



Iowa  
 Department of Transportation  
 Office of Motor Carrier Services  
 6310 SE Convenience Blvd.  
 Ankeny, Iowa 50021

PHONE: (515) 237-3264

HOURS: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
**CENTRAL TIME**

Phone lines available after 12:00 P.M. every Wednesday

**Legal Limits**

**ALL  
HIGHWAYS**

Weight:

Single	20,000
Tandem	34,000
Tridum	42,000 determined by axle spacing
Gross weight	80,000
<i>Federal Bridge Formula applies.</i>	

Width:

8' 6"

Height:

13' 6"

14' Auto transporters

Length:

Single unit	40'
Articulated buses	61'
Motorhome/Bus	45'
Semi-trailer*	53'
Twins/doubles	28' 6"
Autotransporters	65'
Stinger steered	75'
Rocky mtn. doubles	Not allowed
Turnpike doubles	Not allowed
Triples	Not allowed
Saddlemount	70'

\*57' lowboy trailers used exclusively for the transportation of construction equipment when used in a truck-tractor semi-trailer combination.

**TOLERANCE**

Registration tolerance of 5%, up to 80,000 lbs.

**TIRE SIZE**

Not applicable. Calculated on tire pressure not tire size. Must be inflated to what is on the tire and must have enough tires to handle the weight.  
 575 lbs. per inch of tire width.

**ACCESS**

5 mile access to terminals, food and fuel.

**OVERHANG**

Autotransporters on designated highways 3' front and 4' rear. 4' rear overhang must be flagged during the day and must have a light mounted for night travel.

**EXEMPTIONS**

Semi-trailers used principally for hauling livestock, exclusively for self-propelled industrial and construction equipment, or autotransporters, are not restricted to the kingpin setting.

**Permit Limits****ROUTINE ISSUE****Weight:**

Single	20,000
Tandem	46,000 (on a single tandem on the truck and single tandem on the trailer, each axle must have 4 tires and a single axle cannot exceed 24,000)
Tridum	60,000
Quad	80,000

**Gross weight:**

5 Axles	100,000
6 Axles	120,000
7 Axles	140,000
8 Axles	160,000

Length: 120'

Width: 18'

16' mobile homes

Road conditions, road width, traffic volume, weather conditions and roadside obstructions will be considered in determining if these maximums will be allowed and if allowed, how far they may travel.

Height: 18'

If load exceeds any of these dimensions or weights, refer to the section on Super Loads.

Must be registered for weight being hauled. If IRP registered, you must contact base state to increase cab card.

**PERMITS VALID FOR**

Single trip permits are valid for five (5) days. An annual permit shall expire on the last day of the month, one year from the date of issuance.

**ACCEPTABLE PERMIT FORMAT**

All vehicles operating under permit must carry a copy of the permit in the vehicle and make the permit available upon request of any authorized official. A copy of the Iowa General Provisions for Oversize Load Permit must also be carried with the permit.

**EXTENSIONS/REVISIONS**

Only one revision before the expiration date of the permit. Can amend anything on a trip permit as long as it does not require additional routing. One change allowed for multi-move permits to change power unit or dimensions as long as the permit remains in same fee bracket. Dates cannot change once permit start date has arrived. No Fee.

**OPERATING TIME**

One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. Travel allowed 24 hours, 7 days on vehicles not exceeding 11' wide, 100' long, 14'6" high and permitted axle limits. Special lighting requirements. Lamps may be placed at the outer ends of the load or on appurtenances which are equal in width to the widest part of the load and positioned on both extreme front and rear of the vehicle or trailer as follows: One lighted red lamp on each side at the rear of the vehicle. One lighted yellow or amber lamp on each side of the front of the load.

**WEEKEND TRAVEL**

Travel permitted Saturday and Sunday all day.

**LIFT AXLES**

Lift axles are allowed when carrying their portion of the load and they are on the ground. A vehicle with a model year or 1999 or later will not be allowed to have a retractable axles on which the weights can be controlled by the driver during the operation of the vehicle.

