



# PERMIT & MOTOR CARRIER DIVISION MANUAL

9/21/2024



## **Mississippi Department of Transportation Permit & Motor Carrier Division Manual**

The Mississippi Transportation Commission (the “Commission”) is authorized to establish rules pursuant to Section § 65-1-8 (2)(c), et. seq. of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated as amended. The Permit & Motor Carrier Division of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (“MDOT” or the “Department”) is authorized to issue over-dimensional permits by Commission Order. All cites to the Mississippi Code in the Permit & Motor Carrier Division Manual (the “Manual”) may be accessed at <https://www.ms.gov/government>.

### **PURPOSE AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Manual provides guidance and additional information pertaining to the Rules established by the Commission and published with the Mississippi Secretary of State and nothing herein is meant to exceed the authority of the Commission granted by law. Over-dimensional vehicles and/or loads must have a valid permit in order to operate on Mississippi’s roads, highways, and interstates (when allowed), and the Manual provides information pertaining to the issuance of the various permits that may be offered pursuant to the rules.

While traveling on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways in Mississippi, all vehicles and loads must abide by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations, including guidelines for cargo securement. See Title 49, Transportation, Part 300 – 399.

Specific guidance and requirements for each permit type is included in this Manual. An electronic copy of the Manual and additional information may be found at <https://mdot.ms.gov/portal/permits>.

All requirements of the Manual must be adhered to in order for any permit to remain valid.

Additional regulations, policies, procedures and permit conditions may be included in the permit or blanket permit.

All applications for permits must be submitted to the Permit & Motor Carrier Division (the “MDOT Permit Division”) for authorization and approval. You may apply by creating an account in ExpressPass at the following web site: <https://permits.mdot.ms.gov/>.

Please contact the MDOT Permit Division with any questions by phone at 601-359-1717. You may fax information to the MDOT Permit Division at 601-359-1602.

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## DEFINITIONS

1. Annual – Annual permits are valid from the date of issuance for one (1) year (three hundred sixty-five (365) days).
2. Daylight Hours - For loads twelve (12) feet in width or less, Daylight Hours is defined as sunrise to sunset as reported by National Weather Service. For loads greater than twelve (12) feet in width, Daylight Hours is defined as thirty (30) minutes after sunrise to thirty (30) minutes before sunset as reported by the National Weather Service.
3. Divided Highway – two (2) or more through lanes per direction of travel.
4. Escort Vehicle - A single motor vehicle equipped with a flashing or revolving amber light, two warning flags mounted on the vehicle, an Oversize Load or Wide Load sign mounted on top of the vehicle, and/or an Oversize Load or Wide Load sign mounted on the front for the lead escort and rear for following escort. An escort vehicle that alternates from lead to following shall have Oversize Load signs front and rear. Two-way communication is required between escort/escorts and towing vehicle.
5. Gross Weight - The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including all loads.
6. Height - The maximum vertical dimension of a vehicle above the ground surface, including any load and load-holding device.
7. IFTA – International Fuel Tax Association.
8. IRP – International Registration Plan.
9. Inclement Weather - Anytime there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons or vehicles upon the highway at a distance of five hundred (500) feet, or when pavement conditions, winds or other weather conditions constitute hazardous travel.
10. Length - The maximum longitudinal dimension of a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including any load or load-holding device.
11. Load - The item to be transported, including items placed on or in a vehicle, and towed by a vehicle. A load will generally be a one-piece item that cannot readily be disassembled.
12. MDOT - The Mississippi Department of Transportation. MDOT may also be referred to as the “Department” throughout this Manual.
13. MDOT Permit Division – MDOT’s Permit & Motor Carrier Division. The term “Department” also applies to the MDOT Permit Division throughout this Manual.
14. Motor Vehicle - A vehicle, which is self-propelled, except such devices moved by human power or designed to operate upon rails or tracks.

15. Oversize or Wide Load Sign - A sign, measuring eighty-four (84) inches by eighteen (18) inches, with the words "OVERSIZE LOAD" or "WIDE LOAD" in black letters that are ten (10) inches high with a one-and-five-eighths ( $1\frac{5}{8}$ ) inches brushstroke on a yellow or orange background.
16. Permit - Written permission to transport a vehicle or load exceeding the statutory size or weight limits.
17. Semi-Trailer - A vehicle without motive power, which is designed to carry persons and/or property and is drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight rests upon and/or is carried by another vehicle.
18. Single Trip Permit - A permit authorizing the movement of a specific vehicle and/or specific load for a period not to exceed three (3) consecutive days.
19. State Maintained Highway – All highways maintained by MDOT, excluding interstate routes.
20. Trailer - A vehicle without motive power, which is designed to carry persons or property and to be drawn by a motor vehicle, and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon another vehicle.
21. Two Lane Roadway – one lane per direction of travel.
22. UCR – United Carrier Regulations.
23. Warning Flag - A red flag measuring eighteen (18) inches square.
24. Width - The maximum transverse dimension of a vehicle, including any load or load-holding devices thereon.



## GENERAL PERMIT REGULATIONS

Some regulations, policies, and procedures may not be discussed in this Manual but may be listed on the Permit or Blanket Permit. Please contact the MDOT Permit Division with any questions at 601-359-1717.

