorrect, permittee is to immediately contact the NCDOT Central Permit Office prior to movement on North Carolina highways.
- Properly sign the permit to verify you have read and fully understand the requirements.
- Responsible for damages and cost involved to persons or property as a result of the permitted movement.
- Total compliance with North Carolina law and permit policies and restrictions specified on permit document.
- Maintain a speed consistent with safety of the traveling public and avoid creating traffic congestion.
- Permittee shall temporarily move to the side of the highway to allow trailing traffic to pass.

### Disclaimer

***The issuance of a permit by the NCDOT does not imply nor guarantee the clearance for the permitted load(s). All vertical clearances should be checked by the permittee before moving beneath the structure and/or utility lines.***

# Permits for Movement of:

## Non-Divisible General Commodities

Permits may be issued not to exceed a maximum width of 15 feet.

A **non-divisible general commodity** would include but is not limited to:

- Boats
- Construction equipment
- Machinery (farm and business)
- Sealed ship containers
- Self-propelled equipment
- Tanks
- Transformers
- Trusses/beams

### General Requirements:

- Escorts are required as specified in the Equipment Safety Requirements section of the handbook.
- Overheight permit applications (in excess of 14 feet) are required to be faxed or submitted via the internet to the Central Permit Office for review and processing.

*\*\*\*Publication GP-1\*\*\**

## Houses

- House mover license applications and supporting documentation are renewed and issued by the Central Permit Office. The annual fee is \$100.
- House move permit applications are accepted, reviewed and issued by NCDOT division/district offices statewide.
- NCDOT offices statewide have the authority to approve, deny or permit with various restrictions after reviewing the route of travel and dimension(s) of structure to be moved.

- A \$20 non-refundable fee is required for house move permit applications. Application is required to be made at least two working days prior to the anticipated date of movement.

## **Mobile/Manufactured Homes**

**Single Trip Permit** is required for:

- 12-foot-wide units (width at bottom of unit) with any measurement of overhang.
- 12-foot-wide units that exceed 13 feet 6 inches in height.
- 14-foot-wide units with roof overhang not to exceed a total of 12 inches that are not operating by authority of an annual permit.
- 16-foot-wide units. Issuance of permits for movement of 16-foot-wide unit(s) is limited to specific geographical areas within the state.
- Units exceeding the legal height of 13 feet 6 inches.
- For all other mobile home movement not covered by authority outlined on an annual permit.

**Additional information required:**

- Serial number of mobile home (last five digits).
- ICC registration number is required when crossing state line(s).

**Annual (Blanket) Permits** may be issued for:

- Movement of 12-foot-wide units that do not exceed the legal height of 13 feet 6 inches.
- 14-foot-wide units with roof overhang not to exceed a total measurement of 12 inches moving from point of specified manufacturer to a specific retail sales center (manufacturer name and dealership name and dealer number are required), may include up to a maximum of 30 specific routes of travel.
- 14-foot-wide units with roof overhang not to exceed a total measurement of 12 inches moving within a 25-mile radius from a specific dealer sales lot (permit coissued) to customer's homesite, another dealer or out of state.

*\*\*\*Publication MH-2\*\*\**

## Reports

North Carolina licensed manufacturers and mobile home dealers are required to maintain records of all permitted movement and submit a monthly report to the Central Permit Office by the 10th of the next month for mobile home transactions covered by an annual permit on forms PF-25 (dealer) and PF-26 (manufacturer).

Failure to comply with the requirements to maintain and submit the required monthly reports and/or repeated violations may be grounds for denying, suspending or revoking manufacturer's or dealer's license issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles, or refusal to renew a permit, suspend or deny North Carolina oversize permit privileges.

### **Title 19A NCAC 03D.0219 Business Records**

- (b) All motor vehicles dealers, manufacturers, factory branches, distributor branches and wholesalers shall keep for a period of four years the following additional records for each vehicle and mobile/modular home manufactured, received, sold, traded or junked:
  - (7) The North Carolina oversize single trip or annual permit number authorizing movement of the mobile/modular unit, serial number or vehicle identification number of the mobile/modular unit, the date of move, transporter, and name and address of purchaser.

