

REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS  
GOVERNING  
OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT  
VEHICLE PERMITS

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Oversize and Overweight

Vehicle Permits

FOREWORD

Revised Statutes Annotated 1955, as amended, prescribe limits of height, length, width and weight of objects and vehicles which may be moved upon a highway in the state. Chapter 266:24, RSA, empowers the Transportation Commissioner to issue hauling or moving permits for the operation or movement of a vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight in excess of legal limit.

It is our interpretation that the Legislature, in establishing statutory limitations, obviously intended to protect the public from hazard and unnecessary inconvenience, and to prevent abuse of our bridges and highways. We assume that the Legislature did not desire to allow, by permit, the movement of any and all vehicles or loads over the highway where such movement would exceed statutory limitations, especially where other forms of transportation are available or loads can be reasonably reduced to legal limits.

The purpose of these instructions is to issue statements of policy, consistent with applicable law, relative to the control of movement of oversize and overweight objects or vehicles on highways.



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## **WHEN ARE PERMITS REQUIRED?**

RSA 266:24 Special Permits. Any person wishing to move objects having a weight, width, height or length greater than prescribed by this chapter, or wishing to move vehicle and load of which the weight, width, height or length cannot be so distributed that it will meet the requirements of this chapter, may apply to the commissioner of transportation for a permit to move said object or said vehicle and load upon a way. The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the director, may grant a permit for the moving of said object or vehicle and load upon a specified way and at a specified time if, in his opinion, it will not be detrimental to the preservation of the said way and the public use thereof. Provided, that the applicant, if required by said commissioner and director, shall file a bond to cover any possible damage to the ways or to the bridges over which the object or vehicle and load to be moved may pass and shall fulfill such rules as may be prescribed by said commissioner of transportation and director; and further provided that the commissioner of transportation or the director of the division may require a hearing before granting said permit. This section shall not be construed to limit the powers of the commissioner of transportation, selectmen of towns and city council of cities, to make rules for the protection and to prevent the abuse of ways and bridges as provided by RSA 236:1, RSA 47:17 and RSA 41:11. Any person who violates the conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a violation.

## **LEGAL DIMENSIONS**

### **Height**

RSA 266:10 Height.

**I.** No vehicle whose total height including load is greater than 13 feet, 6 inches, shall be driven on the ways of this state.

**II.** No manufactured housing or modular building whose total height is greater than 14 feet, 6 inches, shall be transported on the ways of this state. Transport of a manufactured housing unit or modular building that exceeds a total height of 13 feet, 6 inches shall require a non-police escort, equipped in accordance with any rules established by the department of transportation under RSA 21-L:12-a.

### **Length**

RSA 266:11 Length. The driving on ways of this state of any vehicle or combination of vehicles whose length including load exceeds the limitations of this section is hereby prohibited.

**I.** For a single unit vehicle or a bus, 45 feet including front and rear bumpers.

**II.** For a semi-trailer in a truck-tractor, semi-trailer combination, 53 feet, except that any semi-trailer in excess of 48 feet shall not be operated if:

(a) The distance between the kingpin and the centerline of the rear axle or the midpoint of a tandem axle of the semi-trailer exceeds 41 feet;

(b) The semi-trailer is not equipped with a rear end protection device of substantial construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending to within 4 inches of the

lateral extremities of the semi-trailer and located not more than 22 inches from the surface as measured with the semi-trailer empty and on a level surface; and

(c) Operated on highways other than any interstate or defense highway, unless such highway is designated by the commissioner. This shall not preclude movements on highways other than interstate, defense and designated highways for a distance of one mile to terminals, points of pickup and delivery, fuel, repairs, food or rest using the most direct, practical route except if the commissioner precludes such travel for specific safety reasons on individual routes. The commissioner may designate other roads or highways in the state where semi-trailer 53 feet in length or less may be operated. The commissioner may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to impose further requirements or limitations on semi-trailers of this length.

**III.** For a semi-trailer or full trailer being driven as part of a combination vehicle with 2 trailing units, 28 feet.

**IV.** For manufactured housing or modular building transport, 110 feet including the transport vehicle.

RSA 266:11-a Length Exceptions. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 266:11, it shall be lawful to drive on the ways of this state:

**I.** A vehicle or a combination of vehicles that exceeds the length limits in RSA 266:11 if such vehicle or combination is transporting poles, logs, timbers or metal in a case in which the load is not readily divisible and such overhang does not interfere with steering the vehicle.

**II.** A conventional automobile transporter combination not in excess of 65 feet exclusive of a 3-foot front overhang and a 4-foot rear overhang.

**III.** Saddlemount plus fullmount combinations not in excess of 65 feet.

**IV.** A stinger-steered automobile transporter combination not in excess of 75 feet exclusive of a 3-foot front and 4-foot rear overhang.

**V.** An emergency fire fighting vehicle.

## **Width**

RSA 266:12 Width. The driving on ways of this state of any vehicle whose width including load exceeds the limitations of this section is hereby prohibited:

**I.** A vehicle in excess of 102 inches in width.

**II.** A passenger type vehicle that is carrying a load which extends over the sides of the vehicle beyond the line of the fenders on the left side or extends more than 6 inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side of the vehicle.

RSA 266:13 Width Exceptions. A vehicle transporting loose hay or fodder may be driven on the ways of this state when the overall width including load is greater than 102 inches, provided the excess over 102 inches is solely due to the loose hay or fodder:

RSA 266:14 Overall Width Defined. Overall width shall be exclusive of rub-rails, so-called, as currently used in the transportation of raw forest products, safety and energy conservation devices such as rear view mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, approved mud flaps, and spray and splash suppressant devices, and such other devices as defined by the director, and load-induced tire bulge. In determining width, there shall be excluded 6 inches of any increase in width due to changing to low pressure tire equipment from other tire equipment.

RSA 266:71 Vehicle Transporting Pulpwood. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 266:12, a motor vehicle or trailer transporting pulpwood or bolt wood may be driven on any way or bridge if the width of the load does not exceed 102 inches if said vehicles and trailers are equipped with:

**I.** A strip 3 inches thick extending along the sides of the platform securely fastened to the platform so that the load shall pitch to the center of vehicle.

**II.** Solid-boarded tailboard of 5 stakes evenly spaced of sufficient strength to maintain the weight of the load and such load at no place along its length is higher than the tailboard or stakes.

**III.** A chain, wire rope, steel cable, or steel strap or nylon webbing binding each tier or row or both, together with a binder to adequately secure the load to the body. Chains shall be made of not less than 3/8 inch wire, wire ropes, steel cables, steel straps or nylon webbing devices shall have a capacity of at least 2,750 pounds working load limit as rated by the manufacturer.

## Weight

266:18 Weight on Interstate and Defense Highway System. The driving on the interstate and defense highway system of this state of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the limitations of this section is hereby prohibited.

### **I.** Maximum tire and axle gross weights allowable:

- (a) The manufacturer's load rating for the tires.
- (b) When being driven with a gross weight in excess of 73,280 pounds:
  - (1) 20,000 pounds per axle on axles more than 8 feet apart.
  - (2) 17,000 pounds per axle on axles not more than 8 feet apart.
- (c) When being driven with a gross weight not in excess of 73,280 pounds:
  - (1) 22,400 pounds per axle on 3 axle single unit vehicles and on all other vehicles with axles 10 feet or more apart, including combination vehicles.
  - (2) 18,000 pounds per axle on axles of vehicles less than 10 feet apart, except 3-axle single unit vehicles.
- (d) Two axles less than 40 inches apart shall be considered as a single axle unit.