1. Applicants shall provide to the Department (1) a valid Federal DOT number and (2) a Certificate of Insurance with the Department listed as the certificate holder in an amount of no less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) in single limit liability coverage.
2. Movement is prohibited on all posted bridges. The posted bridge map may be found at <http://www.GoMDOT.com>.
3. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 63-5-53, the permit holder is liable for any and all damages.
4. An applicant with delinquent assessment(s) should not apply for any permit until the delinquency is satisfied.
5. Denied applications will be returned to applicants with the reason for the denial.
6. A copy of the Permit or Blanket Permit must be carried in the vehicle at all times.
7. Any misstatement, misrepresentation, or failure of an applicant to comply with the terms of the permit, or any of the Department's rules and regulations, may result in revocation of all permit privileges for a period of time determined by the Director of the MDOT Permit Division. The applicant may appeal the suspension/revocation to the Executive Director of MDOT.
8. Permits are generally intended for one-piece items. However, it is recognized that there are manufactured products which, when placed side by side, do not appreciably surpass the statutory width (e.g., concrete pipe, rolled hay, shipping pallets). Accordingly, permits may be issued for movement of such products up to a maximum width of ten and one-half (10½) feet.
9. A rear overhang of fifteen (15) feet or greater will require a permit and a front and/or rear escort. Forest products may have a twenty-eight (28) foot overhang but only daylight movement is allowed.
10. Front projection exceeding three (3) feet will require a permit. Projection of fifteen (15) feet or greater requires front and/or rear escort.
11. Vehicles with a total length exceeding ninety-nine (99) feet will require a permit and a front and/or rear escort.
12. Trailers exceeding fifty-three (53) feet in length will require an Oversize Permit.
13. Night movements may be permitted for loads not exceeding twelve (12) feet in width, or 150,000 pounds or ninety-nine (99) feet long or height exceeding thirteen (13) feet

six (6) inches (**the maximum height is dependent on the route**). **Maximum rear overhang is four (4) feet.**

- When moving at night operating on a Two Lane Roadway, loads ten (10) feet wide or greater will require, at minimum, the use of a front escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load.
- When moving at night operating on a Divided Highway, loads ten (10) feet wide or greater will require, at minimum, the use of a rear escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load.
- Loads less than ten (10) feet in width will require, at minimum, flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load. **No escort is required.**

14. Movement of loads in excess of eight (8) feet six (6) inches (102 inches) in width requires a permit. Exceptions are listed in Miss. Code Ann. § 63-5-13.

15. A sign legible from a distance of no less than fifty (50) feet shall be mounted on the rear of each manufactured house being moved that is fourteen (14) feet wide or wider. The sign must contain the name and telephone number of the mover and the permit holder (if the permit holder is different than the mover). In addition, the name and telephone number shall be marked on each dealer/transporter truck hauling a manufactured house.

16. Overwidth loads shall not be moved during inclement weather.

17. Oversize or Wide Load Signs are required on all loads in excess of twelve (12) feet in width.

18. Escort requirement:

- When moving during Daylight Hours on a Two Lane Roadway, loads thirteen (13) feet wide or greater will require, at minimum, the use of a front escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load.
- When moving during Daylight Hours on a Divided Highway, loads thirteen (13) feet wide or greater will require, at a minimum, the use of a rear escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load.
- A police escort ("blue lights") may be required for all loads eighteen (18) feet wide and over, depending on the route and load conditions, and at the discretion of the Executive Director or the Commission.
- Escorts may be required when crossing bridges on a permitted route.

19. Permits are not transferable between owners or vehicles.

## **GENERAL CARRIER OPERATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. There must be a valid or current registration in the vehicle.
2. The owner/operator of the motor vehicle must provide and maintain the following:
  - a. A current, valid Federal DOT number; and
  - b. A current, valid Certificate of Insurance with the Department listed as the certificate holder, with a minimum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) single limit liability coverage.
3. Vehicles without valid insurance coverage will not be allowed to resume movement until proof of valid insurance coverage is provided.
4. Electronic permits and permit numbers via smart phones and tablets will be accepted.
5. If the Single Trip - Oversize Permit is not displayed either electronically or by paper upon request, the move will be deemed not to have a permit and be penalized accordingly.
6. Vehicles operating with an electronic permit or permit number will adhere to all rules, regulations and restrictions listed on the permit.
7. Owner/operator must be current with federal registration requirements under the UCR, IFTA and IRP programs prior to the issuance of any permit.
8. The provisions set out in Miss. Code Ann. §§ 63-5-27, 63-5-29 and 63-5-33, as well as any other relevant statutes in reference to vehicle specifications and weight, axle, wheel spacing, and other requirements must be followed. Mississippi follows federal law as it relates to vehicle dimensions and wheel and axle spacings.



## GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. When necessary for the protection of the public or the highway, permits may require reduced speed limits, law enforcement escort(s) or other safety precautions such as:
  - Front and rear escort.
  - Escorts with a height pole.
  - Daylight movement only.
  - Certain portions of the roadway or routes may be excluded for travel.
  - Escorts may be required when crossing bridges on permitted route.
2. Failure to have the required escort(s) may result in up to thirty (30) days suspension of the permit holder from the permit system.
3. Traffic control devices (such as signs and signals) that are removed just prior to the load passing their location shall be re-erected immediately after the load passes the location. Re-erecting a sign and signpost requires the applicant to drive the signpost(s) immediately adjacent to its previous location and attach the sign(s).
4. The applicant is responsible for any additional permits, notifications or clearances as may be required by other jurisdictional agencies or regulations.
5. Movement will not be allowed after 12:00 noon on days preceding or on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas, unless otherwise permitted.
6. Warning flags will be displayed on all corners at a height of six (6) feet above the pavement on moves in excess of ten (10) feet, not exceeding twelve (12) feet in width.
7. Two (2) five (5) inch flashing amber lights sufficient for five hundred (500) feet visibility will be mounted approximately six (6) feet above the pavement on the rear corners of loads and an Oversize or Wide Load sign on the front and rear of loads exceeding twelve (12) feet in width.
8. While traveling on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways in Mississippi, all vehicles and loads must abide by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations, including guidelines for cargo securement. See Title 49, Transportation, Part 300 – 399.