## Sealed Ship Container

A sealed ship container must meet all of the following requirements to qualify for a permit:

- The gross vehicle weight does not exceed 94,500 pounds;
- All dimensions of width, height and length do not exceed limits specified in North Carolina law;
- Traveling to or from a designated seaport (either in state or out of state) and has been or will be transported intact by marine shipment;
- Power unit is licensed for 80,000 pounds;
- Is a vehicle/vehicle combination of at least five axles; and
- Has proper documentation (shippers' bill of lading and/or trucking bill of lading) of sealed commodity being transported available for enforcement inspection.

Single trip permit – one specific route of travel

Annual permit – up to 10 specific routes of travel

**\*\*\*Publication C-11\*\*\***

## Self-Propelled Equipment

The original permit request – annual or single trip permit – for cranes or off-road equipment must include schematics of the unit including axle spacings, axle weights, gross weight, width, overall length and length of front and/or rear overhang.

The maximum permitted gross weight varies depending on extreme wheelbase and axle grouping measurement.

**\*\*\*Publication SP-3\*\*\***

# Permit Rules and Regulations

## General Information

- PERMITS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE. If a permitted vehicle is wrecked, sold, traded or junked, a new permit must be issued and the required fee(s) paid.
- Oversize/overweight permits (annual and single trip) are issued with the requirements and restrictions customized on each permit document for the load being transported.
- No movement is allowed on Sunday or between sunset and sunrise on any day unless otherwise stated on the permit.
- Commodity being hauled must be loaded so that the vehicle/vehicle combination presents the least dimension and exposure to the motoring public.
- The towing unit must be properly licensed for maximum allowable weight determined by extreme axle measurement (G.S. 20-118) prior to application for an overweight permit.
- Permittee must be apportionately registered prior to travel into or through North Carolina as required by law. For more information, contact the DMV International Registration Plan Unit at (919) 861-3720.

### **Results of Permit Violations**

*Violations of weight, escorts, dimensions, route of travel or any other restrictions or conditions stated on the permit may result in the permit being considered invalid by the Central Permit Office and/or enforcement personnel. A violation or repeated violations may result in denial, suspension or revocation of North Carolina permit privileges.*

## Penalties for Permit Violations

A person (driver) operating a commercial motor vehicle carrying a load that is subject to oversize/overweight permit requirements will have six points rather than five points added to their driving record if found guilty of:

- 1) careless and reckless driving
- 2) speeding in excess of 15 miles per hour above either the posted speed limit or the restricted speed, of the permit (if any); if no permit was obtained, the speed that would be applicable to the load if a permit had been obtained.

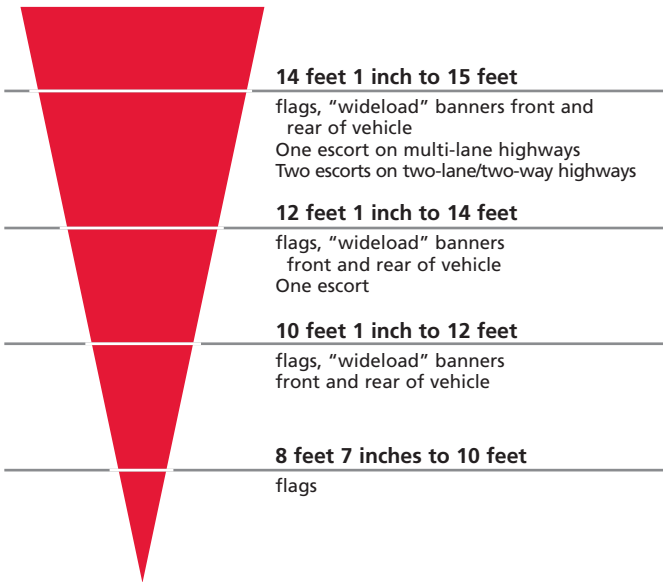
For each violation of any of the terms or conditions of a special permit issued or where a permit is required but not obtained under this section, the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety may assess a civil penalty for each violation against the registered owner of the vehicle as follows:

