

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

An overweight / oversize permit is required to move a vehicle or combination of vehicles (including load) of a size or weight that exceeds the maximum size or weight established by law over state highways. Except for certain vehicles exempted by law, any vehicle which exceeds the following size or weight limitations will not be allowed to move without a permit:

1. Maximum WIDTH of vehicle or vehicle combination and load exceeds 102" or exceeds 96" on less than 12' wide travel lane.
2. Maximum HEIGHT of vehicle or vehicle combination and load exceeds 13'6" or 14' for automobile transporters.
3. Maximum LENGTH of
 - a. Single-unit vehicle exceeds 40'
 - b. Truck Tractor with semi-trailer which exceeds 48' with a kingpin distance which exceeds 41', measured from the center of the rear axle, or group of axles, to the center of the kingpin of the fifth wheel connection
 - c. Straight Truck with trailer when the combination exceeds 68'
 - d. Truck Tractors hauling automobiles with semi-trailer exceeding 50' as a qualifying auto transporter (able to transport automobiles on the power unit) when the exceptions in Florida Statutes 315.515 are exceeded
 - e. Front end overhang exceeds 3'
4. Gross WEIGHT of vehicle or vehicle combination and load exceeds the legal limits established in Florida Statutes 316.535

WHAT KINDS OF PERMITS DO WE ISSUE?

1. A trip permit is issued to cover a move from a single point of departure (origin) to a single destination. This permit allows the hauler ten days to make the single trip.
2. A blanket permit is issued to cover multiple trips for a period of time not to exceed 12 months.

DEFINITIONS AND TERMS USED IN PERMITTING

DAYTIME HOURS - The period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Movement will be prohibited at any time when visibility is impaired due to smoke, fog, rain, or when visibility is less than 1,000'.

EXCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS - Movement is limited to one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon on Saturday and Sunday, and prohibited all day on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and the days after Thanksgiving and Christmas. If any of these holidays fall on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall also be observed as a holiday. If any of these holidays fall on a Sunday, the following Monday shall also be observed as a holiday.

LOCAL MOVES - Hauling not more than a 50-mile radius from the point of origin.

MULTIPLE LOADING - The placing of more than one item on a vehicle so as to cause the

overall measurements to exceed the maximum length, width, height, or weight limitations established in the Florida Statutes 316.515 or 316.535

TRUCK TRACTOR - Any motor vehicle used primarily for drawing a semi-trailer. Such vehicles shall not be constructed to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the semitrailer and load so drawn. Exceptions: qualifying auto or boat transporters.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

ESCORT VEHICLE - Must be a single-unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of at least 2,000 pounds and less than 26,000 pounds. The vehicle must be properly licensed and operated by a qualified escort. Escorts are required to watch and direct traffic or the load to ensure public safety. No escort or escort vehicle may be used to perform functions that could distract from the escort responsibilities. If one escort is required for an overwidth load, the escort should precede the load on two-lane highways or follow the load on four-lane divided highways. If two escorts are required, one must precede the load and one must follow. If the load is over-length only, the escort vehicle should be in the rear of the load at all times. A vehicle with emergency flashers is not acceptable. Escorts shall operate no more than 300 feet in front of or behind the load unless road conditions or permit stipulations dictate otherwise. Escort vehicles in the process of escorting a permitted vehicle or load must proceed through weigh stations and must not bypass such weigh stations. See Florida Administrative Code 14-26.0125

FLAGS – Shall be clean, red or florescent orange, and at least 18 inches square. They shall be mounted at approximately a 40 to 70 degree angle on the escort vehicle's roof rack. On the permitted vehicle, they shall be displayed so as to wave freely on all four corners of overwidth loads and at the extreme ends of all protrusions, projections, or overhangs.

VERTICAL INDICATOR – A device located on the lead escort vehicle used to determine vertical clearance. This device must be manufactured of non-conductive and non-destructive material and must be a minimum of 6 inches higher than the load being escorted.

WARNING LIGHTS – An electrical lighting device, located on permitted and escort vehicles, used to warn all approaching traffic of a possible safety hazard. Warning lights must be high visibility rotating, strobe or flashing amber light and must be seen by approaching traffic at a distance of at least 500 feet under clear atmospheric conditions.

WARNING SIGNS (Oversize) – All permitted vehicles or loads exceeding 10' in width, 80' in length or 14'-6" in height must display two warning signs. Each warning sign shall consist of black letters 12 inches high with a brush stroke of not less than 1-½ inches wide on a yellow background (10 inches high and 1-½ inches wide for escort vehicles). The sign shall state "OVERSIZE LOAD." Each warning sign shall have a total dimension of

not less than 7 feet long by 18 inches high. One sign shall be either bumper-mounted or roof-mounted. If one of the signs is roof-mounted, then the other sign must be at the rear of the towed unit or at the rear of the load. Voids (holes) may be cut in warning signs as signs must not cover any vehicle light or reflector.

LIABILITY OF PERMITTEE

Permits are granted with the specific understanding that the permittee shall be responsible and liable for any damage to state roadways and structures.

WHO IS EXEMPT FROM OVERSIZE PERMITS?