### **II.** Maximum allowable vehicle gross weights:

- (a) For 2-axle vehicles, 33,400 pounds.
- (b) For single unit 3-axle vehicles, 47,500 pounds, or a gross weight not in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g), whichever is greater, as shown in table **III**.
- (c) For single unit 4-axle vehicles, 47,500 pounds, or a gross weight not in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g), whichever is the greater. Such vehicles shall have drive on 2 rear axles, and the tridem may contain not more than one retractable axle and, if not factory installed and load equalizing, must provide a system of load equalization by hydraulic, pneumatic or mechanical means, and be equipped with brakes.

(d) For a combination of truck-tractor and semi-trailer equipped with 3 axles, the gross weight shall not exceed that set forth in table **I** as follows:

Table **I**.

<u>Distance Between Extreme Axles in Feet</u>	<u>Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds</u>
25	54,500
26	55,500
27	56,000
28	57,000
29	57,500
30	58,500
31	59,000
32	60,000

Further provided that the maximum tire and axle gross weights as provided in paragraph **I** shall apply and the maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles shall not exceed that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g).

(e) For a combination of truck-tractor and semi-trailer equipped with 4 axles, the gross weight shall not exceed that set forth in table **II** as follows:

Table **II**.

<u>Distance Between Extreme Axles in Feet</u>	<u>Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds</u>
28	60,500
29	61,500
30	62,000
31	62,500
32	63,500
33	64,000
34	64,500
35	65,500
36	66,000
37	66,500
38	67,500
39	68,000

Further provided that the maximum tire and axle gross weights as provided in paragraph **I** shall apply, and the maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles shall not exceed that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g).

(f) For a combination of truck-tractor and single semi-trailer with 5 or more axles with gross weight not in excess of 73,280 pounds, the weight on any single axle shall not exceed 22,400 pounds and the weight on any tandem shall not exceed 36,000 pounds.

(g) For a combination of truck-tractor and single semi-trailer equipped with 5 or more axles with a gross weight in excess of 73,280 pounds or a combination of truck-tractor and more than one trailing unit, the total gross weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all law enforcement tolerances, and the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles shall not exceed that produced by application of the following formula, known as the weight formula:

$$W = 500 \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36$$

(in which W equals overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds; L equals the distance measured to the nearest foot between the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles; and N equals the number of axles in the group under consideration.) Except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles in 36 feet or more and provided that such gross weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds, including all law enforcement tolerances.

The formula  $W = 500 \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36$

When expressed in tabular form results in maximum allowable load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles as follows in Table **III**.

Table **III**.

<u>Distance*</u>	<u>2 axles</u>	<u>3 axles</u>	<u>4 axles</u>	<u>5 axles</u>	<u>6 axles</u>	<u>7 axles</u>
4	34,000					
5	34,000					
6	34,000					
7	34,000					
8 and less	34,000	34,000				
more than 8	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,000				
12		45,000	50,000			
13		45,500	50,500			
14		46,500	51,500			

Table III (Continued)

<u>Distance*</u>	<u>2 axles</u>	<u>3 axles</u>	<u>4 axles</u>	<u>5 axles</u>	<u>6 axles</u>	<u>7 axles</u>
15		47,000	52,000			
16		48,000	52,500	58,000		
17		48,500	53,500	58,500		
18		49,500	54,000	59,000		
19		50,000	54,500	60,000		
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33			64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
34			64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
35			65,500	70,000	75,000	
**36			66,000	70,500	75,500	
**37			66,500	71,000	76,000	
**38			67,500	71,500	77,000	
39			68,000	72,500	77,500	
40			68,500	73,000	78,000	
41			69,500	73,500	78,500	
42			70,000	74,000	79,000	
43			70,500	75,000	80,000	
44			71,500	75,500		
45			72,000	76,000		
46			72,500	76,500		
47			73,500	77,500		
48			74,000	78,000		
49			74,500	78,500		
50			75,500	79,000		
51			76,000	80,000		
52			76,500			
53			77,500			
54			78,000			
55			78,500			
56			79,500			
57			80,000			

\*Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles.

\*\*Distance in feet between the extremes of 4 axles. (2 sets of 2 axles) 68,000 gross weight exception. The permissible loads are computed to the nearest 500 pounds.

(h) The following loaded vehicles shall not be driven over H15-44 bridges:

(1) A combination vehicle equipped with 5 axles in the configuration of 3-axle truck-tractor and 2 axle semi-trailer with wheel base less than 38 feet or 2-axle truck-tractor with 1-axle semi-trailer and 2-axle full trailer with wheel base less than 45 feet.

(2) A loaded single unit vehicle with full trailer equipped with axles with wheel base less than 45 feet.

(3) Vehicles with 7, 8, or 9 axles.

(i) Coupled vehicles consisting of a truck together with a trailer attached to the truck by a pintle hook or similar coupling device with adequate breakaway protection as provided in RSA 266:63 may be driven, provided the total combined gross weight of the vehicles does not exceed 80,000 pounds and provided that each unit of the coupled vehicles shall be limited to the maximum permissible axle weights and gross weights of the individual units, and further provided that the weight of 2 or more consecutive axles of the coupled vehicles shall not be in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g) and shall be limited to a total combined gross weight not in excess of 80,000 pounds, a single axle limit of 20,000 pounds and a tandem axle limit of 34,000 pounds.

**III.** Notwithstanding paragraphs **I** and **II**, for as long as exemptions exist in 23 U.S.C. section 127 that allow maximum gross weights of up to 99,000 pounds on interstate routes 89, 93, and 95 of the interstate and defense highway system, the provisions of RSA 266:18-a regarding weight on the non-interstate and general highway system shall also apply to vehicles or combination vehicles while being operated on any sections of interstate routes 89, 93, or 95 not posted by the commissioner of transportation for lower weights. Such vehicles shall not exceed the weight limits in paragraphs **I** and **II** unless they have been certified pursuant to RSA 266:18-d for the higher weights and paid the required fee the same as vehicles operating on the non-interstate highways as provided in RSA 266:18-d.

266:18-a Weight on Non-interstate and General Highway System. The driving on ways of this state, other than on the interstate and defense highway system as provided by RSA 266:18, of any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the limitations of this section is hereby prohibited, provided, however, that any police officer may allow on any way other than the interstate and defense highway system a tolerance of 5 percent above said limitations.

**I.** Maximum tire and axle gross weights allowable:

(a) The manufacturer's load rating for the tires.

(b) Two axles less than 40 inches apart shall be considered as a single axle unit.

(c) When being driven on any way other than the interstate and defense highway system with a gross weight not in excess of 73,280 pounds:

(1) 22,400 pounds per axle on 3-axle single unit vehicles and on all other vehicles with axles 10 feet or more apart, including combination vehicles;

(2) 18,000 pounds per axle on axles of vehicles less than 10 feet apart, except 3-axle single unit vehicles.

**II. Maximum allowable vehicle gross weight:**

(a) For 2-axle vehicles, 33,400 pounds.

(b) For single unit 3-axle vehicles, 55,000 pounds, or a gross weight not in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g), whichever is greater, as shown in table **III** in subparagraph (g).

(c) For single unit 4-axle vehicles, 60,000 pounds, or a gross weight not in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g), whichever is the greater. Such vehicles shall have drive on 2 rear axles, and the tridem may contain not more than one retractable axle and, if not factory installed and load equalizing, must provide a system of load equalization by hydraulic, pneumatic, or mechanical means, and be equipped with brakes.

(d) For a combination of truck-tractor and semi-tractor and semi-trailer equipped with 3 axles, the gross weight shall not exceed that set forth in table **I** as follows:

Table **I**.