- 1) A fine of \$500 for any of the following: operating without the issuance of a permit, moving a load off the route specified in the permit, falsifying information to obtain a permit, failing to comply with dimension restrictions of a permit, or failing to comply with the number of properly certified escort vehicles required.
- 2) A fine of \$250 for moving loads beyond the distance allowances of an annual permit covering the movement of house trailers from the retailer's premises or for operating in violation of time of travel restrictions.
- 3) A fine of \$100 for any other violation of the permit conditions or requirements imposed by applicable regulations.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation may refuse to issue additional permits or suspend existing permits if there are repeated violations of (1) or (2) listed above. In addition to the penalties provided above, a civil penalty in accordance with G.S. 20-118 (e)(1) and (3) may be assessed if a vehicle is operating without the issuance of a required permit, operating off permitted route of travel, operating without the proper number of certified escorts as determined by the actual loaded weight of the vehicle combination, fails to comply with travel restrictions of the permit, or operating with improper license. Fees assessed for permit violations under this subsection shall not exceed a maximum of \$25,000.

# Equipment/Safety Requirements

## 15 feet Max Width



## Legal 8 feet 6 inches Width

## Amber Flashing Lights

### Type

Rotating sealed beam or strobe.

### Size

Minimum 5-inch diameter base with minimum 4-inch lens.

### Placement:

**Escort vehicles** are required to display lights as specified above in good working condition on top of the vehicle. Escorts for 16-foot-wide mobile/modular homes should refer to Publication MH-2 for requirements.

**Mobile homes** are required to display lights in good working condition 72 inches from the road surface on all four corners of the mobile home with the option of mounting the required front lights on the mirror bar no less than the extreme width of the power unit.

**Self-propelled vehicles** are required to display lights of the size specified above – minimum 800-watt candle power on any front and/or rear overhang if vehicle is approved for continuous travel (24 hours/seven days a week/365 days a year).

## Banners

### Size

**Vehicle combination:** the banner length totaling 7 feet wide by 18 inches high. Banner may be displayed in two sections to allow for visibility of registration plates/decals.

**Escort vehicle:** the banner length to extend the entire width of the escort vehicle.

### Lettering

Black letters 10 inches high with 1.5-inch brush strokes bearing the legend "Oversize Load" or "Wide Load."

The banner displayed on front and rear of a mobile/modular home combination and on top of a 16-foot-wide mobile/modular home escort must bear the legend "WIDE \_\_\_\_ FT. LOAD" or "OVERSIZE \_\_\_\_ FT. LOAD" to properly identify the nominal width of the unit in transport.

### Color

Yellow

### Placement:

**Vehicle combination:** Banner is to be displayed on the front and rear bumpers of any vehicle combination permitted for more than 10 feet wide. (May be two separate banners totaling a length of 7 feet to provide for display of registration plates/decals).

**Escort vehicle:** Banners are to be displayed on the escort vehicle as determined by the required escort placement (front and/or rear) or on top of the vehicle for 16-foot-wide mobile/modular home escorts.

## Brake Lights

Red brake lights in good working order must be temporarily displayed on any rear overhang for self-propelled equipment approved for continuous travel (24 hours/ seven days a week/365 days a year).

## Escorts

**Requirements:** All escort vehicle operators are required to obtain an approved escort certification prior to performing the duties of an oversize/overweight load escort vehicle operator in North Carolina.

- Front escort for permitted loads more than 12 feet wide on two-lane/two-way traffic highways and a rear escort on multi-lane highways or as determined and stated on the permit document by issuing agent.
- Rear escort required for permitted loads exceeding 110 feet in length. (100 feet on superloads).
- Escort vehicle requirements for 16-foot-wide mobile/modular homes are different from those for other escort vehicles. Refer to Publication MH-2.