## LITTER FREE HIGHWAYS

All loads must be secured and covered while traveling on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways. If spillage occurs, the owner/operator of such vehicle may be in violation of the following state laws:

1. Miss. Code Ann. § 63-5-55

"No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom, . . . ."

2. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-15-29

"(1) Anyone who shall put, throw, dump or leave on the roads and highways of this state, or within the limits of the rights-of-way of such roads and highways . . . any cigarette or cigar stubs, or any other things or substance likely to ignite the grass or underbrush on a road or highway, in addition to being civilly liable for all damages caused by such act, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor. . ."

\* \* \*

"(3) Any person found guilty of the violation of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) . . . ."

\* \* \*

"(5) Upon a second or subsequent conviction of an offense upon which fines are imposed by this section, the minimum and maximum fines shall be doubled."

\* \* \* \*

"(8) It shall be the duty of all law enforcement officers to enforce the provisions of this section."

3. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-15-30

"(2)(a) Except as authorized by law or permit, it is unlawful for any person to throw, scatter, spill or place, or cause to be thrown, scattered, spilled, or placed, or otherwise disposed of, any solid waste in any of the following manners or amounts:

(i) In or on any public highway, road, street, alley or thoroughfare, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or any other public lands. . . .

\* \* \* \*

(3)(a) Any person who violates this section in an amount not exceeding fifteen (15) pounds in weight or twenty-seven (27) cubic feet in volume and not for commercial purposes is guilty of littering and subject to a fine as provided in Section 97-15-29."

## **Permit Types**

The following permits may be issued:

### **Single Trip Permit**

This permit allows an owner/operator to move on State Maintained Highways and State Interstate Highways when vehicle registration and title is not made in Mississippi. A Temporary Trip Permit is issued in lieu of IRP plates for travel within Mississippi. If load is oversize or overweight an additional permit is required. A Single Trip Permit fee is \$25.00.

For more information, operators of a commercial motor vehicle in interstate and intrastate commerce, including transport of property or passengers, should refer to Code of Federal Regulations, Part 390-Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; General (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-390#390.5>).

### **Oversize Blanket Permit**

This permit authorizes the movement of loads not exceeding fourteen (14) feet in width, fourteen (14) feet in height, one hundred twenty (120) feet in length, with no more than fourteen (14) feet eleven (11) inches rear overhang. The load must be one continuous piece.

The fee for an Oversize Blanket Permit is \$100.00 per year, per company.

### **Single Trip – Oversize Permit**

This permit authorizes single trip movement from origin to destination. A round trip can be purchased for this permit. A Single Trip – Oversize Permit costs \$10.00.

A Single Trip – Oversize Permit must be purchased if the truck, trailer or load exceeds eight (8) feet six (6) inches in width, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches in height, ninety-nine (99) feet in length or the trailer is longer than fifty-three (53) feet long.

Express Pass will route each load to avoid low weight conditions, low bridges, and other restrictions.

### **Single Trip – Overweight Permit**

This permit authorizes single trip movement from origin to destination. A round trip can be purchased for this permit.

A Single Trip – Overweight permit must be purchased if the truck, trailer and load combined exceed the legal weight of 80,000 pounds.

All dimensions of the truck, trailer and load must meet legal vehicle limits (eight (8) feet six (6) inches wide, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches tall, ninety-nine (99) feet long or less).

A Single Trip – Overweight Permit fee will vary due to the weight of the load and the mileage traveled through the State of Mississippi.

### **Single Trip – Oversize/Overweight Permit**

This permit authorizes single trip movement from origin to destination. A round trip can be purchased for this permit.

A Single Trip – Oversize/Overweight Permit must be purchased if the truck, trailer or load exceeds eight (8) feet six (6) inches wide, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches in height and ninety-nine (99) feet in length and has a total load (truck, trailer, and load combined) weight of more than 80,000 pounds.

Express Pass will route each load to avoid low weight conditions, low bridges, and other restrictions.

If the Single Trip – Oversize/Overweight Permit is not displayed either electronically or by paper upon request, the move will be deemed not to have a permit and be penalized accordingly.

A Single Trip – Oversize/Overweight Permit fee will vary due to the weight of the load and the mileage traveled through the State of Mississippi.

### **Super Load Permit**

An owner/operator of a motor vehicle may apply to MDOT to purchase a Super Load Permit. The Super Load Permit may contain one or more permits, i.e. overweight and or oversize. Various conditions are required to move a Super Load, including but not limited to escort, flags, lights and others. Requirements are listed on the Superload Permit.

A Super Load is considered to be any vehicle that exceeds any of the following limits:

1. Overall Width of seventeen (17) feet.
2. Overall Length of one hundred twenty-one (121) feet.
3. Overall Height of fifteen (15) feet seven (7) inches.
4. Gross Weight of 189,999 pounds or greater.

The following information must be included in an application for a Super Load Permit:

1. The name and address of the applicant and shipper.
2. The origin and destination of the load.
3. Gross weight of vehicle and load.

