

**MT**

# Montana



Montana  
 Department of Transportation  
 Motor Carrier Services Division  
 2550 Prospect Avenue  
 Helena, Montana 59601

PHONE: (406) 444-7262

HOURS: 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.  
**MOUNTAIN TIME**

## Legal Limits

### DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS

### ALL OTHER ROADS

#### Weight:

|              |        |        |
|--------------|--------|--------|
| Single       | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Tandem       | 34,000 | 34,000 |
| Tridem       | 42,000 | 42,000 |
| Gross weight | 80,000 | 80,000 |

*Federal Bridge Formula applies.*

#### Width:

8'6"

8'6"

#### Height:

14'

14'

#### Length:

|                        |                   |             |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Single unit, buses     | 55'               | 55'         |
| Semi-trailer           | 53'               | 53'         |
| Twins/doubles          | 28'6"             | 28'6"       |
| Auto/boat transporters | 75'+ overhang     | 82'         |
| Rocky mtn. doubles     | 100'              | 95'         |
| Turnpike doubles       | 100'              | 95'         |
| Triples                | 105' cabover      | Not allowed |
|                        | 110' conventional | Not allowed |
| Saddlemounts           | 75'               | 75'         |

Not more than 3 vehicles attached by triple mount method.

If overall length exceeds 75' including load must obtain a permit

#### TOLERANCE

7% on all commodities except livestock.

#### TIRE WIDTH

500 lbs. per inch width.

#### ACCESS

Access allowed within 2 miles of the interstate. No bridges may be crossed.

#### OVERHANG

Auto/boat transporters - 3' front, 4' rear.

#### EXEMPTIONS

Implements of husbandry or vehicles used for hauling hay, moved or propelled upon the highway during daylight hours for a distance of not more than 100 miles if movement is incidental to the farming operation of the owner of the implement of husbandry. Over 12' width must have an escort.

## Permit Limits

**ROUTINE ISSUE****Weight:**

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Single | Depends on axle spacings. 21,500 |
| Tandem | Depends on axle spacings. 48,000 |
| Tridum | Depends on axle spacings. 53,000 |

**Gross weight:**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 5 Axles | 107,000 |
| 6 Axles | 110,000 |
| 7 Axles | 114,200 |
| 8 Axles | 126,000 |

Length: 150'

Width: 18'

Height: 17'

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

Must be registered to haul over 80,000 lbs. The maximum weight the state allows you to register your IRP cab card is 138,000 lbs. Contact your IRP base state to increase your weight.

**EXTENSIONS/REVISIONS**

Revisions are only issued for breakdown and extension for bad weather. Case by case basis.

**PERMITS VALID FOR**

Single trip permits are valid for three (3) consecutive days. Five (5) days upon request.

**ACCEPTABLE PERMIT FORMAT**

A legible copy of a printed or electronic permit must be carried in the assigned vehicle

**OPERATING TIME**

Interstate highways - Travel is allowed 24 hours, 7 days a week, up to 18' wide, including essential services within one-mile of the interstate highway.

Non-interstate highways - Travel is allowed 24 hours, 7 days a week, up 10' wide, 150' long or 15'6" high. Loads exceeding these dimensions are limited to daylight travel only.

**WEEKEND TRAVEL**

Interstate highways - Travel is allowed 24 hours, 7 days a week, up to 18' wide, including essential services within one-mile of the interstate highway.

Non-interstate highways - Travel is allowed 24 hours, 7 days a week, up 10' wide, 150' long or 15'6" high. Loads exceeding these dimensions are limited to daylight travel only.

**LIFT AXLES**

Lift axles are considered a weight bearing axle if it is carrying its equal share of the load. Vehicles equipped with a retractable axle that is not fully extended and carrying its proportionate share of the load while the motor vehicle is operated upon the highways of this state, the weight penalties listed under the penalty section apply to all weight over the legal maximum allowed by the fixed axles regardless of whether the axle is extended at the time of weighing. In addition to the fine, \$100 will be charged for failure to have the retractable axle fully extended while the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds the legal maximum allowed by the fixed axles.

**DIVISIBLE LOADS**

Divisible loads may be permitted up to and including 14'6" high. These loads cannot exceed axle weights of 20,000 lbs., 34,000 lbs. or 42,000 lbs. even if gross weight is over 80,000 lbs.

Permits may be issued to haul reducible loads up to and including 9' wide. Baled hay and hay racks may be permitted up to and including 9'6" wide. Travel is allowed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on all highways including "*red routes*" \* and on holidays and holiday weekends.

Loads exceeding 9' wide must be non-reducible. The only exception is baled hay, round bales and hay racks which may be hauled up to and including 12' wide. All travel is limited to daylight hours only. All restrictions for 12' wide loads apply to baled hay.