- No driver or passenger other than a certified escort vehicle operator is allowed to travel in the escort vehicle.
- Front and rear escort required for overall length 150 feet or greater.
- Front escort required for weight greater than 149,999 pounds.
- Front and rear escort for permitted loads exceeding 14 feet in width on two-lane/ two-way roads.
- Front pole car escort equipped with height pole indicator for permitted loads exceeding 14 feet 5 inches in height.
- *Additional escorts may be required for any vehicle or vehicle combination with individual consideration of weight, width, length, height, weather, geographical location or route of travel as determined by issuing agent.*

### **Vehicle Size (weight)**

A truck of not less than a one-quarter-ton rated load capacity but not more than 17,000 pounds GVWR (gross vehicle weight rating) or a passenger vehicle of not less than 2,000 pounds gross weight.

### **Enforcement**

Non-compliance of requirement for escort(s) or incorrect placement of escort(s) as stated on the permit will invalidate the permit document regardless of the actual dimensions or weight of the load in transport.

### **Identification**

Placards or identification signs measuring at least 8 inches by 12 inches providing name and telephone number of the registered owner of the power unit (company or individual) must be displayed on the right and left side of the power unit.

*\*\*\*Publication E-9\*\*\**

## **Flags**

**Color:** Red

**Size:** 18 inches square

**Placement:** At widest point of overwidth or as specified on the permit.

## **Headlamps**

Towing unit and escort vehicle(s) must burn headlamps during highway movement of permitted loads.

## **Height Pole Indicator**

Required for front escort vehicle for overheight moves in excess of 14 feet 5 inches.

## Mirrors

Rearview mirrors on towing units attached or extended for movement of overwidth loads must be removed or retracted to conform with legal widths when unit is not towing or hauling permitted load.

## Radio

Two-way radio communication is required between power unit of vehicle combination and escort vehicle.

## Emergency Conditions

- Permittee must be in compliance with North Carolina motor carrier regulations relating to vehicle emergencies.
- The governor may issue an executive order for vehicle exceptions to North Carolina law and motor carrier regulations for relief of emergency conditions for declared natural disasters. If such an event occurs, contact the Central Permit Office for additional information.

**1-888-221-8166.**

## Travel

### Convoy

Multiple permitted vehicles cannot travel in a convoy. Vehicles must travel at least two miles apart.

### Detour of Authorized Route

Regardless of the route shown on the permit, an alternative route will be followed if:

- directed by a peace officer
- directed by an official traffic control device to follow a specific route to weighing device
- escorted by an enforcement officer to a permanent weigh scale

### Holiday Travel

Permitted vehicles with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 pounds and/or overdimensions of width, length or height cannot travel on the following holidays from noon on the weekday before the holiday until noon on the weekday after the holiday: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

*Properly permitted vehicles can travel on all other holidays observed by the NCDOT Oversize/Overweight Permit Office.*

**\*\*\*Publication H-7\*\*\***

## **Time of Travel**

### **General Commodities/Self Propelled Equipment**

Monday through Saturday – sunrise to sunset – no Sunday travel unless otherwise stated on the permit.

### **12-foot to 14-foot Mobile/Manufactured Home**

Monday through Saturday – sunrise to sunset – no Sunday travel unless otherwise stated on the permit.

### **16-foot Mobile/Manufactured Home**

Monday through Thursday – 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

On oversize loads with width greater than 12 feet, travel prohibited within a 10-mile radius of the city limits of Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill between 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

### **Continuous travel –**

(24 hours/seven days) is authorized if:

- the permitted gross weight does not exceed 112,000 pounds, and
- no overdimension of width, length or height is part of the permitted movement.



## Glossary

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**Administrative Code:** Permit policy approved by the N.C. Board of Transportation.

**Annual (Blanket) Permit:** A permit valid one year from date of validation for any qualifying vehicle over legal weight, width or length. Same as Blanket Permit.

**Axle Group:** Any two or more consecutive axles on a vehicle/vehicle combination.

**Building:** Barns, houses, utility sheds.

**Central Permit Office:** A unit of NCDOT's Division of Highways located in Raleigh that is responsible for issuing overdimension/overweight permits.

**Commercial Motor Vehicle:** A motor vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or property; that has a combined GVWR of at least 26,001 pounds and includes as a part of the combination a towed unit that has a GVWR of at least 10,001 pounds.