<u>Distance Between Extreme Axles in Feet</u>	<u>Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds</u>
25	54,500
26	55,500
27	56,000
28	57,000
29	57,500
30	58,500
31	59,000
32	60,000

Further provided that the maximum tire and axle gross weights as provided in paragraph **I** shall apply, and the maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles shall not exceed that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g).

(e) For a combination of truck-tractor and semi-trailer equipped with 4 axles, the gross weight shall not exceed that set forth in table **II** as follows:

Table II.

<u>Distance Between Extreme Axles in Feet</u>	<u>Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds</u>
28	60,500
29	61,500
30	62,000
31	62,500
32	63,500
33	64,000
34	64,500
35	65,500
36	66,000
37	66,500
38	67,500
39	68,000

Further provided that the maximum tire and axle gross weights as provided in paragraph I shall apply, and the maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles shall not exceed that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g).

(f) For a combination of truck-tractor and single semi-trailer with 5 or more axles with gross weight not in excess of 73,280 pounds, the weight on any single axle shall not exceed 22,400 pounds and the weight on any tandem axle shall not exceed 36,000 pounds.

(g) For a combination of truck-tractor and single semi-trailer equipped with 5 or more axles with a gross weight in excess of 73,280 pounds or a combination of truck-tractor and more than one trailing unit, the total gross weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all law enforcement tolerances, and the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles shall not exceed that produced by application or the following formula, known as the weight formula.

The formula 
$$W = 500 \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36$$

(In which W equals overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds; L equals the distance measured to the nearest foot between the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles; and N equals the number of axles in the group under consideration.) Except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more and provided that such gross weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds, including all law enforcement tolerances.

The formula  $W = 500 \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36$

when expressed in tabular form results in maximum allowable load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles as follows in table III.

Table III.

<u>Distance*</u>	<u>2 axles</u>	<u>3 axles</u>	<u>4 axles</u>	<u>5 axles</u>	<u>6 axles</u>	<u>7 axles</u>
4	34,000					
5	34,000					
6	34,000					
7	34,000					
8 and less	34,000	34,000				
more than 8	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,000				
12		45,000	50,000			
13		45,500	50,500			
14		46,500	51,500			
15		47,000	52,000			
16		48,000	52,500	58,000		
17		48,500	53,500	58,500		
18		49,500	54,000	59,000		
19		50,000	54,500	60,000		
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33			64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
34			64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
35			65,500	70,000	75,000	
**36			66,000	70,500	75,500	
**37			66,500	71,000	76,000	
**38			67,500	71,500	77,000	
39			68,000	72,500	77,500	
40			68,500	73,000	78,000	
41			69,500	73,500	78,500	
42			70,000	74,000	79,000	
43			70,500	75,000	80,000	

Table III (Continued)

<u>Distance*</u>	<u>2 axles</u>	<u>3 axles</u>	<u>4 axles</u>	<u>5 axles</u>	<u>6 axles</u>	<u>7 axles</u>
44			71,500	75,500		
45			72,000	76,000		
46			72,500	76,500		
47			73,500	77,500		
48			74,000	78,000		
49			74,500	78,500		
50			75,500	79,000		
51			76,000	80,000		
52			76,500			
53			77,500			
54			78,000			
55			78,500			
56			79,500			
57			80,000			

\*Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles.

\*\*Distance in feet between the extremes of 4 axles. (2 sets of 2 axles) 68,000 gross weight exception.

The permissible loads are computed to the nearest 500 pounds.

(h) The following loaded vehicles shall not be driven over H15-44 bridges:

(1) A combination vehicle equipped with 5 axles in the configuration of 3-axle truck-tractor and 2-axle axle semi-trailer with wheel base less than 38 feet or 2 axle truck-tractor with 1-axle semi-trailer and 2-axle full trailer with wheel base less than 45 feet.

(2) A loaded single unit vehicle with full trailer equipped with axles with wheel base less than 45 feet.

(3) Vehicles with 7, 8, or 9 axles.

(i) Coupled vehicles consisting of a truck together with a trailer attached to the truck by a pintle hook or similar coupling device with adequate breakaway protection as provided in RSA 266:63 may be driven, provided the total combined gross weight of the vehicles does not exceed 80,000 pounds and provided that each unit of the coupled vehicles shall be limited to the maximum permissible axle weights and gross weights of the individual units, and further provided that the weight of 2 or more consecutive axles of the coupled vehicle shall not be in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in subparagraph (g) and shall be limited to a total combined gross weight not in excess of 80,000 pounds, a single axle limit of 20,000 pounds and a tandem axle limit of 34,000 pounds.

266:18-b Weight on Non-interstate and General Highway System for Vehicles with Additional Registration. The provisions of this section shall only apply to vehicles or combinations of vehicles which have been certified pursuant to RSA 266:18-d and shall only apply to the driving of such vehicles on any way other than the interstate and defense highway system. The driving of any such vehicle exceeding the limitations of this section is hereby prohibited; provided, however, that any police officer shall allow on any way other than the interstate and defense highway system a tolerance of 5 percent above said limitations and 10 percent above said limitations on the axle weights.

**I.** The maximum gross weights allowable for tires shall be the manufacturer's load rating for the tire.

**II.** Maximum axle weights allowable:

(a) 22,400 pounds per axle on 3-axle single unit vehicles and 20,000 pounds per axle on 4-axle single unit vehicles and 22,400 pounds on all other vehicles with axles 10 feet or more apart, including combination vehicles.

(b) 18,000 pounds per axle on axles of vehicles less than 10 feet apart, except 3-axle single unit vehicles and 4-axle single unit vehicles.

(c) Two axles less than 40 inches apart shall be considered as a single axle unit.

(d) The distribution of loads shall be further controlled as:

(1) No single axle of a tandem unit shall support more than 60 percent of the total weight supported by the tandem unit. It shall not be considered a violation if neither axle of a tandem unit exceeds the weight legally allowed on a single axle unit for the same vehicle.

(2) No single axle of a tri-axle unit shall support more than 40 percent of the total weight supported by the tri-axle unit.

(3) The allowable gross weight of a vehicle shall not be increased by the addition of a trailing axle, so called, unless the trailing axle supports at least 50 percent of the added weight permitted by the addition of that trailing axle.

**III.** Maximum allowable vehicle gross weights:

(a) For 2-axle vehicles, 37,400 pounds.

(b) For single unit 3-axle vehicles, 65,000 pounds.

(c) For single unit 4-axle vehicles, 73,000 pounds. Such vehicles shall have drive on 2 rear axles, and the tridem may contain not more than one retractable axle and, if not factory installed and load equalizing, must provide a system of load equalization by hydraulic, pneumatic, or mechanical means, and be equipped with brakes.

(d) For a combination of truck-tractor and semi-tractor and semi-trailer equipped with 3 axles, the gross weight shall not exceed that set forth in table I as follows:

Table I.

<u>Distance Between Extreme Axles in Feet</u>	<u>Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds</u>
25	54,500
26	55,500
27	56,000
28	57,000
29	57,500
30	58,500
31	59,000
32	60,000

Further provided that the maximum tire and axle gross weights as provided in paragraph I shall apply, and the maximum load in pounds carried on any axle shall not exceed that provided in paragraph II.