Permits may be issued to haul reducible loads up to and including 95'. If there is any overhang, then travel is restricted to daylight hours, 7 days a week except on "*red routes*" and holidays and holiday weekends.

If there is no overhang, travel is allowed 24 hours, 7 days a week on "*red routes*", holidays and holiday weekends.

Loads exceeding 120' length are not allowed to travel on Saturday, Sunday or holidays, holiday weekends or on "*red routes*" after 3:00 P.M. on Friday until sunrise on Monday.

\* Red routes refer to special restrictions indicated on the state's "Red Route Map". This map may be obtained by calling the state of Montana at (406) 444-6130.

**EXCEPTIONS**

Blades and buckets may be hauled attached as long as the equipment is part of the load.

**SELF-PROPELLED EQUIPMENT**

The Department may issue oversize permits for self-propelled implements of husbandry. These permits may be transferred from unit to unit by the dealer for a fee of \$75 for each term permit. Travel allowed on Saturday and Sunday. These oversize permits expire on December 31 of each year. The owner of self-propelled implements of husbandry must be a resident of the state.

Vehicles used for the purpose of moving haystacks on a commercial vehicle may not exceed 55' in length or 20' in width. A single load may not be moved on the vehicle a distance greater than 75 miles from the point-of-origin on public roads. Loads may travel from sunrise to sunset.

Cranes consisting of not more than 4 axles and used for raising, shifting, and lowering heavy weights by means of a projecting swinging arm, are allowed by special permit. Permit valid for 30 days and is non-transferable. The cost of the permit is \$200.

**INTERMODAL**

Must be legal.

**MANUFACTURED HOUSING/MOBILE HOMES**

Same requirements and restrictions as other loads.

Between October 1 and May 15 of each year, mobile homes up to and including 14' wide may travel on I-90 between Belgrade and Big Timber from 4:00 A.M. to sunset.

The mobile home towing vehicle must have two-way radio communication with the flag vehicle which must precede and/or follow the mobile home. The mobile home combination must have the signs and lights as required.

## Types of Permits

**Term Permit**

The fee for an oversize term permits range from \$75 - \$200. Annual permit may be issued if the permittee is licensed in Montana under the International Registration Plan, Prorate or Montana License, or if the company is based in a state or province which has reciprocity with Montana.

The maximum dimensions for a term are 15' wide, 55' single unit length, 57' semi trailer length and 15'6" height.

**Single Trip Permit**

May be issued if width, length and/or height exceeds the term permit dimensions. Permits are valid for one oversize move only, generally for three (3) days. Additional time may be given if needed.

An overweight permit may be issued for a single piece (non-reducible) load if gross weight is exceeded or if individual axle weights are exceeded. Overweight permits are for a single move only and must be accompanied by either a term oversize permit or a single trip permit. The oversize permit is required even if all dimensions are legal.

Fees are based on total number of miles traveled:

\$10.00 for distances to and including 100 miles  
 \$30.00 for distances from 101 and 199 miles  
 \$50.00 for distances over 200 miles

The charge for the permit to move a load that exceeds the single axle, tandem axle, or axle group limits is based upon the sum excess in axle or axle group weights. The fees are listed below:

| <b>Total Excess<br/>Axle Weight<br/>Pounds</b> | <b>Costs of<br/>Miles Travelled<br/>Dollars</b> |
|--|---|
| 5,000  | \$ 3.50   |
| 10,000   | \$ 7.00   |
| 15,000   | \$10.50   |
| 20,000   | \$14.00   |
| 25,000   | \$17.50   |
| 30,000   | \$21.00   |
| 35,000   | \$24.50   |
| 40,000   | \$28.00   |
| 45,000   | \$31.50   |
| 50,000   | \$35.00   |
| 55,000   | \$38.50   |
| 60,000   | \$42.00   |
| 65,000   | \$45.50   |
| 70,000   | \$49.00   |
| 75,000   | \$52.50   |
| 80,000   | \$56.00   |
| 85,000   | \$59.50   |
| 90,000   | \$63.00   |
| 95,000   | \$66.50   |
| 100,000*                                       | \$70.00   |

*\* Over 100,000 pounds: \$70.00 + \$3.50 per 5,000 pounds or part of 5,000 pounds in excess 100,000 pounds. The mileage must be rounded off in units of 25 miles and mileage in excess of a 25-mile increment must be assessed at the next higher 25-mile increment.*

The weight must be rounded off in 5,000 pound increments and weight in excess of a 5,000-pound increment must be assessed at the next higher 5,000-pounds in excess axle weight.