**DIVISIBLE LOADS**

Loads should be broken down as far as possible. May haul components on the same load as long as the load does not cause the overdimension or overweight.

**EXCEPTIONS**

Blades, buckets and counterweights do not have to be removed when the load is just over dimension. If the load is overweight, they must be removed and hauled separately.

**SELF-PROPELLED EQUIPMENT**

Loads with 80,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight can have 20,000 lbs. for single axle and 34,000 lbs. for tandem. Over 80,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight or exceeding legal dimensions can have 20,000 lbs. on each axle. Must have amber light if over 80,000 lbs. Legal size: 40' long, 8'6" wide, 13'6" high, anything exceeding these dimensions is considered indivisible.

**SEALED CONTAINERS/ INTERMODAL**

Containers for international shipment shall be considered a divisible load for purposes of transportation under a permit issued pursuant to this section if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The combination of vehicles transporting the container under the permit does not exceed the maximum dimensions.
- b. The container is sealed for international shipment and is either en route for export to a foreign country or en route to the container's destination from a foreign country.
- c. Documentation, such as a bill of lading or another similar document, is carried in the vehicle, in written or electronic form, that ties the container being moved to the container listed in the documentation using the unique container number marked on the container. The documentation shall clearly state the foreign country of origin or destination, and shall be provided to a peace officer upon request.

Loads with 80,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight can have 20,000 lbs. for single axle and 34,000 lbs for tandem.

Over 80,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight or exceeding legal dimensions can have 20,000 lbs on each axle.

Must have amber light if over 80,000 lbs. Legal size: 40' long, 8'6" wide, 13'6" high, anything exceeding these dimensions is considered non-divisible.

**MANUFACTURED HOUSING/MOBILE HOMES**

The towing unit for mobile homes, the weight of which towed load exceeds 10,000 lbs., shall be a truck or truck tractor with a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 10,000 lbs. and having dual wheels.

The rear sign for a mobile home or modular unit shall be mounted at least 7' above the highway surface measuring from the bottom of the sign.

**Types of Permits****Schedule of Fees:**

Single Trip:	\$ 35
Round Trip:	\$ 70
Annual Oversize:	\$ 50
Must have legal weight and have maximum of:	
*12' 5" wide, 120' long and 13' 10" high-Unlimited distance-No routing required	
*14' 6" wide, 120' long and 15' 5" high-Movement restricted to 50 mile radius unless the route continues on at least 4-lanes or trip routes obtained	
*16' wide, 120' long, and 15' 5" high - Trip routes must be obtained	

Annual Oversize/Overweight: \$ 400  
 Maximum dimensions and weight allowed are: 13'5" wide, 120' long, 15'5" high and 156,000 lbs.  
 Only valid for State & US highways. Not valid on interstate highways, county roads, or city streets.

Both permit types list 20,000 pounds limit on each axle.

**INFORMATION NEEDED TO ORDER A PERMIT**

Name of applicant, address, authority number DOT #, load description (tractor and trailer unit, year, make, license number), tractor and trailer length, overall dimensions, gross weight, total number of axles, overhang front and rear, registered weight, origin, destination and route. If overweight will need axle weights, spacings and verification of registration.

**Escorts**

<u>When Escorts Are Needed</u>	<u># Escorts</u>
<i>On 2-Lane Highways:</i>	
• <u>Width</u> exceeds 12' up to and including 14'6"	1 Front*
• <u>Width</u> exceeds 14'6" up to and including 18'	1 Front
<i>On 4-Lane Highways:</i>	
• <u>Width</u> exceeds 12' up to and including 14'6"	1 Rear*
• <u>Width</u> exceeds 14'6" up to and including 16'6"	1 Rear*
• <u>Width</u> exceeds 16'6" up to and including 18'	1 Rear
<i>On All Highways:</i>	
• <u>Height</u> exceeds 14'6" up to 20'	1 Front w/ height pole
• <u>Length</u> exceeds 120'	1 Rear
• <u>Length</u> exceeds 85' but not exceeding 120'	Signs/Flags/Lights
• <u>Front-end projection</u> exceeds 25'	Lights
• <u>Rear-end projection</u> exceeds 10'	Flags/Lights
• <u>Weight</u> exceeds 80,000 lbs.	Lights

\*In lieu of an escort, a vehicle can display an amber light or strobe on the power unit and the rear extremity of the load.