(e) For a combination of truck-tractor and semi-trailer equipped with 4 axles or more, the gross weight shall not exceed that set forth in the following table:

<u>Distance*</u>	<u>Total Axles</u>	<u>Gross Weight</u>
8	4 or more	59,000
9	4 or more	60,000
10	4 or more	61,000
11	4 or more	62,000
12	4 or more	63,000
13	4 or more	64,000
14	4 or more	65,000
15	4 or more	66,000
16	4 or more	67,000
17	4 or more	68,000
18	4 or more	69,000
19	5 or more	70,000
20	5 or more	72,000
21	5 or more	74,000
22	5 or more	76,000
23	5 or more	78,000
24	5 or more	80,000
25	5 or more	80,000
26	5 or more	80,000
27	5 or more	80,000
28	5 or more	82,000
29	5 or more	84,000

<u>Distance*</u>	<u>Total Axles</u>	<u>Gross Weight</u>
30	6 or more	86,000
31	6 or more	88,000
32	6 or more	90,000
33	6 or more	92,500
34	6 or more	95,000
35	6 or more	97,500
36	6 or more	99,000

\*The distance in feet noted is that between extreme axles, excluding the steering axle.

Further provided that the maximum tire and axle gross weights as provided in paragraphs **I** and **II** shall apply.

(f) For a combination of truck-tractor and single semi-trailer with 4 or more axles, the weight on any single axle shall not exceed 22,400 pounds and the weight on any tandem axle shall not exceed 36,000 pounds, and the weight of any tri-axle shall not exceed 54,000 pounds.

(g) For a combination of truck-tractor and one or more trailing units being driven upon any way of this state, the total gross weight shall not exceed 99,000 pounds.

(h) The commissioner of transportation may restrict at his discretion the crossing of certain bridges or other structures, which he determines to have insufficient strength to safely carry multiple legal loads, by limiting vehicles to a caution crossing, whereby the bridge is restricted to one vehicle certified under RSA 266:18-d exceeding 37,400 pounds on the bridge at any one time. When multiple vehicles of more than 2 axles are located on the designated bridge, all loaded certified vehicles shall be required to stop and wait until other traffic passes before crossing the bridge. A bridge so restricted shall be posted according to RSA 266:18-c.

(i) The following loaded vehicles shall not be driven over H15-44 bridges unless so authorized by the commissioner of transportation:

(1) A combination vehicle equipped with 5 axles in the configuration of 3-axle truck-tractor and 2-axle semi-trailer with wheel base less than 38 feet or 2-axle truck-tractor with one-axle semi-trailer and 2-axle full trailer with wheel base less than 45 feet.

(2) A loaded single unit vehicle with full trailer equipped with 6 axles with wheel base less than 45 feet.

(3) Vehicles with 7, 8, or 9 axles.

(j) Coupled vehicles consisting of a truck together with a trailer attached to the truck by a pintle hook or similar coupling device with adequate breakaway protection as provided in RSA 266:63 may be driven, provided the total combined gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed 99,000 pounds and provided that each unit of the couple vehicles shall be limited to the maximum permissible axle weights and gross weights of the individual units, and further provided that the weights of 2 or more consecutive axles of the coupled vehicle shall not be in excess of that produced by application of the weight formula as defined in RSA 266:18-b, **III** (e) and shall be limited to a total combined gross weight not in excess of 99,000 pounds, a single axle limit of 22,400 pounds, a tandem axle limit of 36,000 pounds, and a tri-axle limit of 54,000 pounds.

266:18-c General Weight Provisions. The following provisions shall apply to any vehicle covered by RSA 266:18, 18-a, or 18-b, regardless of the type of way or highway on which it is driven, except as otherwise specified:

**I.** A vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with any solid rubber tires shall not have weights more than 80 percent of those permitted; provided that no vehicle equipped with solid rubber tires which has at any point less than one inch of rubber above the top or beyond the flange or rim shall be driven upon any way.

**II.** Motor vehicles or vehicles drawn by motor vehicles when equipped with metal or other hard tires shall not have weights more than 40 percent of those permitted.

**III.** The provisions of RSA 266:18, 18-a, and 18-b shall not apply to vehicles used exclusively in the surfacing of ways of the state of New Hampshire, or subdivisions thereof; provided that the commodities of tar, asphalt or the combination thereof shall not exceed 2,000 gallons on any 2-axle, or 4,000 gallons on any 3-axle vehicle.

**IV.** A vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not be driven or moved over any bridge or other structure on any way if the weight of such vehicle, or combination of vehicles and load, is greater than the capacity of the structure as shown by a sign on the right side of or overhead on the structure.

**V.** It shall be the duty of the commissioner of transportation to cause signs to be erected at both ends on the right side of or overhead on all bridges or other structures under this jurisdiction stating the capacity in tons of 2,000 pounds which the bridge or other structure will safely carry. As an alternative to posting signs with stated weight limits, the commissioner of transportation may, at his discretion, post standardized warning signs designating certain restricted bridges as caution crossing bridges, or as excluded bridges, and publish a list which designates all such bridges so conditioned at least annually. For all other bridges or other structures it shall be the duty of the authority having jurisdiction to place similar signs. The signing message for posting of weight limits for bridges and structures shall read as follows:

WEIGHT  
LIMIT  
X  
TONS

If the authority determines that a bridge or other structure may safely carry loads greater than this limit by vehicles with 3 or more axles, the signs shall read as follows:

GROSS WEIGHT LIMIT  
X TONS OR  
Y% OF LEGAL LOADS

“X” is the numerical value that equals the posted maximum legal gross weight limit for a 2-axle vehicle. “Y%” is the numerical value expressed as a percentage of the maximum legal gross weight limit of any single axle or tandem axle, and the combined gross weight limit of any 3-axle truck or any combination as noted in this section. Where no special permit loads are allowed, the signing message for posting shall read as follows:

NO PERMIT LOAD  
LEGAL LOADS MAXIMUM

Upon bridges or other structures of sufficient strength to carry safely the legal loads permissible by this section, no such signs shall be required.

**VI.** A determination of the gross weight of vehicles under the tables as set forth in RSA 266:18, 18-a, and 18-b shall, in cases in which the distance between extreme axles is not in exact number of feet, be governed by the following: if the distance is 6 inches or less in excess of the number of feet stated in the table, the gross weight shall be based upon the number of feet stated in the table; if the distance is more than 6 inches in excess of the number of feet in the table, the gross weight shall be based upon the next higher number of feet.

266:18-d Additional Certification and Registration.

**I.** No vehicle shall be driven on any way with a gross vehicle weight in excess of the weight limits specified in RSA 266:18-a without having obtained a certification therefore from the commissioner of the department of safety. The certification shall be in addition to any other requirements provided by law. Any vehicle so certified may be driven on any way other than the interstate or defense highway system in accordance with the limits established by RSA 266:18-b.

**II.** The commissioner shall issue said certificate upon receiving proper application. The application shall be accompanied by an additional fee of \$105 and the certification shall be in effect for a period of one year.

**III.** Vehicles so certified include the power unit, which shall be inspected by the department of safety as meeting standard safety conditions required for the safe operation of the vehicle. The inspection shall be conducted upon the first application for certification and a reinspection shall be required at any time when the configuration of the vehicle relative to power unit, axles, springs, or other safety items that could affect the vehicle's ability to qualify for an excess weight certification is altered. Such inspection shall designate the maximum safe gross weight for the vehicles as determined by the components and the summation of the manufacturer's axle design limits for each axle of the vehicle.

**IV.** A vehicle so certified shall be considered to have reciprocity with other states granting New Hampshire similar reciprocity for the full weight limit designated in RSA 266:18-b or the weight limit for which the vehicle is registered, whichever is less.

**V.** Upon certification a vehicle shall be eligible for an additional registration authorizing the driving of the vehicle in accordance with the weight limits established in RSA 266:18-b. The fee for such additional registration shall be determined in accordance with the vehicle registration fee provided by law and shall be in addition to certification fee contained in paragraph II.