**Construction Equipment:** Designed for off-highway use. Examples: scraper, backhoe, excavator, etc.

**Continuous Travel:** Authorized to travel 24 hours a day/seven days a week/365 days a year.

**Controlled-Access Highway:** Highways on which access connections are provided only with selected roads; at-grade crossing and private driveway connections are prohibited.

**Dealer:** Any person engaged in the business of buying, selling, distributing or exchanging motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers in the state, having an established place of business in this state and being subject to the tax levied by General Statute 105-89.

**Direct Facsimile:** Transmittal of document(s) directly to specified location.

**District Office:** Operates under the authority of a Division of Highways Division Office, geographically assigned.

**Division Office:** One of 14 offices located throughout the state of North Carolina responsible for Division of Highways activities for that specific area.

**Divisible Load:** A load that can be divided to meet legal requirements and does not qualify for issuance of a permit.

**Duration of permits:** Specified time a permit is valid.

**Enforcement:** Enforcement of over dimension/overweight permits is the responsibility of the N.C. State Highway Patrol.

**Facsimile Account:** An established account in the Central Permit Office for single-trip permit transactions to be billed monthly.

**GVWR (gross vehicle weight rating):** The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight a vehicle is capable of safely hauling.

**General Statutes:** North Carolina law.

**Government Agency:** includes United States government and state of North Carolina agencies, institutions, subdivisions and municipalities.

**Gross vehicle weight (GVW):** The total gross weight of the loaded truck/trailer combination.

**Holiday:** Refers to official holidays of New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**House move:** Movement of a "building" exceeding 15 feet in width (Refer to G.S. 20-356).

**House Trailer:** Any trailer or semi-trailer designed and equipped to provide living or sleeping facilities and drawn by a motor vehicle.

**Interstate Movement:** Transportation from state to state.

**Intrastate Movement:** Transportation within North Carolina only.

**License Weight:** Registered gross weight of vehicle/vehicle combination.

**Low-Limited Road:** Any highway on the state highway system, posted by the Department of Transportation for limited axle weights.

**Manufacturer:** Any person, resident or non-resident of this state, who manufactures trucks, truck chassis, trailers, mobile/modular homes and property licensed to do business as such.

**Mobile/Modular Home:** Any trailer or semi-trailer designed and equipped to provide only living or sleeping facilities and drawn by a motor vehicle.

**Mobile Office:** Any trailer or semi-trailer designed and equipped to provide temporary office space and drawn by a motor vehicle.

**Monthly Billing:** An invoice mailed monthly by the Central Permit Unit to established individual/company for payment of prior month's single-trip permit transactions.

**Motor Vehicle:** Every vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle designed to run upon the highways that is pulled by a self-propelled vehicle.

**Non-divisible Load:** Commodity to be transported that cannot be broken down or divided to meet legal requirements specified in North Carolina law may qualify for an overdimension/overweight permit.

**Off-Highway Construction Equipment:** Self-propelled or towing vehicle(s) exempt from registration (G.S. 20-51). Equipment constructed for non-highway use and which is operated on the highway only for the purpose of getting to or from a non-highway job and not for the transportation of persons or property or for hire.

**Overdimension:** Vehicle and/or load that exceeds legal limits of height, width, length or weight.

**Overheight:** Vehicle/vehicle combination, empty or transporting a non-divisible load over 13 feet 6 inches in height.

**Overweight:** A vehicle or vehicle gross combination, axle and/or load that exceeds legal limit weights and gross weights specified in North Carolina law.

**Owner:** A person holding the legal title to a vehicle, or in the event a vehicle is the subject of a chattel mortgage or an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof or other like agreement, with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement, and with the immediate right of possession vested in the mortgagor, conditional vendee or lessee shall be deemed the owner for the purpose of this manual.

**Permit:** Legal document authorizing travel on the highways of North Carolina in excess of statutory limits.

**Permittee:** Registered owner/lessee of towing unit.

**Policy:** Rules and regulations set by the Secretary of Transportation or his designee for issuance of overdimension/overweight permits.

**Posted Bridge:** A bridge on the state highway system signed by the Department of Transportation for limited gross weights.