**Lighting Requirements:** A flashing or strobe amber light that is visible for at least 500 feet and provides 360-degree warning. Must be mounted on the towing unit. An escort can be used in lieu of an amber light.

- **Mobile Homes:** Must display an amber strobe/revolving light on rear and one on towing vehicle plus:

- If over 12' wide on secondary roads, generally requires 1 rear escort
- If over 16'6" wide on 4-lane highways/interstate system, requires 1 rear escort

Some superloads: Require Iowa DOT officer as escort - charge is \$250/day maximum (\$25 required time and \$40/hr. for overtime). Need to schedule several days in advance.

### **VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS**

Must be size of normal passenger car or pickup truck. Driver must be at least 18 years of age, must possess a A, B, C, or D driver's license and must carry liability insurance of at least \$100/200/50.

Vehicle must have a revolving amber light at least 7" high and 7" in diameter with at least 100 candlepower visible for 360 degrees or a strobe light visible from front and rear. It shall be mounted on top of the escort vehicle. A height pole must be carried on the vehicle when the vehicle and load are over 14'4" high. An 18" x 18" red flag shall be mounted on each corner of the front bumper. The escort shall remain a distance of approximately 300' in front or to the rear of the load except when traveling in a city.

### **Signs, Flags, Lights**

#### **SIGNS**

Signs shall read "Oversize Load" with dimensions at least 18" high x 7' long. Black letters must be a minimum of 12" high with 1-1/2" brush strokes on a yellow background and mounted on the front bumper and on the rear of the load. Signs are required on all loads over 8'6" wide, 7'5" long or 14' 4" high.

#### **FLAGS**

Flags shall be red or orange and at least 18" square. They shall be placed at each rear corner of the trailer or load and at each front corner of the towing unit and all other protrusions.

#### **LIGHTS**

An amber revolving light at least 7" high and 7" in diameter with at least a 100 candlepower lamp providing 360 degree warning or a strobe light, visible from front and rear, mounted on the towing unit shall be required when the length exceeds 85' up to including 120 feet or front-end projection exceeds 25', or rear-end projection exceeds 10', weight exceeds 80,000 lbs. An escort may be used in lieu of lights.

### **Insurance**

Must carry proof of insurance in the cab. Minimum levels \$100/200/50. A copy of the current certificate of public liability insurance in these amounts shall be carried in the vehicle for which the permit has been issued. Must carry minimum federal insurance limits.

The permit issuing authority may require the applicant to file a bond, certified check or other assurance in an amount sufficient to cover the reasonably anticipated cost of damage or loss to private property caused by moving the permitted load.

**Weigh Stations****Permanent Weigh Stations**

Scales serve all directions unless located on an Interstate route. Direction(s) served on interstate routes are noted in the listings. *Iowa also has portable scales.*

US 18/218: Charles City - 4 mi. west  
I-29 NB, SB: Missouri Valley - north of jct. I-680  
I-29 NB: Nebraska City - 1.5 mi. north of IA 2  
I-29 NB, SB: Salix - 1.5 mi. south of Exit 134  
US 30: Mechanicsville  
US 30/169: Odgen - 1.5 mi. west  
US 34/275: Glenwood  
US 34 & IA 16: Agency - 4 mi. east  
I-35 NB, SB: south of US 34 & Exit 33  
I-35 NB, SB: Ames - 3 mi. north of IA 210 & Exit 102  
I-35 NB, SB: south of IA 105  
US 65 & IA 2: High Point - 5 mi. east  
US 71 NB, SB: Early - north of jct. US 20  
US 71 NB, SB & IA 7: Storm Lake - southeast near Lakeside  
US 75 & IA 3/60: Le Mars  
I-80 WB: Avoca  
I-80 WB: Des Moines - east at milepost 151  
I-80 EB: Van Meter - at milepost 114  
I-80 EB, WB: east of Exit 267  
I-380 NB, SB: Brandon  
Hwy 61, South of Muscatine

**Restricted Travel**

Des Moines I-235 prohibited travel from 7:00 - 9:00 A.M. and from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Roads must be clear and must have 1/4 mile visibility in order to travel.