There will be an annual overweight permit for \$2000,000 for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107, but that does not exceed a total of 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight.

The dimensions of the load determine the hours of travel, unless speed restrictions are imposed.

**EXAMPLE OF HOW TO USE OVERWEIGHT FEE TABLE:**

| <i>Axle<br/>Weights</i> | <i>Number<br/>of Axles</i> | <i>Excess<br/>Weight</i> | <i>Total<br/>Excess</i> | <i>Total<br/>Miles</i> | <i>Permit<br/>Fees</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 11,000                  | X                          | 0                        |                         |                        |                        |
| 47,500                  | XXX (9')                   | 4750                     |                         |                        |                        |
| 42,500                  | XX                         | 8500                     |                         |                        |                        |
| 43,000                  | XX                         | 9000                     |                         |                        |                        |
| 43,000                  | XX                         | 9000                     | 31,250                  | 389                    | \$392,000              |

\*31,250 lbs., rounds up to 35,000 lbs

\* 389 Miles rounds up to 400 miles

\*Fee for 35,000 lbs. = \$24.50

\* 400 Miles divided by 25 mile increments = 16

\*\$24.50 x 16 = \$392.00

**INFORMATION NEEDED TO ORDER PERMITS**

Name and address of applicant, PSC or insurance company, power unit serial number, year, make, license number, dimensions, destination, start date and routes, US DOT number, FEIN number.

**Escorts****When Escorts Are Needed:****# Escorts****On Interstate:**

- Width over 16'6" 1 Rear
- Length over 120' 1 Rear

**On 2-Lane or Multi-Lane Non-interstate:**

- Width over 12'6" up to 14' 1 Front
- Width main body of load over 14' or overall width is over 15' 2 (Front & Rear)
- Length over 110') 1 Rear
- If escort is required on non-interstate only (i.e., load dimensions not over 16' wide or 120' long), the load may travel within a 2-mile radius on interstate interchange without an escort
- Width over 10' and not equipped with lights and signs state requires 2 (Front & Rear)
- Height over 17' (before permit appl.) **Route Survey**

**Convoys:\***

- No more than 5 O/O loads needing escorts may convoy if width not over 14' (or 15' w/projections) and not over 120' long 2 (Front & Rear)
- No more than 5 vehicles needing escorts may convoy if length of any unit is over 100' long on 2-lane highways or 110' long on interstate highways. 2 (Front & Rear)

\*For convoys, escort must have sign stating: "Oversize Load, Convoy Follows (# of vehicles)."

**VEHICLE INFORMATION**

A pilot vehicle may be any passenger car or two-axle truck a minimum of 60 inches wide. The maximum manufacturer's rating for the pilot vehicle shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds. Service or mechanic trucks owned or contracted by the permittee and used as a pilot vehicle shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds. A pilot vehicle may not exceed legal limits of size and weight. Trucks used as pilot vehicles shall be clearly distinguished from and identifiable as the escort vehicle. A pilot vehicle may

pull a trailer or carry any item or equipment which is within legal limits of size and weight, allows an unobstructed view of the flashing lights and signs used by the pilot vehicle, complies with all state traffic laws; and possesses current registration and valid insurance. Service or mechanic trucks used as a pilot vehicle must not have a utility box which extends above the cab more than 12 inches or beyond the width of the cab more than 6 inches on either side.

A sign with the words "oversize load" or similar wording shall be visible from the front of the vehicle and rear of the vehicle at all times when piloting an oversize load. Letters shall not be less than 8 inches in height. The letters shall be black in color on a yellow colored background with the exception of digital signs. When not being operated as a pilot vehicle, signs must be removed. On the power unit, flashing amber lights, a minimum of five inches in diameter, 50 candlepower, 60 to 90 flashes per minute, shall be mounted at each end of the oversize load sign and visible 360 degrees. A revolving light or strobe light may be substituted for flashing lights. Lights shall be flashing at all times when moving an oversize vehicle or load. All pilot vehicles shall be equipped with two-way communication. Pilot vehicles must remain within 1,000 feet of the permitted vehicle or load.

### Signs, Flags, Lights

#### SIGNS

If load exceeds 10' wide, signs must be placed front and rear. Signs must be light in color with 8" dark letters. A sign can be mounted on the front of the power unit, placed as high as possible or any visible height.

#### FLAGS

A vehicle with an overhang of more than 3' in front or 4' in the rear requires a red flag to be placed on the overhang. (No flag size requirement.)

#### LIGHTS

Two flashing amber lights, a minimum of 5" in diameter, mounted at each end of the wide load sign. One revolving light or strobe light may be substituted for two flashing lights. Lights shall be operating at all times when moving an oversize load.