**Posted Road:** Any highway on the state highway system, signed by the Department of Transportation for limited axle weights (same as Low-Limited Road).

**Reasonable Access:** Three-mile access off the National Truck Network Interstate/Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) vehicle routes to include specific federal-aid primary highways (designated by the U.S. secretary of transportation) for food, fuel, repair, rest or terminals for STAA vehicles.

***\*\*\*Publication M-13\*\*\****

**Registration:** To record or register a motor vehicle as required by statute.

**Restriction:** A limitation, a limiting condition or rule.

**Revocation:** Termination of a permittee's privilege to operate an overdimension and/or overweight vehicle/vehicle combination for a period of time stated in an order of revocation or suspension. The terms "revocation" or "suspension" or a combination of both terms shall be used synonymously.

**Road Tractor:** Vehicles designed and used for drawing other vehicles upon the highway and not constructed to carry any part of the load, either independently or as a part of the weight of the vehicle so drawn.

**Sealed Ship Container:** Sealed freight transported to or from a designated seaport and has or will be transported by marine shipment.

**Self-Propelled Vehicle:** A vehicle operating under its own power, not towed.

**Single Axle Weight:** The gross weight transmitted by all wheels whose centers may be included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.

**Single-Trip Permit:** A permit issued over the statutory limit allowing one movement from origin to destination and return (if requested at time of issuance) if such movement can be made within a 10-day validation period.

**Special Mobile Equipment:** Self-propelled, non-property hauling vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, which has permanently attached equipment. Operated on the highway only for the purpose of getting to and from a non-highway job properly classified and licensed as special mobile equipment by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.

**Structure:** A building, something built.

**Superload:** Qualified vehicle/vehicle combination and/or load exceeding routine permit policy. A superload request may require an engineering review.

**Suspension:** Temporary revocation of a permittee's privilege to operate an overdimension and/or overweight vehicle/vehicle combination for a period of time stated in an order of revocation or suspension. The terms "revocation" or "suspension" or a combination of both terms shall be used synonymously.

**Tandem Axle Weight:** The gross weight transmitted to the road by two or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches and not more than 96 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.

**Truck Tractor:** Vehicles designed and used for drawing other vehicles upon the highway and not constructed to carry any part of the load.

**Validation of Permit:** The length of time the permittee is allowed to complete the permitted movement.

**Wrecker:** Vehicles with permanently attached cranes used to move other vehicles, provided that said wreckers shall be equipped with adequate brakes for units being towed.

## List of Publications

*Publications are available upon request or can be downloaded from our Web page. The documents provide detailed information pertaining to topics that may be of individual interest for movement of oversize/overweight commodities and/or vehicles on North Carolina highways.*

**Web site:**

[www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits](http://www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits)

**Telephone:** 1-888-221-8166

**Fax:** 1-888-222-8347

### Description

### Publication

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Administrative Code	<b>AC-12</b>
Direct Fax Credit Permit Program	<b>DF-4</b>
Escort Vehicles	<b>E-9</b>
General Commodity Permits	<b>GP-1</b>
Holiday Travel	<b>H-7</b>
Mobile/Manufactured Home Permits	<b>MH-2</b>
North Carolina Law	<b>L-14</b>
Sealed Ship Container Permits	<b>C-11</b>
Self Propelled Equipment Permits	<b>SP-3</b>
Services offered by Permit Office	<b>PSA-10</b>
STAA Vehicle Routes (mail only)	<b>M-13</b>
Superload Permits	<b>SL-6</b>

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### Permit Applications Only

Non-Divisible General-Use Annual Permit Application	<b>PF-2</b>
Non-Divisible General-Use Single Trip Permit Application	<b>PF-3</b>
Mobile/Manufactured Home Single Trip Permit Application	<b>PF-22</b>
Mobile/Manufactured Home Annual Permit Application	<b>PF-27</b>
Superload Permit Application	<b>PF-20</b>

**OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMIT UNIT**  
**N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**1425 ROCK QUARRY ROAD, SUITE 109**  
**RALEIGH, NC 27610**