4. The dimensions of the tractor, trailer, and load.
5. Written acknowledgement and permission from the affected utility and railroad companies are required for a load exceeding sixteen (16) feet seven (7) inches in height.
6. Written acknowledgement and permission from affected railroad companies are required for vehicles with a load length exceeding one hundred twenty (120) feet.
7. Diagrams of tractor, trailer and load:
  - a. Number, spacing and individual axle weights.
  - b. Number and size of tires.
  - c. Width and height of load.
8. A route survey must include the following:
  - a. Route(s) surveyed.
  - b. List of obstructions such as highway signs (roadside and overhead), bridge rails, overhead traffic signals, and overhead power lines, railroad crossings on the route or shoulders affecting the move.
  - c. Pull-off areas to allow traffic to pass such as parking lots, truck stops, other locations with the capacity to allow the tractor, trailer, and load to completely clear the road.
9. Detailed traffic control plan will consist of the following:
  - a. List of all points where the load and/or vehicle will encroach into opposing traffic.
    - i. How much of the lane will be encroached.
    - ii. Distance traveled in opposing traffic lanes.
    - iii. Duration of encroachment.
  - b. If stopping traffic is required, the traffic control plan should provide the following:
    - i. Where and how.
    - ii. Type or method of advanced notification.
    - iii. After review, the MDOT Permit Division may require additional information before final approval.
  - c. Height Pole and/or Law Enforcement Escorts may be required depending upon the routes.
    - i. A height pole will be required if the load is fifteen (15) feet seven (7) inches tall or more.
    - ii. Two blue light escorts (one front/ one rear) on all loads beginning at one hundred sixty (160) feet in total length.
    - iii. Two blue light escorts along with a height pole escort will be required on loads starting at fifteen (15) feet (9) inches tall or more. Exceptions may be allowed at the discretion of the MDOT Permit Division Director, based on the load's route.

- iv. Two blue light escorts are required for loads 300,000 pounds or more. Exceptions may be allowed at the discretion of the MDOT Permit Division Director, based on the load's route.
- v. Depending on the load width, weight, height or combination of said dimensions, more blue light escorts may be required, as determined by the MDOT Permit Division Director.
- vi. MDOT may utilize alternate methods to ensure proper escorts and safe travel.

### **Sealed Container Permit – Single Trip**

Sealed containerized cargo units are considered as non-divisible loads and Overweight Permits may be issued for a single trip, subject to the following restrictions:

1. Containerized cargo units are transporting commodities for export or import moving to or from a port.
2. A copy of the international bill of lading signed by a customs official or an international bill of lading with an equipment interchange and inspection report must be in the vehicle along with the permit.
3. Maximum gross vehicle weight 95,000 pounds, with maximum tandem axle weight of 44,000 pounds (Attachment 1). All other dimensions such as width (eight (8) feet six (6) inches), height (thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches) and length (ninety-nine (99) feet zero (0) inches) must meet legal vehicle limits. The gross vehicle rating of the vehicle must be equal to or greater than 95,000 pounds to legally carry the weight.
4. All vehicles permitted for movement of overweight sealed containerized units are authorized for twenty-four (24) hour per day, seven (7) days per week continuous movement on State Maintained Highways.
5. Sealed containerized cargo units must follow the Sealed Container chart, which is located on the permit, for maximum weights allowed according to the inner bridge and outer bridge measurements.
6. The permit will contain a pre-determined route that the motor carrier must follow for the permit to remain valid.

### **Sealed Container Permit - Blanket**

Sealed containerized cargo units are considered as non-divisible loads and Overweight Sealed Container Blanket Permits may be issued subject to the following restrictions:

1. An owner/operator of a motor vehicle may apply to MDOT to purchase a Sealed Container Blanket Permit. This permit is an annual blanket permit that will entitle the vehicle to haul sealed containers on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways.



2. All applications must be submitted to the MDOT Permit Division for authorization and approval. The cost of the initial blanket permit is \$500.00 per vehicle and payment must be submitted with the application. Subsequent trip permits under the blanket permit are authorized at no additional cost.
3. All applications for a Sealed Container Blanket Permit must be submitted to the MDOT Permit Division for authorization and approval. The owner/operator of a motor vehicle must complete a second application for a trip permit in order to receive a predetermined route for each load. The predetermined route must be followed for the Sealed Container Blanket Permit to remain valid.
4. Sealed Container Blanket Permit holders are allowed a maximum gross vehicle weight of 95,000 pounds, with maximum tandem axle weight of 44,000 pounds. All other dimensions such as width (eight (8) feet six (6) inches), height (thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches) and length (ninety-nine (99) feet zero (0) inches) must meet legal vehicle limits. The gross vehicle rating of the vehicle must be equal to or greater than 95,000 pounds to legally carry the weight.
5. Sealed Container Blanket Permit holders must have a copy of the international bill of lading signed by a custom official or an international bill of lading with an equipment interchange and inspection report in the vehicle along with the blanket and trip permit documents.
6. The Sealed Container Blanket Permit document must always be in the designated vehicle. If a Sealed Container Blanket Permit is found in a vehicle for which it was not issued, the Sealed Container Blanket Permit becomes null and void.
7. All Sealed Container Blanket Permit holders who are permitted for movement with overweight sealed containerized cargo are authorized twenty-four (24) hours per day and seven (7) days per week continuous movement on State Maintained Highways.

### **Harvest Permit**

An owner/operator of a motor vehicle may apply to MDOT to purchase a Harvest Permit. The Harvest Permit is an annual permit that will entitle the vehicle to haul agricultural products, unprocessed forestry products and sand, gravel, fill dirt from the field in its natural state to a processing location.

1. The authorized maximum gross weight of each load may not exceed 80,000 pounds, with a ten percent (10%) tolerance over the specific gross vehicle weight rating (for a maximum total of 88,000 pounds). If loading at a point of origin that has scales to weigh the load, a Harvest Permit **MAY NOT** exceed 80,000 pounds and **DOES NOT** allow a ten percent (10%) tolerance.
2. All permit applications must be submitted to the MDOT Permit Division for authorization and approval. The cost of the permit is \$25.00 per truck and payment

must be submitted with the application. Applications that are not approved for any reason will be returned to the applicant for correction.