**VI.** The commissioner or his designee may revoke or suspend any additional registration granted pursuant to paragraph V of any vehicle or vehicles which are being driven in violation of the limits established by RSA 266:18-b or any other provision of law as evidenced by a record of such violations. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the procedures for such revocation of suspension and any other matter necessary to properly administer this section.

**RSA 266:17 Weighing of Vehicles.** The driver of every motor vehicle shall, upon request of any law enforcement officer, stop and submit to a weighing of said motor vehicle by means of either portable or stationary scales. If such scales are not available at the place where the stopping occurs, upon request of a law enforcement officer, the driver shall drive said motor vehicle to the nearest public scales provided the distance to the public scales does not exceed 10 miles.

## PENALTIES

RSA 266:25 Penalty for Overload.

**I.** Except as provided in paragraph **II**, any person who shall drive or cause to be driven on the ways of this state a vehicle whose weight is in excess of that prescribed in this subdivision shall be guilty of a violation, and notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 625:9, **V**, shall be fined not more than \$100 for a first offense nor more than \$250 for a subsequent offense within a registration year.

**II.** Any person who shall drive or cause to be driven on the ways of this state a vehicle whose weight is in excess of that prescribed in RSA 266:18-a, or RSA 266:18-b shall be fined \$100 or \$.02 for each pound in excess of the prescribed weight, whichever is the greater, for a first offense; \$250 or \$.02 per pound in excess of the prescribed weight, whichever is greater, for a second offense; for a third and subsequent offense of the same vehicle in violation of this section, \$250 or \$.02 per pound in excess of the prescribed weight, whichever is greater, up to an excess of 15,000 pounds; when the excess is more than 15,000 pounds and less than 30,000 pounds, \$.03 per pound; and when the excess is more than 30,000 pounds, \$.04 per pound.

**III.** Any person who shall drive or cause to be driven on any interstate and defense highway of this state a vehicle whose weight is in excess of that prescribed in RSA 266:18 shall be subject to the fine in paragraph **I**.

**IV.** Any person who shall drive or cause to be driven on a bridge of this state a vehicle whose weight is in excess of the posted or annually published caution crossing limit for that particular bridge may be fined up to \$200.

**V.** Any person who shall drive or cause to be driven on a bridge of this state a vehicle whose weight exceeds the limit of an excluded bridge (or bridge posted for no trucks) may be fined up to \$400.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT

### Application

Application for permits may be made in person, by mail, by telegram or via permit service using facsimile transmission and shall be made in the name of the person or firm to perform the actual hauling. Application shall be made to the Permit Supervisor, Department of Transportation, Post Office Box 483, Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-0483. Issuance of permits by the Department is subject to the approval of the Director of Motor Vehicles. The director's approval or denial of the application shall be based upon, but not limited to, such considerations as the applicant's safety or motor vehicle record or the route choice.

Nothing in these rules shall limit the right of the Department to deny an application if the permit's issuance would be detrimental to the preservation and the public use of the roadway to be traveled. Such denial is appealable under the provisions of RSA 541-A:14 to :21 and RSA 21-L:14.

The following information shall be submitted: (1) Applicant's name; (2) Applicant's address; (3) Applicant's telephone number; (4) Type of object to be moved; (5) Registration information for each hauling unit, truck, truck-tractor, semi-trailer or trailer to be moved, including: a. Registration number, b. Registered weight, c. Number of axles; (6) Vehicle and load: a. Overall length, b. Overall width, c. Overall height, d. Total gross weight (7) Starting point of trip; (8) Ending point of trip; (9) Route to be traveled; (10) Method of fee payment; (11) Such other information as may be material in individual situations.

### To Whom Issued

Permits will be issued only to the person or firm who will actually do the hauling. The driver of the vehicle must have the permit, a telegraphic confirmation of the permit, or an approved facsimile in his possession during the move. Telephonic confirmation will not be given in lieu of the actual permit.

Applications for overweight permits will not be accepted unless vehicle is registered for legal maximum weight.

### Methods of Payment of Fees

All permit fees must be paid prior to issuance. Payment may be made by cash, check, money order or draft to the Treasurer, State of New Hampshire. Refunds are not made for unused permits. Holding of money in escrow will be considered on an individual basis if permit volume warrants this action.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

\*(For data entry)

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL PERMIT TO MOVE A LOAD IN  
EXCESS OF LEGAL LIMIT

Date of issue\* \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \* \_\_\_\_\_

Address\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Description of Load \* \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Office Use Only Serial Number (If Necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one)

Permit to be: "Instant" Picked Up Mailed Other \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Truck or Truck-Tractor

Trailer  
Semi-Trailer or (Tag-along)

Registration No. \* \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Registered Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Axles \_\_\_\_\_

VEHICLE & LOAD

Overall Length \* \_\_\_\_\_ ft. \* \_\_\_\_\_ in. Overall Width \* \_\_\_\_\_ ft. \* \_\_\_\_\_ in.

Overall Height \* \_\_\_\_\_ ft. \* \_\_\_\_\_ in. Total Gross Weight \* \_\_\_\_\_ lbs.

ROUTING

FROM (Location)

TO (Location)

VIA (Routes)

MOVE DATES

Start

Finish

#1 \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment \_\_\_\_\_ Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Permit No. \* \_\_\_\_\_

Instant No. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

AM PM  
(Circle one)

Requested by By \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

## TYPES OF PERMITS AND FEES

RSA 266:22 Permit Fees. Before any special permit authorized by RSA 266:24 is issued, the commissioner of Transportation shall collect fees as follows:

**I.** Each permit for either over-length, over-width or over-height or any combination thereof, \$6.

**II.** Each permit for vehicle and load over-weight, fee based on the following schedule: vehicle and load over registered weight but not exceeding 50,000 pounds, \$5.50; 50,001 pounds to 60,000 pounds, \$6.50; 60,001 to 70,000 pounds, \$7.50; 70,001 to 80,000 pounds, \$8.50; 80,001 to 90,000 pounds, \$9.50; 90,001 to 100,000 pounds, \$10.50; and for each additional 10,000 pounds \$2 shall be added to the above rate.

**III.** Provided a special permit may be issued to a person to cover all types of moves made within a radius of 100 miles from the person's home location for a fee of \$60 for each unit. Permits issued under the provisions of this paragraph may be issued for such time as the commissioner of Transportation may determine.

**IV.** Provided further that a special annual permit may be issued to a person to cover all types of moves for a fee of \$115 for each unit. Each permit issued under the provisions of this paragraph shall be issued for one year.

**V.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to any special permit authorized by RSA 266:24 issued for farm equipment.

Cargo, Construction Equipment and Miscellaneous Items

<u>Type Permit</u>	<u>Limits</u>				<u>Permit Fee</u>
	<u>Length</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	
Single Trip			As indicated by load		Sliding scale
Annual - Statewide	75' 0"	10' 6"	13' 6"	Registered (Up to 80,000)	\$115.00
Annual - 100 mi. Radius	75' 0"	10' 6"	13' 6"	(Up to 80,000)	\$60.00
Construction Season (Place of business to contract sites.)	75' 0"	14' 6"	13' 6"	120,000	Supplemental

Single Trip Permits.

This permit shall be issued for all types of moves when a vehicle or load exceeds legal limits of either length, width, height, weight or combination thereof. The permit shall be issued for a single trip which shall be completed within one calendar week from the date of issue. Unless overweight is involved, the fee is six dollars (\$6.00). The fee for each permit for overweight vehicle and/or load is:

50,000 pounds or less	\$5.50	70,001 to 80,000 pounds	\$8.50
50,001 to 60,000 pounds	\$6.50	80,001 to 90,000 pounds	\$9.50
60,001 to 70,000 pounds	\$7.50	90,001 to 100,000 pounds	\$10.50

Over 100,000 pounds - Ten dollars and fifty cents (\$10.50) plus two dollars (\$2.00) for each additional 10,000 pounds or fraction thereof.