Boat haulers must call 1-844-311-4873 before traveling.  
<https://www.westernais.org/callbeforeyouhaul>

**SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

At the discretion of the Motor Carrier Services Division.

**Holidays**

Travel is prohibited on the following holidays:

Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day

State offices are also closed on New Years Day, Martin Luther King Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and day after, and Christmas Day, however, travel is allowed on these days.

No movement shall be permitted after 12:00 noon on days preceding the holidays and holiday weekends. A holiday weekend occurs when the holiday falls on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. No move shall be permitted until one half hour before sunrise on the day after the holiday or holiday weekend.

## Fines

***State of Iowa***  
**Schedule of Fines for Overloads on Axles**  
**Section 321.463**  
**Single Axles - Legal Weight 20,000 lbs.**

<u>Data Code</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Over</u>	<u>Fines</u>
247	UP	to 1000	\$10 plus 1/2 cent per pound
248	1001	to 2000	\$15 plus 1/2 cent per pound
249	2001	to 3000	\$80 plus 3 cents per pound
250	3001	to 4000	\$100 plus 4 cents per pound
251	4001	to 5000	\$150 plus 5 cents per pound
252	5001	to 6000	\$200 plus 7 cents per pound
253	6001 +		\$200 plus 10 cents per pound

***Tandem Axles with 40" to 7' Spacing  
and Legal Weight of 34,000 Pounds***

<u>Data Code</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Over</u>	<u>Fines</u>
254	UP	to 1000	\$10 plus 1/2 cent per pound
255	1001	to 2000	\$15 plus 1/2 cent per pound
256	2001	to 3000	\$80 plus 3 cents per pound
257	3001	to 4000	\$100 plus 4 cents per pound
258	4001	to 5000	\$150 plus 5 cents per pound
259	5001	to 6000	\$200 plus 7 cents per pound
260	6001 +		\$200 plus 10 cents per pound

***Group Axles***

<u>Data Code</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Over</u>	<u>Fines</u>
261	UP	to 1000	\$10 plus 1/2 cent per pound
262	1001	to 2000	\$15 plus 1/2 cent per pound
263	2001	to 3000	\$80 plus 3 cents per pound
264	3001	to 4000	\$100 plus 4 cents per pound
265	4001	to 5000	\$150 plus 5 cents per pound
266	5001	to 6000	\$200 plus 7 cents per pound
276	6001 +		\$200 plus 10 cents per pound

*Fines continued next page.*

***Gross Weight = % of the fine rate schedule for axle,  
tandem axle and groups of axles weight violations***

<u>Data Code</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Over</u>	<u>Fines</u>
268	UP	to 1000	of \$10 plus 1/2 cent per pound
269	1001	to 2000	of \$15 plus 1/2 cent per pound
270	2001	to 3000	of \$80 plus 3 cents per pound
271	3001	to 4000	of \$100 plus 4 cents per pound
272	4001	to 5000	of \$150 plus 5 cents per pound
273	5001	to 6000	of \$200 plus 7 cents per pound
274	6001 +		of \$200 plus 10 cents per pound

Length, width, height - \$100 per violation

**Super Loads**

Loads 120' long, 18' high, 18' wide and over 156,000 lbs. is considered a superload. (20,000 lbs. per axle maximum). A diagram is required at the discretion of the Department. Axle spacings are required.

Allow at least 2 days to process the application.

**For more information please contact:**

**Comdata**

**(800) 749-7174**

**To obtain and order permits from Comdata please call:**

**(800) 749-7166**