3. The Harvest Permit document must always be in the designated vehicle. If a Harvest Permit is found in a vehicle for which it was not issued, the Harvest Permit becomes null and void. Harvest Permits are not transferable between owners or vehicles.
4. **HARVEST PERMITS ARE NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS**, except when loading and unloading on an Interstate Highway or when federal law allows travel (for example, U.S. State Route 78 from mile marker 0 to 113 in North Mississippi).
5. An owner/operator holding a valid and current Harvest Permit may apply for a Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit, which allows travel on Interstate Highways. Please refer to the section in this Manual pertaining to Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permits for more information.
6. Travel is strictly prohibited on LOW WEIGHT roads, State Maintained Highways, Interstate Highways, and bridges. Harvest Permit holders must AVOID routes that include low weight conditions.
7. A Harvest Permit only applies to the combined weight of the truck and load. The load must otherwise be of legal vehicle length, height, and width. The legal size of a load is no more than eight (8) feet six (6) inches wide, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches tall and fifty-three (53) feet in length, plus overhang of four (4) feet. Federal restrictions may apply to specific equipment and industry. Mississippi follows applicable Federal Bridge Formula Law as it relates to weight limits per axle, spacing and other vehicle schematics. In the case of hauling timbers or logs out of the field, see "Pole Blanket Permit Rules" for hauling loads greater than the legal length.
8. For the purpose of this Manual, "**agricultural products**" (except unprocessed forest products) are defined as those products produced on the farm and being transported from the farm to market or processing points. Cotton seeds, regardless of origin, will be considered an agricultural product.
9. For the purposes of this Manual, "**unprocessed forestry products**" are defined as those forestry products being hauled directly from the forest. Hauling from a "holding yard" will be considered as being hauled directly from the forest. Sawdust, bark, and chips regardless of origin, will be considered an unprocessed forestry product.

### **Special Interstate Agricultural Vehicle Permit**

An owner/operator of a motor vehicle may apply to MDOT to purchase a Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit. This permit is an annual blanket permit that entitles the vehicle to haul agricultural products and unprocessed forestry products on Interstate Highways. The vehicle must (1) carry a valid Harvest Permit and (2) meet the requirements of an "agriculture vehicle" as defined below.

1. For the purpose of this permit, the term “covered agricultural vehicle” means a vehicle that is transporting unprocessed agricultural crops used for food, feed, or fiber or raw or unfinished forest products, including logs, pulpwood, biomass or wood chips.
2. For the purpose of this permit, “Agriculture Crops” means unprocessed crops harvested from the field that provide food, feed or fiber and raw or unfinished forest products, including logs, pulpwood, biomass, or woodchips.
3. For the purpose of this permit, “Fiber” means a class of materials that are either filament or staple fibers. All natural fibers, except silk, are staple fibers, which means that they are short fibers that must be twisted together to form yarn, including cotton, wool, and flax, to create fabric. Silk is the only natural fiber obtained as a filament.
4. For the purpose of this permit, “Biomass” means the leftovers in the woods after harvesting timber. Biomass includes logging residues, small-diameter or low-value trees, mill residues, and other forms of wood waste. Biomass may be partly interchangeable with the terms “wood chips, wood shavings, sawdust, wood pellets and unprocessed forestry products”. See Miss. Code Ann. § 27-19-81(4).
5. The Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit and Harvest Permit must run concurrently. The purchase of both permits is required. No refunds will be issued for any unused portion of a Harvest Permit purchased prior to applying for these permits.
6. The authorized maximum gross weight of each load may not exceed 88,000 pounds or ten percent (10%) over the specific gross vehicle weight rating. Vehicle specifications must meet the provisions set out in Miss. Code Ann. §§ 63-5-27, 63-5-29 and 63-5-33 and related sections in reference to weight, axle, and wheel spacing requirements. Mississippi follows applicable Federal Bridge Formula Law as it relates to weight limits per axle, spacing and other vehicle schematics.
7. The load authorized under the Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit must otherwise be of legal length, height, and width. Legal size of a load is no more than eight (8) feet six (6) inches wide, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches tall and fifty-three (53) feet in length, plus four (4) foot overhang. Federal restrictions may apply to specific equipment and industry.
8. Travel is strictly prohibited on LOW WEIGHT roads, State Maintained Highways, Interstate Highways, and bridges. Permit holders must AVOID routes that include low weight conditions.
9. Movement under the Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit is only allowed during Daylight Hours.
10. All permit applications must be submitted to the MDOT Permit Division for authorization and approval. The cost of the initial blanket permit is \$25.00 per vehicle and payment must be submitted with the application.

11. The Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit document must always be in the designated vehicle. If a Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit is found in a vehicle for which it was not issued, the permit becomes null and void.
12. Owner/operators may not purchase a permit under this section for hauling gravel, sand, fill dirt, asphalt or other similar materials.

If unauthorized use of a Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit occurs, the owner/operator of such vehicle will be in violation of Mississippi law regarding transporting loads on Interstate Highways, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Vehicles that, due to the number of axles and/or axle spacing, cannot haul maximum load limits, may obtain Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permits to haul covered products at ten percent (10%) above their authorized gross weight limit. Weight in excess of ten percent (10%) above the authorized weight limit will be penalized at five cents (\$0.05) per pound and fifteen cents (\$0.15) per pound for excess weight exceeding 16,000 pounds.
2. The fine assessed against the holder of a Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit for exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 88,000 pounds, but not exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 90,000 pounds, shall be five cents (\$0.05) per pound. The fine for exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 90,000 pounds, but not exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 100,000 pounds, shall be One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). The fine for exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 100,000 pounds shall be Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the first offense and Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for a second offense. Any subsequent offense of exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 100,000 pounds may subject the permit holder to suspension of the Special Interstate Agriculture Vehicle Permit. See Miss. Code Ann. § 27-19-89.