Annual Permits - Statewide

This permit shall be issued for all types of moves and for a specified vehicle during a period of one calendar year from the date of issue. One vehicle or combination, shall be allowed on each permit. Annual permits shall be for vehicles limited to dimensions not in excess of 75 feet long, 10 feet 6 inches wide, 13 feet 6 inches high and legally registered weight.

The fee for annual statewide permits is \$115.00

Annual Permits 100 Mile Radius

This permit shall be issued for all types of moves within a 100 mile radius of the applicant's business location and for a specified vehicle during a period of one calendar year from the date of issue. One vehicle or combination, shall be allowed on each permit. Annual permits shall be for vehicles limited to dimensions not in excess of 75 feet long, 10 feet 6 inches wide, 13 feet 6 inches high and legally registered weight.

The fee for annual 100 mile radius permits is \$60.00.

Note: 100 mile radius annual permits will be issued to cover units registered and based in this state only.

### Construction Season Permits

Holders of annual permits working on state sponsored projects may obtain supplemental permits at no additional charge for moves between their recognized in-state place of business and the contract sites and between contract sites for up to fourteen (14') feet in width and a gross weight not to exceed 120,000 lbs.

These permits expire at the completion of the project, or the expiration of the annual permit it supplements, whichever occurs first. Driver must be in possession of permit during the movement, and the items listed under General Provisions apply.

### Instant Permits

This permit shall be issued to holders of annual permits or applicant establishing escrow fund accounts with the department. (The permit shall be written on a prescribed form at a remote location by applicant while in direct contact with and guidance of the permit office.) A simultaneous copy shall be written by the permit office for control and record. The applicant shall carry the original permit in the vehicle during the move and promptly forward a permit copy to the permit office. The cost of the instant cab permits are \$5.00 for a book of twenty-five (25).

### Building Movement Permits

Permits shall not be issued to move buildings upon any portion of the interstate highway system or on the toll road system.

These permits shall be issued for movement of structures on an independent carriage assembly.

If a move is within the boundaries of a highway construction project or within a construction zone, a permit shall be required and written authorization obtained from the prime contractor if the move is over a highway section maintained for vehicular traffic.

Approval of the applicable highway district engineer shall be required for movement of buildings exceeding 12 feet in width. Approval shall include visual inspections of the building, the moving equipment, the route of travel to determine pavement and highway structural adequacy, horizontal and vertical clearances and adequacy of turning paths.

## MANUFACTURED HOUSING UNITS

### SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Single trip permits may be issued for restricted movement of manufactured homes (modular, prefabricated, pre-cut, mobile units) of overall maximum dimensions including hauling unit not exceeding fourteen feet (14'), six inches (6") in width including eaves and other appurtenances and safety devices, and one hundred ten (110') in length, and legal height, fourteen feet (14'), six inches (6").

Moves shall be restricted to roadways featuring a minimum pavement width of twenty-four feet (24'), whenever possible, from point of origin to point of delivery. Insofar as practical, movement shall be confined to a single traffic lane and shall be made in such a manner that the remainder of the roadway shall be open at all times eliminating obstruction of other traffic flow. The manufacturer's specifications regarding maximum capacities for the equipment employed in transporting manufactured housing units shall not be exceeded in any circumstances.

The towing vehicle for manufactured units which exceed ten feet (10') in width shall be a truck-tractor of not less than two (2) ton capacity equipped with dual wheels on the drive axle. The transport vehicle shall have the following special equipment: brakes, clearance lights, reflectors, and safety chains to restrain the trailer if the coupling fails.

The following special provisions, adopted after consultation with border states, alter escort requirements for manufactured housing units when special transporters-hauling vehicles are used.

1. All hauling units and escort vehicles shall be equipped with two-way radios featuring common frequencies.
2. A convoy shall be no more than two (2) manufactured units.
3. When moving units twelve feet (12') wide or less:
  - a. No escort vehicle shall be required for movement over four (or more) lane divided highways; and
  - b. One (1) escort vehicle shall be required for single or convoy moves over all other roads.
4. When moving units over twelve feet (12') wide but not over fourteen (14'), six inches (6") wide:
  - a. One (1) escort vehicle shall be required for single or convoy moves over four (or more) lane divided highways and to first stop opportunity within two (2) miles of an exit from such highway: and
  - b. One escort vehicle shall be required per housing unit for all other roads.
5. Moves shall be prohibited when ground surface wind velocity exceeds twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

6. Movement of manufactured housing units shall be limited to the period one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset provided clearance lights as specified in RSA 266:40 are installed and in operation during the applicable period.

MOBILE HOMES

<u>Type Permit</u>	<u>Limits</u>				<u>Permit Fee</u>
	<u>Length</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	
Single Trip	As indicated by size.				\$6.00
Annual - Statewide	75' 0"	10' 6"	13' 6"	Reg. Wgt.	\$115.00
Annual - 100 Mi. Radius	75' 0"	10' 6"	13' 6"	Reg. Wgt.	\$60.00

Single Trip Permit

This permit is issued to cover the movement of mobile or modular homes which exceed legal dimensions.

The fee for each single trip is six (\$6.00) dollars. Permit is issued for five (5) working day's travel time.

Annual Mobile Home Permit - Statewide

This permit may be issued for mobile homes up to ten feet (10'), six inches (6") wide and seventy five feet (75') long, and covers one (1) specific set of hauling unit and mobile home registration.

The fee for each statewide annual mobile home permit is one-hundred and fifteen dollars (\$115.00). This permit is not issued to cover the movement of mobile homes in excess of ten feet (10') six inches (6") in width.

Annual Mobile Home Permit - 100 Mile Radius

This permit may be issued to move mobile homes up to ten feet (10'), six inches (6") wide and seventy-five feet (75') long within a radius of 100 miles from the applicant's base location and covers one specific set of hauling unit and mobile home registration. This permit will be issued only to cover units registered in this state.

The fee for the 100 mile radius mobile home permit is sixty dollars (\$60.00) for each registered hauling unit.

Manufactured Housing Units / Building Components / Special Provisions.

The purpose of this section is to establish additional requirements for issuance of single trip permits for movement of manufactured housing units, such as modular, prefabricated, pre-cut, mobile units, trusses, or panels of overall width, including hauling unit greater than 14 feet 0 inches and less than or equal to 16 feet 0 inches. In the case of modular and mobile homes, an additional 6-inch overhang for eave (s) shall be allowed. The greater overhang shall be on the right-hand shoulder side of the highway in the direction of travel, making a maximum width in such cases 16 feet and 6 inches.

Such movements shall additionally require at least 2 New Hampshire state police escort vehicles to be provided by the applicant. In instances where movement requires road closure or closure of a portion thereof, 3 New Hampshire state police vehicles shall be provided as escorts.

Such movements shall be further limited to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, unless the permit is otherwise suspended by a holiday, weather condition, or other control regulation noted on the face of the permit, so as not to interfere with tourism related traffic.

Such movements shall be further limited to roadways with minimum pavement width of 24 feet 0 inches and minimum paved shoulders of 8 feet 0 inches. Units shall not be routed to roadways that do not meet minimum pavement width and minimum paved shoulder dimensions for convenience, for decreased travel time or distance, or due to construction

The initial contact will be with State Police who will then either make an escort(s) vehicle available or contact the appropriate Sheriff's Department for assistance.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

The following general provisions shall apply to each permit to move an overdimension and/or overweight vehicle or load and shall apply regardless of whether or not they are specifically stated in the permit.