### Insurance

Minimum of \$1,000,000 combined single limit bodily injury and property damage liability per occurrence.

### Weigh Stations

All permits are available at weigh stations. For additional information, contact Helena GVW at (406) 444-6130 or the weigh stations listed below:

|                                    |   |  |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>Armington</u><br>(406) 738-4261 | <u>Billings</u><br>EB (406) 657-0204<br>WB(406)657-0203 | <u>Coutts</u><br>(403)344-5063<br>(403) 344-3764 | <u>Culbertson</u><br>(406)787-5323 |
| <u>Kalispell</u><br>(406) 257-2684 | <u>Bozeman</u><br>(406) 587-0727                        | <u>Lima</u><br>(406) 276-3429                    | <u>Broadus</u><br>(406) 436-2531   |
| <u>Butte</u><br>(406) 782-8985     | <u>Clearwater</u><br>(406) 244-5460                     | <u>Columbia Hts</u><br>(406) 892-5964            | <u>Havre</u><br>(406) 265-9033     |
| <u>Wibaux</u><br>(406) 345-8254    | <u>Great Falls</u><br>Emerson Jct.<br>(406) 452-8151    | <u>Haugan</u><br>(406) 678-4257                  |                                    |

### Restricted Travel

Travel not allowed after 3:00 P.M. on Friday to sunrise on Monday on highways indicated on the "red route" map. A special permit is required to travel through Billings. Restrictions will be

listed on the permit. Each city determines its own restricted hours.

### SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Normally from February 1 through June 31. Frost law is set by the Maintenance District. Speed limit and weight limit restrictions can be applied during frost laws. Usually 8 tons on single axle, 16 tons tandem axle and 600 lbs. on steering axle.

### Holidays

Travel is prohibited on the following holidays:

|                |                  |                  |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| New Year's Day | Independence Day | Thanksgiving Day |
| Memorial Day   | Labor Day        | Christmas Day    |

The State Permit Office will be closed on the above mentioned holidays as well as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Columbus Day, and Veteran's Day, but travel will not be restricted on these four additional days

If the holiday is on Friday or Saturday, there is no travel on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. If the holiday falls on Sunday or Monday, there is no travel on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. If the holiday falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, travel is not allowed on that day only, and travel will be allowed on the days preceeding and following the holiday. Thanksgiving holiday prohibits travel on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Holiday and holiday weekend travel on interstate highways is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, up to 18 feet wide, including essential services within one-half mile of the interstate highway. Loads exceeding 18 feet wide cannot travel on Holiday or Holiday Weekends.

Holiday and holiday weekend travel on non-interstate highways is allowed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for loads up to 10 feet wide and/or 15 feet 6 inches high. Loads exceeding 10 feet wide and/or 15 feet 6 inches high, up to 12 feet 6 inches wide and/or 15 feet 6 inches high may travel during daylight hours only. Loads exceeding 12 feet 6 inches wide and/or 15 feet 6 inches high cannot travel on Holiday or Holiday Weekends.

### Fines

Permit may be confiscated upon a violation of the permit. Operator of a motor vehicle with weight upon a wheel, axle, or group of axles greater than the maximum permitted shall be fined no less than \$30 or more than \$100 plus amount listed below:

| <b>Fine</b> | <b>Excess Weight<br/>More Than</b> | <b>But Less Than</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| \$ 30       |                                    | 2,001 lbs.           |
| 75          | 2,000 lbs.                         | 4,001 lbs.           |
| 125         | 4,000 lbs.                         | 6,001 lbs.           |
| 175         | 6,000 lbs.                         | 8,001 lbs.           |
| 250         | 8,000 lbs.                         | 10,001 lbs.          |
| 275         | 10,000 lbs.                        | 12,001 lbs.          |
| 300         | 12,000 lbs.                        | 14,001 lbs.          |
| 400         | 14,000 lbs.                        | 16,001 lbs.          |
| 500         | 16,000 lbs.                        | 18,001 lbs.          |
| 600         | 18,000 lbs.                        | 20,001 lbs.          |
| 1,000       | 20,000 lbs.                        | 25,001 lbs.          |
| 2,000       | 25,000 lbs. and Over               |                      |

**Super Loads**

Loads above routine issue are considered super loads and shall submit an application including drawings, axle spacings and tire sizes to the state.

Superload (class 1) – Loads exceeding 18 feet wide up to 34 feet wide, 17 feet high up to 24 feet high, and/or 150 feet long up to 200 feet long will be issued within 2 days.

Superload (class 2) Loads exceeding 34 feet wide, 24 feet high, and/or 200 feet long will be issued within 5 days.

**For more information please contact:**

**Comdata**

**(800) 749-7174**

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

**(800) 749-7166**