

Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations Fact Sheet

Oversize/Overweight Permits

Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations administers and enforces safety and economic regulations for private and for-hire commercial carriers operating in Minnesota. The Oversize/Overweight Permit section within this office is responsible for issuing transportation permits that allow movement of oversized and overweight loads over Interstate, US and MN highways within the State. Minnesota Statutes Sections 169.80 through 169.88 (M.S. § 169.80-169.88) regulates the movement of oversize and overweight loads.

Definitions

"Oversize/Overweight Vehicle" is defined as a vehicle, with or without a load, which exceeds legal sizes or weights. Prior to movement, you must obtain an Oversize/ Overweight Transportation Permit from the road authority that owns, or operates, the roadway you wish to travel on. The permit must be carried in the vehicle during transport.

Maximum Legal Dimensions (M.S. § 169.80 and 169.81)

The maximum vehicle dimensions, loaded or unloaded, that may be operated without special permits on Minnesota highways are:

- Height: 13' 6";
- Width: 8' 6", exclusive of rear view mirrors or temporary load securement devices that may extend an additional three inches on each side of the vehicle or load; and
- Length¹: Maximum lengths for various vehicles are:

Single motor vehicle	45'
Each trailer or semi-trailer of a twin trailer combination	28'6"
Trailer of two-vehicle combination	45'
Semi-trailer of two-vehicle combination	48'
Semi-trailer of two-vehicle combination	53' If distance from kingpin to center of rear axle group is 43'0" or less
Twin trailer combination ²	Limited by Single Vehicle
Mobile crane	48'
Drive-away saddle mount combination and Drive-away saddle mount vehicle transporter combination ²	97'
Truck-tractor with semi-trailer combination, and all other two-vehicle combination ²	75'

¹ All length limits include front and rear overhang.

² Truck tractor with semi-trailer combinations that exceed 75' overall and all twin trailer combinations - as well as drive-away saddle mount combinations or drive away saddle mount vehicle transporter combinations - must operate only on four lane (or more) divided highways or other public highways and roadways designated by the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation as National Truck Network or Minnesota Twin Trailer Network Routes for long combination vehicles. Single vehicles within these combinations must meet legal maximums.

Maximum Number of Vehicle Units

No more than two vehicle units in combination may travel on Minnesota highways.

Exceptions:

1. A twin trailer (double-bottom) 3-vehicle combination must consist of a truck tractor and semi-trailer, followed by either a trailer with a converter dolly, or a semi-trailer. Neither trailer nor semi-trailer in that 3-vehicle combination can exceed 28'6" long, **except** a lead semi-trailer with an extended, non-cargo-carrying rear extension fifth-wheel mounting plate (e.g. B train).
2. **Recreational Vehicles (RV)**
Minnesota allows certain RV three-vehicle combinations, if **all** of the following conditions are met:
 - Only a "fifth-wheel" coupling is allowed between pickup truck and camper;
 - The trailer behind the camper is only hauling a watercraft, a motorcycle or motorized bicycle, an off-highway motorcycle, an ATV, a snowmobile, or equestrian equipment/supplies;
 - The total combination of vehicles does not exceed 70 feet;
 - The driver is at least 18 years of age; and
 - No travel within the Twin Cities metropolitan area during weekday rush hour times: 6:00 am – 9:00 am and 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Obtaining Oversize/Overweight Permits.

The road authority over whose roadway you wish to travel must issue the Oversize/ Overweight Transportation Permit. For Interstate or State Trunk Highways, the road authority is Mn/DOT. For local roads, the road authority can be the county, city, township or municipality. Mn/DOT does not issue permits for travel over local roads.

Application forms for a permit for use of state highways (Interstates, U.S. Highways, and MN Trunk Highways), and additional information regarding oversize and overweight load restrictions can be obtained at: www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/oversize.html.

To order oversize/overweight permits via the Web, you must first establish a Web account number. After your account is established, you can order and log your trips on-line at any time.

Frequently Requested Permit Types

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| - Single Trip | - Mobile Home Annual |
| - Job Permit | - Construction Machinery & Supplies Annual |
| - Seasonal Winter Weight Increase | - Mobile Crane Annual |
| - Sugar Beet, Potato, Carrot Harvest | - Farm Implement Annual |
| - Raw Forest Product Annual | - Farm Equipment Annual |
| - Refuse Compactor Truck Annual | - Commercial Boat Annual |
| - Snow Plow Truck Annual | - Non-Commercial Boat Annual |

Weight, Axle and Tire Limitations (M.S. § 169.822-169.824, 169.828, and 169.832)

Minnesota law enforcement personnel use several different types of weighing equipment to monitor overweight loads. These include portable scales; weigh-in-motion scales; approved privately owned scales; and official truck weigh stations along state trunk highways and Interstates.

Designated-Highways (Paved)

These include Interstates, U.S. Highways, MN State Trunk Highways and certain designated local (county) highways, and carry a 10-Ton axle weight limit. Limits are:

- Single or dual wheel - 10,000 pounds;
- Single axle - 20,000 pounds; and
- Vehicle combination with five or more axles and minimum spacing - 80,000 pounds.

Non-Designated Highways (Unpaved)

All other streets and county roads within the state carry a 9-ton axle weight limit. Limits are:

- Single or dual wheel - 9,000 pounds;
- Single axle - 18,000 pounds; and
- Vehicle combination with six or more axles and minimum spacing - 80,000 pounds.

Seasonal Road and Bridge Restrictions

Bridges with rated capacities less than the maximum legal limit in Minnesota have gross weight restrictions posted. You must observe these restrictions. Annually, during the periods that Mn/DOT officially imposes seasonal road restrictions, county highways, township roads, and City streets not paved with concrete are restricted to five-ton axle posting, unless signs indicate otherwise. Throughout the year, any public roadway may be restricted to less than normal weights, as indicated by signs posted that limit axle and axle group weights. For additional information about seasonal load limits, go to <http://www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us>.

Tire Load

No tire may exceed 600 pounds per inch width on a foremost and rearmost steer axle, or more than 500 pounds per inch width on non-steer axles.

Tire Width

Tire width is the manufacturer's tire width shown on the tire. In no instance may the manufacturer's recommended tire load-carrying limit be exceeded.

Variable-Load Axles

A vehicle equipped with a variable load axle must have the pressure control preset and the means for adjusting pressure either secured or out of the driver's reach, so that the driver while transporting a load may not vary the axle.

There are two exceptions to this restriction on accessibility of variable control. It does not apply to:

- A farm truck licensed prior to July 1, for 57,000 pounds or less; or
- A rear loading, tandem-drive refuse compactor.

This Fact Sheet is intended as a resource. It is not intended to explain all the requirements of Minnesota or Federal law. The actual Statutes are recommended as a resource, and can be purchased at the Minnesota Bookstore (phone number 651/297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757). For additional assistance contact Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.



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