### Routing

Each permit shall designate the specific routes to be traveled and may contain special restrictions. If the movement is on town roads, the applicant must obtain permission from the Selectmen, Council, Trustees, or appropriate officials. Requests may be denied and annual permit may be suspended during specific periods on certain roads when loads exceed posted capacities imposed because of emergence of frost, winter thaws, or excessive rainy periods.

### Loads to be Reduced to Minimum

Permits shall not be issued covering loads that can be reasonably reduced to legal size and/or weight.

### Department's Jurisdiction

Permits are valid only for those routes or portions thereof maintained by the department (state highway system) and do not release the applicant from complying with other laws or local ordinances which govern the movement. Approval shall be obtained from appropriate local authority for moves upon municipal highways.

### Responsibility

The applicant assumes all responsibility for injury to persons or damage to public or private property caused directly or indirectly by the transportation of the vehicle or load under permit. Furthermore, the applicant agrees to hold the State of New Hampshire, Department of Transportation and other state agencies harmless from all suits, claims, damages or proceedings of any kind, as a direct or indirect result of the transportation of the vehicle or load.

### Compliance with Laws

Acceptance of the permit by the applicant shall be prima facie evidence the applicant is in compliance with all operational requirements; that dimension and weight limitations specified shall not be exceeded; that registration and license requirements shall have been met including financial responsibility obligations; and that applicant complies with related rules adopted by the bureau of common carrier, the division of motor vehicles, and the interstate commerce commission.

Unless changes or amendments are requested prior to starting a move, all conditions, provisions and limitations in the permit are binding and the grantee is barred from alleging error or mistake, either in data submitted in the application or in the terms of the permit.

Under terms of a permit, movements may not be made: on any highway other than the highways designated as the route of travel; on any highway closed to traffic; on any highway or bridge posted for less load limit or clearance, unless otherwise indicated; or, on any highway not maintained by the Department.

The right to use highways other than those specified is neither implied nor granted. Permits are to be obtained from appropriate local authority for movements over local streets and highways other than the state maintained system.

### Construction Equipment

“Off the road” type earthmovers and haulers traveling on a permit shall carry no load except normal parts or accessories pertaining to the major item.

### Registration

Vehicles owned by registered dealers and equipped with dealer plates are covered by only such use as is allowed by law when traveling on a permit. An out-of-state registration does not exempt the owner or driver from compliance with these policies. An out-of-state registration does not allow a vehicle to be loaded and the same load delivered within the State of New Hampshire unless registered under IRP certificate and New Hampshire is listed on its IRP certificate.

New Hampshire truckers operating in Massachusetts under permit for a gross weight exceeding their registered weight in New Hampshire should contact the New Hampshire permit office for a validation rider. This validation rider increases their registered weight to equal the scale weight when they are operating in Massachusetts, but does not permit the operation of a vehicle in New Hampshire in excess of the road limit in this state. NOTE: It will be necessary to show a valid New Hampshire trip permit to Massachusetts authority when operating with rider validation.

### Permit in Possession

The permit shall be carried in the vehicle during the time of the move.

## Movement Prohibited

Movement of over-dimensional loads shall be restricted to daylight hours. Daylight hours are considered to be the period one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset. Permits are void during periods of slippery pavement conditions or inclement weather (e.g. fog, haze, heavy rain, freezing rain, snow) creating hazardous driving conditions. Permits are also void during weekends and the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Civil Rights Day, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day. If a holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday shall be also restricted as a holiday. If a holiday falls on Saturday, the previous Friday shall be restricted as holiday. The permit supervisor shall further restrict movement of overdimension vehicles as traffic volumes or highway conditions warrant such action in the interest of public safety. Although subject to requirements for permits, vehicles which are overweight only and which are operated at normal traffic speeds shall not be restricted as to time of movement.

## Emergency Moves

For the purpose of this publication, an emergency is defined as: "a calamity, existing or imminent caused by fire, flood, riot, windstorm, explosion, or act of God" which requires immediate remedial action to protect life or property. The fact that a job or contract may be delayed because of lack of equipment does not justify an emergency movement permit.

## Escort Vehicles

(a) Escort vehicles shall be the size of a compact car or larger. The drivers of escort vehicles shall maintain visual and 2-way radio contact with the permitted vehicle at all times. When one escort is required, it shall precede a load on undivided highways and follow the load on divided highways. Escort vehicle requirements shall be the same on both 4-or-more-lane divided highways and on 2-lane roads on the designated system as follows, unless otherwise stated:

(b) No escort shall be required for overall widths less than 12 feet 0 inches. One escort vehicle shall be required for overall width of 12 feet 0 inches or more.

(c) No escort vehicle shall be required for overall length of less than 80 feet 0 inches. One escort vehicle shall be required for overall length of 80 feet 0 inches or more.

(d) No escort vehicle shall be required if overhang is less than 15 feet 0 inches with proper flags displayed. One escort vehicle shall be required if the overhang is 15 feet 0 inches or more.

(e) A second escort vehicle shall be required under circumstances involving excessive overhang and overwidth. On a 2-lane, undivided highway, 2 escorts shall be required when the overhang is 15 feet 0 inches or more to the rear, and where the width is 12 feet 0 inches or more. On an interstate in instances of overwidth with overhang in excess of 15 feet 0 inches, a second escort vehicle shall be required.

(f) The applicant shall furnish 1 escort vehicle equipped with an operating top-mounted, flashing or rotating amber light for all loads, including hauling vehicle, 12 feet 0 inches or more in width or 80 feet 0 inches in length. A state police escort shall be required when load, including hauling vehicle, exceeds 18 feet 0 inches in width. In instances of overall length only of 100 feet 0 inches or more, a state police escort shall be required unless exempted from this requirement by state police due to determination that weather conditions are optimum, visibility is not impaired, traffic flow is not heavy or other conditions which shall not compromise safe movement.

(g) When escorting a move, the escort vehicle shall be operated with headlights on in the low beam position.

(h) When traffic following a permit move has accumulated to 7 or more vehicles, the permit load and escorts shall yield the right-of-way for these vehicles to pass at the nearest, accessible, safe location. When crossing bridges on 2-way highways where bridge width is 24 feet 0 inches or less, the escort vehicle shall stop all traffic while the load is on the bridge.

(i) Escort vehicles preceding oversize loads shall display a warning sign affixed to the front with legend reading, "OVERSIZE LOAD". The escort vehicle following oversize loads shall display a warning sign affixed to the rear with legend reading, "OVERSIZE LOAD". The signs shall have not less than 10 inch high black letters of a 1.4 inch stroke on a yellow background, and signs shall be made of durable material unaffected by moisture. The shape of the sign shall be varied to fit the escort vehicle but shall not be less than 5 feet 0 inches wide and 12 inches high.

(j) The initial contact will be with State Police who will then either make an escort vehicle available or contact the appropriate Sheriff's Department for assistance.

## Signs

Escort vehicles preceding oversized loads shall display a warning sign affixed to the front with legend reading, "OVERSIZE LOAD". The escort vehicle following oversized loads shall display a warning sign affixed to the rear with legend reading, "OVERSIZE LOAD". The signs shall have not less than 10 inch high black letters of a 1.4 inch stroke on a yellow background, and signs shall be made of durable material unaffected by moisture. The shape of the sign shall be varied to fit the escort vehicle but shall not be less than 5 feet 0 inches wide and 12 inches high.