The Mississippi Department of Public Safety (DPS) is authorized to enforce Mississippi laws relating to commercial vehicles traveling on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways.

### **57 Foot Box Van Trailer Permit**

The 57 Foot Box Van Trailer Permit is a blanket permit that will allow carriers to move 57-foot box van trailers, which are otherwise legal, seven (7) days per week and twenty-four (24) hours per day.

1. The fee for the 57 Foot Box Van Trailer Permit is \$100.00 per year, per carrier.
2. The permit must be renewed each year by the carrier.
3. The carrier must pay all other fees required by law.

4. If a copy of the permit is not produced by the driver upon request and/or the carrier is off of an approved route, then the move will be deemed not to have a permit and the carrier will be penalized accordingly.
5. MDOT may exclude or designate certain portions of State Maintained Highways to be used with the permit or at any time during the life of the permit with advanced notification to the permit holder.
6. Any misstatement or misrepresentation on the part of the permit holder on the application or on any permit may result in the suspension or revocation of the permit.
7. The Kingpin is not to exceed forty-one (41) feet as measured from the kingpin to the center of the rear axles or group of axles and the semi-trailer is equipped with rear protection devices located twenty-two (22) inches from the surface and extending to within four (4) inches of the sides of the semi-trailer.

### **Tractor with Dirt Pan In-Tow Permit**

The holder of a Tractor with Dirt Pan In-Tow Permit must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Must have a 72-hour road use permit.
2. Must have an Oversize Permit.
3. May move in a convoy of no more than three (3) units with escorts front and rear.
4. The escort must have flashing amber lights and radio contact with each unit.
5. "Over Size or Wide Load" signs must be placed on all units and escorts.
6. Routes will use four lane roadways where possible.
7. Convoys will pull off the highway at sufficient intervals, to allow traffic to pass.
8. Movement is only allowed during Daylight Hours.

The Tractor with Dirt Pan In-Tow Permit cost is based on size and weight. An Oversize Permit costs \$10.00 per vehicle, per load. For an Overweight Permit, the cost is based on weight and per mile travel.

### **Over Length Truck and Trailer Blanket Permit**

An owner/operator may apply to MDOT for an Over Length Truck and Trailer Blanket Permit. The maximum length of the truck and trailer combination may not exceed ninety-nine (99) feet. This permit authorizes the movement of loads not to exceed legal width of eight (8) feet six (6) inches, legal height of thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches, and length of ninety-nine (99) feet. No additional overhang is allowed.

The fee for the Over Length Truck and Trailer Blanket Permit is \$100.00 per year, per permit holder.

### **Timber Industry Two-Piece Load Permit**

The Timber Industry Two-Piece Load Permit authorizes the movement of two pieces of equipment used in the timber industry as a one-piece load. The following criteria apply:

1. The load must not exceed fourteen (14) feet in width, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches in height, and ninety-nine (99) feet in length.
2. No tandem axle may exceed 44,000 pounds, and no triaxle may exceed 60,000 pounds.
3. If the gross vehicle weight exceeds 100,000 pounds, the permit holder will be deemed not to have a permit and will be penalized accordingly.
4. Two-Piece Load Permit is valid on State Maintained Highways only.

The Timber Industry Two-Piece Load Permit cost is based on size and weight. An Oversize Permit is \$10.00 per vehicle, per load. For an Overweight Permit, the cost is based on weight and per mile travel.

### **Forestry Blanket Permit**

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 63-5-52, MDOT may issue an annual Forestry Blanket Permit for the movement of a single piece of equipment used in the timber industry.

1. The fee is \$200.00 a year, per pulling unit.
2. The pulling vehicle must have and maintain a valid, current vehicle registration.
3. The maximum dimensions for the Forestry Blanket Permit are 100,000 pounds, fourteen (14) feet wide, and fourteen (14) feet high.
4. No tandem axle may exceed 44,000 pounds, and no triaxle may exceed 50,000 pounds.
5. If the gross vehicle weight exceeds 100,000 pounds, or the axle weight exceeds the maximum allowed, the permit holder will be deemed not to have a permit and will be penalized accordingly.
6. The Forestry Blanket Permit will not be valid if any of the dimensions are exceeded. The permit holder will be required to purchase a Single Trip Oversize/Overweight Permit.



7. If the Forestry Blanket Permit is not displayed either electronically or by paper upon request, the move will be deemed not to have a permit and will be penalized accordingly.

### **Pole Blanket Permit**

The Pole Blanket Permit allows the movement of poles or extended length timber loads on State Maintained Highways. The Pole Blanket Permit is valid for one (1) month at a cost of \$200.00 per fleet of vehicles. Vehicles must be owned by the permit holder to qualify as a fleet vehicle.