NOTE: NO VEHICLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES EXCEEDING THE WEIGHT LIMITATIONS OF 316.535, F.S. IS EXEMPT FROM OBTAINING AN OVERWEIGHT PERMIT.

Certain exemptions from oversize permits are allowed. The exemptions include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Farming and agricultural equipment subject to the provisions of Florida Statutes 316.515
2. Vehicles transporting objects of a structural nature that cannot be readily dismembered, when operating in the daytime, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, so long as the vehicle and load do not exceed 75' in overall length and provided the load does not extend more than 4' beyond the rear of the vehicle or 3' beyond the front of the vehicle, are exempt from the requirements of a permit under the permitting rule.
3. School buses, which are subject to the provisions of Florida Statutes 316.615 are exempt from the requirements of the permitting rule.

WHO IS EXEMPT FROM PERMIT FEES?

Exemptions for permit fees may be found in the Florida Administrative Code 14-26.009

COST OF PERMITS

Permits fees are authorized by Florida Administrative Code 14-26.008. For an accurate posting of cost of permits, please see "Schedule of Fees" on the FDOT Permit Office Web site at <http://www.fdotmaint.com/permit>.

WHAT HAPPENS IF NO VALID SPECIAL PERMIT IS PRESENT WHEN REQUIRED?

When your vehicle, or vehicle and load, is detected overweight, Florida law provides for a penalty of \$.05 per pound for all weight over the legal weight for the vehicle.

When your vehicle, or vehicle and load, is detected oversize, Florida law provides for a penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per violation for width, height, or length, based on the number of feet, or portion of a foot, over the legal width, height, and/or length of the vehicle (\$250.00 per foot or portion thereof for height and width; length: \$40.00 for up to 2'; \$100.00 for more than 2' up to 10'; and \$250.00 per foot or portion thereof for more than 10').

When either or both weight and size violations are detected, they must be corrected or a special permit obtained.

WHAT HAPPENS IF REQUIREMENTS OF A SPECIAL PERMIT ARE VIOLATED?

When your vehicle, or vehicle and load, is over the permitted weight(s), Florida law provides for a penalty of \$.05 per pound for all weight over the permitted weight(s), and a new permit must be obtained or the offending overweight corrected.

When your vehicle, or vehicle and load, is over the permitted size, Florida law provides for a penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per vehicle, based on the number or feet, or portion of a foot, over the permitted width, height, and/or length of the vehicle, and a new permit must be obtained or the offending oversize corrected (\$250.00 per foot or portion thereof for height and width; length: \$40.00 for up to 2' \$100.00 for more than 2' up to 10' and \$250.00 per foot or portion thereof for more than 10').

When an operational or safety stipulation(s) on a special permit is violated, Florida law provides for a penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per vehicle and the vehicle will be detained until the safety stipulation(s) is corrected.

When one or more of the following operational or safety requirement(s) prescribed by the rules of FDOT and declared on a special permit is violated, that permit will be declared NULL AND VOID and the penalty (or penalties) will be assessed as outlined above for NO VALID SPECIAL PERMIT PRESENT.

- The vehicle does not have the required number of axles.
- The vehicle has an expired permit.
- The vehicle is not on the route designated on the permit or an approved route on the multi-trip (blanket) permit attachments.
- The vehicle is a self-propelled truck crane towing a motor vehicle that exceeds the 5,000-pound limit allowed in Florida Statutes 316.550
- The vehicle is operating with a permit which has been altered or forged.
- The vehicle is not as represented by the facts on the permit.
- The vehicle is multi-loaded (except as allowed per Florida Administrative Code 14-26.012).
- The vehicle was operating during nighttime hours when not allowed by the permit or its attachments.
- The tires on the vehicle are smaller than those specified on the permit.
- The vehicle has an external/outer bridge dimension which is less than the minimum specified on the permit.
- The vehicle is being operated under a multi-trip permit and the permit is not accompanied by the attachments described in the permit.

When weight, size or safety requirements of a special permit are violated, the offending irregularity must be corrected or a new special permit obtained.

ANY ATTEMPT TO OPERATE ON AN ALTERED OR FORGED PERMIT WILL RESULT IN THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT ASSESSMENT AND/OR MAXIMUM SIZE VIOLATION THAT IS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

HOW CAN YOU ORDER/RECEIVE A PERMIT?

1. Ordering a permit:
 - a. A permit can be applied for through the Permit Office Web site at:
<http://www.fdotmaint.com/permit>
 - b. You can apply by mailing your request to:
Florida Department of Transportation, Permit Office
605 Suwannee Street, MS 62
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450
2. Receiving a permit:
 - a. Permits may be received by picking them up in person at the Permit Office, fax (trip only) or mail.
 - b. Payment of permit fees must be received prior to issuance of the permit.
 - c. Remittance may be made by cash, check, credit card, escrow (ARI) account or money order.

It is your responsibility to make sure permits are clear and can be easily read. Carefully read your permit before you begin your trip. It is your responsibility to see that the permit is correct. If there is a mistake on your permit, contact the Permit Office immediately