Warning signs shall be displayed on the front of the hauling vehicle and on the rear of the hauling vehicle or load whichever provides best rear display. The legend shall read OVERSIZE LOAD. The signs shall be seven feet (7') wide and eighteen inches (18") high with ten inch (10") high black letters featuring one and five-eighths (1 5/8") (series C) brush stroke on a yellow background. Signs shall be made of durable material unaffected by moisture.

All oversized load signs shall be removed, covered or otherwise sight restricted when not being used for an oversized move.

## Flags

Red flags at least 12 inches square, secured by at least one corner or mounted on a staff, shall be required on all oversized loads to adequately mark load extremities longitudinally and laterally.

Overwidth loads shall have at least 2 and up to 6 flags mounted at the widest extremity and corners of the load, and placed so as not to increase the overall load width.

Overlength loads or loads with rear or front end overhang in excess of 4 feet 0 inches shall display one flag at the end of the overhang if less than 2 feet 0 inches wide, and 2 flags if the overhang is over 2 feet 0 inches wide.

## Mobile Home Towing Vehicles

Mobile homes shall be towed by experienced movers with equipment acceptable to the Vehicle Permit Supervisor. The towing unit for mobile homes which exceed ten feet (10') in width shall be a truck-tractor of not less than two (2) ton capacity equipped with dual wheels on the drive axle. The homes must have the required special equipment: brakes, clearance lights, reflectors and additional safety chains to hold the trailer if the coupling breaks.

## Engineering Inspections

Engineering inspections shall include a visual inspection of objects to be moved and inspection of the route to be traveled to determine pavement and structure adequacy, vertical and horizontal clearances, adequacy of turning paths, and other traffic engineering problems that may become manifest. The fee for engineering investigations performed by Department technical personnel will be forty dollars (\$40.00) per hour for estimated total engineering time expended. Requirement for such inspections will be determined by the Vehicle Permit Supervisor.

## Violation of Permit Conditions

A permit may be immediately suspended by the violation of any condition specified by the terms of the permit, by alteration of the permit itself, or by knowingly giving materially false information on the application. The operator of an overweight or oversized vehicle which is in

violation of these rules may have the vehicle grounded by an enforcement official after being escorted to a safe area until such time as the defect or violation is cured. Decisions to suspend permits may be appealed to the department whose officials suspend the permit as provided in RSA 541-A:14 to 541-A:21.

Upon evidence that a permittee has violated any condition specified by the terms of the permit, altered the permit itself or has knowingly given materially false information on an application, the department may revoke or suspend the application privileges of the permittee. The permittee shall have the right to appeal this decision as provided in RSA 541-A:14 to :21 and RSA 21-L:14.

## PROHIBITED MOVEMENTS

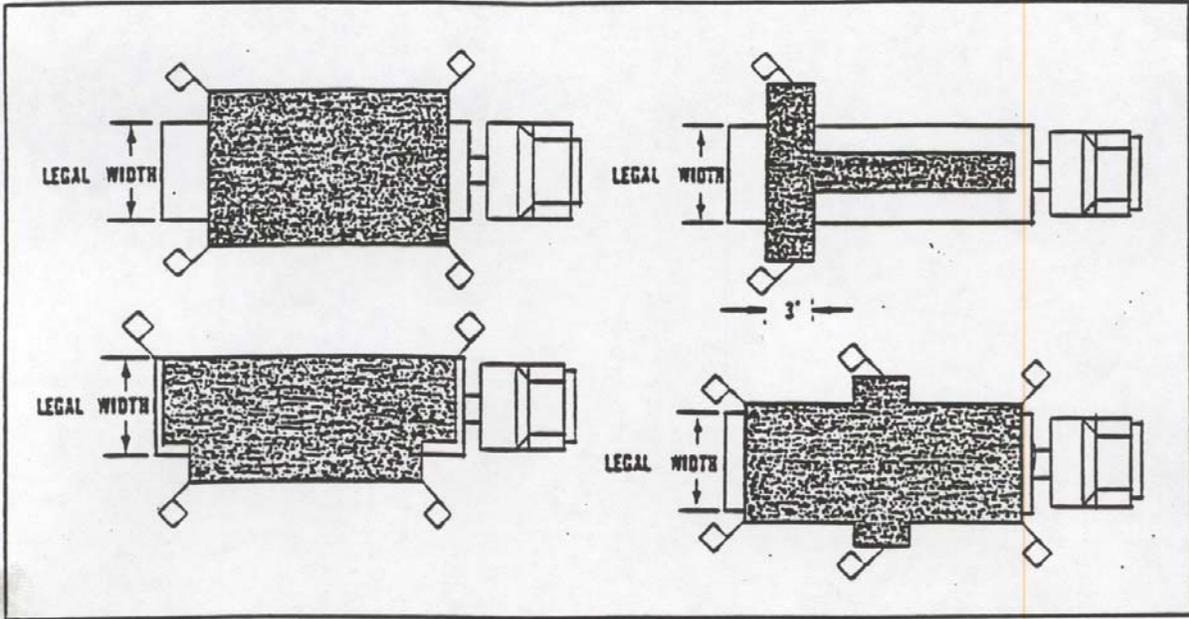
### Movement on Skids

Permits will not be issued to allow movements of loads along or across the state highways when such load is mounted on skids.

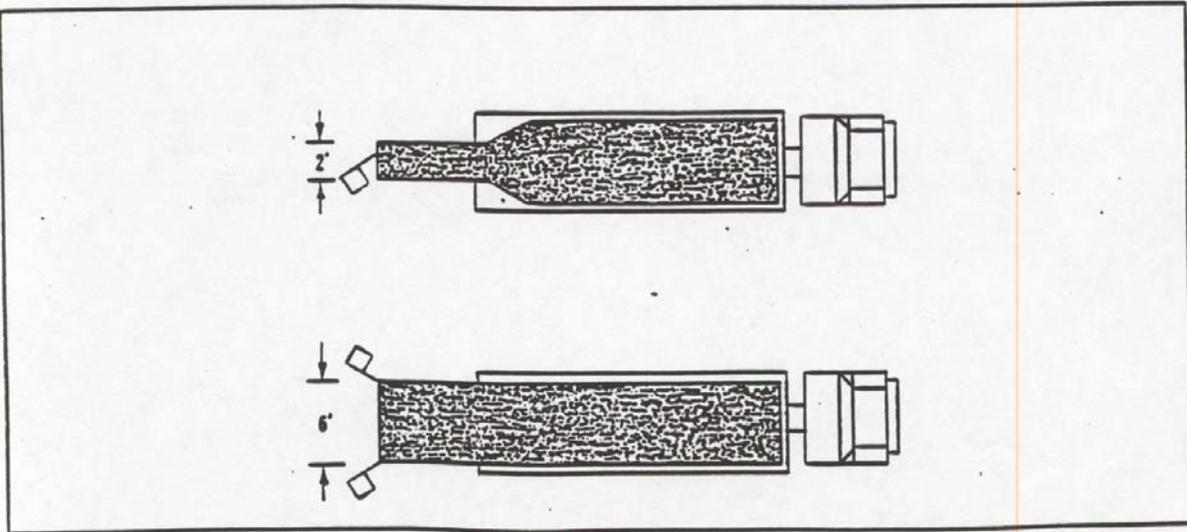
### Farm Tractors

Permits will not be issued for an oversize load when such load is mounted on a trailer wagon or other wheeled device which is pulled by a farm tractor unless the vehicles are properly registered.

FLAG DIAGRAM



Warning Flags on Overwidth Loads  
Note: Use of flags are not to increase the overall load width.



Warning Flags on Overlength Loads or Loads with a Rear End Overhang of More than Four Feet  
Note: Use of flags are not to increase the overall load width.