1. Loads must be legal height of thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches, legal weight of 80,000 pounds or up to 88,000 pounds, with a valid Harvest Permit. Overall length may not exceed one hundred twenty (120) feet, with a maximum overhang of forty (40) feet.
2. The Pole Blanket Permit may be amended to include multiple routes to accommodate multiple processing points. Each move must include a predetermined route.
3. One escort is required on the rear with not more than two (2) tractor trailers to convoy hauling poles.
4. Vehicles must have displayed at the extreme rear end of the load a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen (16) inches square.
5. During low visibility, vehicles transporting a load of timber products must have affixed as close as practical to the end of the load a rotating or oscillating amber strobe-type lamp or light-emitting diode light.
6. **POLE BLANKET PERMITS ARE NOT VALID FOR TRAVEL ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS**, except when loading and unloading on an Interstate Highway or when federal law allows travel (for example, U.S. State Route 78 from mile marker 0 to 113 in North Mississippi).
7. Travel is strictly prohibited on LOW WEIGHT roads, State Maintained Highways, Interstate Highways, and bridges. Permit holders must AVOID routes that included low weight conditions.
8. Travel is restricted during inclement weather.
9. All movements must be on State Maintained Highways with a minimum pavement width of twenty (20) feet.
10. MDOT may require additional escort with a height pole and/or additional escorts for safety measures as deemed advisable due to particular loads and/or routes.

## **Hay Blanket Permit**

A Hay Blanket Permit authorizes the movement of hay bales and rolls on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways. The Hay Blanket Permit is valid for one (1) year at a cost of \$100.00 per vehicle.

1. Maximum height is fourteen (14) feet.
2. Trailer length cannot exceed fifty-three (53) feet.
3. Maximum width is ten (10) feet six (6) inches.
4. Wide load signs must be placed on all loads.
5. All rolls of hay must be strapped down and reinforced per Federal Securement Rules.
6. Only movement during Daylight Hours is allowed.
7. Movement is valid on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways.

## **Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit**

The holder of a Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit must adhere to the following requirements:

1. All vehicles permitted for movement under the Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit will be allowed twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) days per week movement for loads not exceeding 150,000 pounds and twelve (12) feet wide, thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches high or ninety-nine (99) feet long.
2. Daylight moves are only allowed for loads over twelve (12) feet wide, not to exceed fourteen (14) feet wide, Monday through Saturday, with normal travel restrictions.
3. When moving at night operating on Two Lane Roadways, loads ten (10) feet wide or greater will require, at minimum, the use of a front escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load.
4. When moving at night operating on Divided Highways, loads ten (10) feet wide or greater will require, at a minimum, the use of a rear escort and flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load.
5. Loads less than ten (10) feet in width will require, at a minimum, flashing amber lights mounted on the rear of the load. **No escorts are required.**
6. The Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit costs Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for excess weight and is nonrefundable. The permit shall expire one (1) year from the issue date or on the expiration date of the insurance policy.

7. The Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit is vehicle specific.
8. Any request for authorization to transfer a Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit to another vehicle shall be submitted in writing to the MDOT Permit Division and must contain justification for the request.
9. A secondary routing permit must be obtained from the MDOT Permit Division or the MDOT ExpressPass Web Routing System before starting a move. The secondary routing permit must be in the vehicle along with the Special Heavy Equipment Blanket Permit when transporting loads.

### **Timber Industry 12 Foot Rear Overhang Blanket Permit**

An owner/operator of a vehicle moving timber at night with overhang from the rear trailer lights may apply to MDOT for a blanket permit.

1. The permit authorizes night movement of timber with overhang from the rear trailer lights not to exceed twelve (12) feet.
2. Applicants must provide a description of the vehicle that will operate under this permit, including, but not limited to, license plate number, vehicle identification number, vehicle color, and manufacturer.
3. The name and phone number of the owner/operator shall be displayed on both sides of the pulling vehicle. The markings must be legible from a distance of twenty-five (25) feet at night while the vehicle is stationary, and the markings are to be maintained in a manner ensuring legibility.
4. Prior to the issuance of the permit, each vehicle listed on the application must pass a safety inspection by the Commercial Transportation Enforcement Division of the Department of Public Safety.
5. Vehicles operating under this permit will be subject to safety inspections at any time.
6. The permit holder must have a valid or current registration, and a Harvest Permit.
7. The permit holder must have a flashing amber light securely attached at both sides of the rear of the load.
8. The hours for moving such loads will be limited to two (2) hours before sunrise and ending two (2) hours after sunset.
9. Vehicles operating under this permit will comply with weight limits and other regulatory guidelines.
10. The fee is \$100 per year for an annual blanket permit or \$10 per trip. A safety inspection will not be required for a trip permit.

### **Special Permit – Military and Emergency Response**

A United States Military Unit may apply for a permit for the deployment of military operations and emergency response.

The United States Military is exempt from fees associated with the purchase of any motor carrier permit in Mississippi. The permit will provide a predetermined route to assist with planning and safe travel on State Maintained Highways and Interstate Highways.

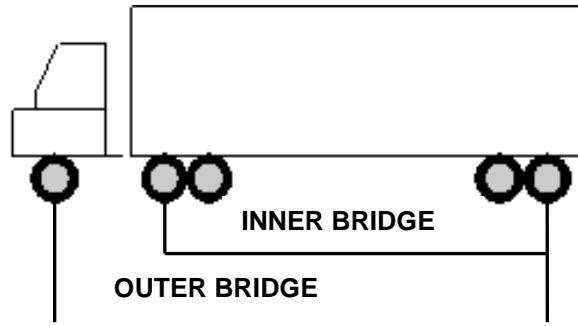
### **Special Permit**

With respect to highways under its jurisdiction, MDOT may, in its discretion and upon application and good cause shown, issue a special permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a certain size, weight or load that exceeds the maximum requirements set forth by law. The MDOT Permit Division may issue or withhold any such permit at its discretion. See Miss. Code Ann. §65-1-8(c).

## Attachment 1

### Sealed Container Measurement Calculations

The maximum gross vehicle weight is determined by these measurements. Vehicles cannot exceed 44,000 lbs. on a tandem axle.



Maximum gross vehicle weight with maximum tandem axle weight of 44, 000 lbs.

| Length: | Outer bridge<br>Min. (ft.) | Inner bridge<br>Min. (ft.) | Gross Vehicle Weight<br>Max (lbs.) |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
|         | <u>57</u>                  | <u>45</u>                  | <u>100,000</u>                     |
|         | <u>56</u>                  | <u>44</u>                  | <u>99,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>55</u>                  | <u>43</u>                  | <u>98,250</u>                      |
|         | <u>54</u>                  | <u>42</u>                  | <u>97,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>53</u>                  | <u>41</u>                  | <u>96,250</u>                      |
|         | <u>52</u>                  | <u>40</u>                  | <u>95,500</u>                      |
|         | <u>51</u>                  | <u>39</u>                  | <u>95,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>50</u>                  | <u>38</u>                  | <u>94,750</u>                      |
|         | <u>49</u>                  | <u>37</u>                  | <u>94,500</u>                      |
|         | <u>48</u>                  | <u>36</u>                  | <u>93,250</u>                      |
|         | <u>47</u>                  | <u>35</u>                  | <u>92,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>46</u>                  | <u>34</u>                  | <u>91,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>45</u>                  | <u>33</u>                  | <u>90,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>44</u>                  | <u>32</u>                  | <u>87,750</u>                      |
|         | <u>43</u>                  | <u>31</u>                  | <u>85,500</u>                      |
|         | <u>42</u>                  | <u>30</u>                  | <u>82,500</u>                      |
|         | <u>41</u>                  | <u>29</u>                  | <u>79,500</u>                      |
|         | <u>40</u>                  | <u>28</u>                  | <u>76,950</u>                      |
|         | <u>39</u>                  | <u>27</u>                  | <u>74,400</u>                      |
|         | <u>38</u>                  | <u>26</u>                  | <u>72,600</u>                      |
|         | <u>37</u>                  | <u>25</u>                  | <u>70,800</u>                      |
|         | <u>36</u>                  | <u>24</u>                  | <u>69,500</u>                      |
|         | <u>35</u>                  | <u>23</u>                  | <u>68,200</u>                      |
|         | <u>34</u>                  | <u>22</u>                  | <u>66,950</u>                      |
|         | <u>33</u>                  | <u>21</u>                  | <u>65,700</u>                      |
|         | <u>32</u>                  | <u>20</u>                  | <u>64,350</u>                      |
|         | <u>31</u>                  | <u>19</u>                  | <u>63,000</u>                      |
|         | <u>30</u>                  | <u>18</u>                  | <u>61,450</u>                      |
|         | <u>29</u>                  | <u>17</u>                  | <u>59,900</u>                      |
|         | <u>28</u>                  | <u>16</u>                  | <u>58,900</u>                      |
|         | <u>27</u>                  | <u>15</u>                  | <u>57,900</u>                      |
|         | <u>26</u>                  | <u>14</u>                  | <u>57,250</u>                      |
|         | <u>25</u>                  | <u>13</u>                  | <u>56,600</u>                      |

**Maximum Axle Weights and Minimum Spacing  
Special Heavy Haul Blanket Permit**

|                          |                                     |               |                |               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b><u>Five Axles</u></b> | <b>(80,000 lbs. to 95,000 lbs.)</b> |               |                |               |
| <b>Steering</b>          | <b>Spacing</b>                      | <b>Tandem</b> | <b>Spacing</b> | <b>Tandem</b> |
| 14,000 lbs.              | 12'                                 | 40,500 lbs.   | 28'            | 40,500 lbs.   |

|                         |                                      |               |                |                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Six Axles</u></b> | <b>(80,000 lbs. to 117,000 lbs.)</b> |               |                |                |
| <b>Steering</b>         | <b>Spacing</b>                       | <b>Tandem</b> | <b>Spacing</b> | <b>Triaxle</b> |
| 15,000 lbs.             | 12'                                  | 45,000 lbs.   | 28'            | 57,000 lbs.    |

|                           |                                      |                |                |                |                |               |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b><u>Seven Axles</u></b> | <b>(80,000 lbs. to 142,000 lbs.)</b> |                |                |                |                |               |
| <b>Steering</b>           | <b>Spacing</b>                       | <b>Tandem</b>  | <b>Spacing</b> | <b>Quad</b>    |                |               |
| 15,000 lbs.               | 12'                                  | 45,000 lbs.    | 28'            | 60,000 lbs.    |                |               |
|                           |                                      | <b>Triaxle</b> |                | <b>Triaxle</b> |                |               |
| 15,000 lbs.               | 12'                                  | 51,000 lbs.    | 28'            | 57,000 lbs.    |                |               |
|                           |                                      | <b>Tandem</b>  |                | <b>Tandem</b>  | <b>Spacing</b> | <b>Tandem</b> |
| 15,000 lbs.               | 12'                                  | 45,000 lbs.    | 28'            | 42,000 lbs.    | 20'            | 40,000 lbs.   |

|                                   |                                      |               |                |               |                |                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Eight Axles or More</u></b> | <b>(80,000 lbs. to 150,000 lbs.)</b> |               |                |               |                |                |
| <b>Steering</b>                   | <b>Spacing</b>                       | <b>Tandem</b> | <b>Spacing</b> | <b>Tandem</b> | <b>Spacing</b> | <b>Triaxle</b> |
| 15,000 lbs.                       | 12'                                  | 40,000 lbs.   | 28'            | 38,000 lbs.   | 30'            | 57,000 lbs.    |