

**TN**

# Tennessee



**Tennessee**  
**Department of Transportation**  
**Central Services Division**  
**James K. Polk State Office Building, 8th Floor**  
**505 Deaderick Street**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

PHONE: (615) 741-3821

HOURS: 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.  
 Closed 12:00 P.M.-1:00 P.M.  
**CENTRAL TIME**

## Legal Limits

	DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS	ALL OTHER ROADS
Weight:		
Single	20,000	20,000
Tandem	34,000	34,000
Tridum	42,000 8' of spacing	42,000 8' of spacing
	42,500 9' of spacing	42,500
Gross weight	80,000	80,000
	<i>Federal Bridge Formula applies.</i>	
Width:	8'6"	8'6"
Height:	13'6"	13'6"
Length:		
Single unit, buses	40'	40'
Semi-trailer	53'	53'
	Kingpin to center of rear axle group not to exceed 41' for trailers over 48'.	
Twins/doubles	28'6"	28'6"
Autotransporters	52'	52'
	From point of attachment to the tractor.	
	No limit on autotransporter combination.	
Rocky mtn. doubles	Not allowed	Not allowed
Turnpike doubles	Not allowed	Not allowed
Triples	Not allowed	Not allowed
Saddlemounts	65'	65'
<b>TOLERANCE</b>	None.	
<b>TIRE WIDTH</b>	None.	
<b>ACCESS</b>	Access granted to terminal.	
<b>OVERHANG</b>	None specified in the law. Any overhang over 4' requires flags during the day and lights at night.	

**EXEMPTIONS**

Wooden poles, logs or timber up to 75' are allowed to travel.

**Permit Limits****ROUTINE ISSUE**

Weight:

Single	23,000
Tandem*	46,000
Tridum	60,000
Quad	80,000

Gross weight:

Dependent on weight per configuration

If a load exceeds 16'0" wide, 15'6" high, or 165,000 lbs, refer to the section on Super Loads.

Movement with gross weight exceeding 150,000 lbs. must be approved by the Structure Division before a special permit can be issued.

Length: 120'

The only thing concerned with overlength is "from point of attachment to rear of trailer or load, whichever is longest. (Including rear overhang, boosters, and jeeps) exceeding 50' is overlength.

1) Trailer is 53'. Kingpin is 36" from front of trailer. Kingpin is 50' to rear of trailer. Length is legal.

2) Trailer is 53'. Kingpin is 36" from front of trailer. Overhang is 4'. Kingpin length is including overhang is 54'. Load is overlength.

Width: 16'

Height: 15'6"

Loads over 15'6" high or 16' wide require a route survey which is only good for 15 days and one trip. If a load exceeds any of the above dimensions, a route survey is required. Height poles should be set at 6" greater than the height of the load for surveys.

**PERMITS VALID FOR**

Single trip permits are issued for ten (10) travel days unless the load is classified as a houseboat, mobile home, site built home or commercial boat which are valid for six (6) travel days.

**ACCEPTABLE PERMIT FORMAT**

An original permit shall be in the possession of the driver of the permitted vehicle at all times during the authorized move. An electronic permit is accepted as long as the bar code is scannable.

**EXTENSIONS/REVISIONS**

Tennessee allows changes for, tractor/trailer information, dimensions, axle weights, spacing's, load, and routes. Annuals would be tractor information. Must submit within 72 hours of issue date and can only be amended once. Permit dates may not be revised. Approved on a case by case basis.

**OPERATING TIME**

Travel is allowed one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, Monday through Saturday for Houseboats, Mobile Homes, Site Built Homes, and Commercial Boats.  
Super Loads - Allowed travel one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset 7 days a week.

Travel is allowed 24/7 for all other types.

**WEEKEND TRAVEL**

Houseboats, Mobile Homes, Site Built Homes, and Commercial Boats may travel one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset Saturday and No Sunday Travel.  
Super Loads - Allowed travel one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset Saturday and Sunday.

Travel is allowed 24/7 for all other types.

**LIFT AXLES**

All lift axles must be equipped with brakes. Tri-axles can be used to extend the weight.

**DIVISIBLE LOADS**

Permits will be granted to vehicles that cannot reasonably be dismantled or reduced to the lowest possible form. Will not issue permits for divisible loads.

**EXCEPTIONS**

Equipment such as bulldozers with blades, or other protruding sharp objects of any kind which create an overwidth exceeding 10'6" but not exceeding 13' 6" will be loaded in such a manner to place the blade or protruding sharp object to the rear of the hauling equipment. No permit will be issued for blades or protruding sharp objects creating width in excess of 13'6". Blades and booms, if they can be removed, should be shipped separately.

**SELF-PROPELLED EQUIPMENT**

Off-the-road vehicles or equipment, any rubber-tired mobile construction vehicle or equipment carrying no load other than its own weight which has been reduced in size and/or weight until further reduction is impractical and is mounted on pneumatic tires, may be permitted to move over designated state highways. Fixed loads require a permit when over legal dimensions or the steer axle is in excess of 20,000 pounds and/or the drive axles are in excess of 17,000 pounds or when the total gross vehicle weight is in excess of 80,000 pounds. In no case, may any axle weight exceed 24,000 lbs. Maximum gross weight allowed on any route is 150,000 lbs.

**SEALED CONTAINERS/ INTERMODAL**

Sealed containerized cargo units will be considered nondivisible loads and overweight trip permits will be issued subject to the following conditions:

Such containerize cargo units must be part of international trade and be moved on the highways due to importation from or exportation to, another country.

A copy of the international bill of lading signed by a custom's official, or an international bill of lading with an equipment interchange and inspection report must be submitted to the TDOT permit section before a permit will be issued.

The operators of such units shall at all times have in their possession a copy of the documents as described above.

All vehicles operating under a sealed containerized cargo unit permit shall have a minimum of five full load bearing axles and shall not exceed 20,000 lbs. per axle or a total gross weight of 100,000 lbs.

All dimensions must be legal, permits issued for one move only.

#### **MANUFACTURED HOUSING/MOBILE HOMES/PORTABLE MODULAR UNITS OR HOUSE TRAILERS**

Special permits are required for the movement of all manufactured houses or portable modular units in excess of 8'6" wide or when towing vehicle and manufactured house or modular unit is in excess of 60' long.

Mobile home Single Trip Permit maximum height 16'0"

Movements over 14' wide will not be allowed within any statewide city limits and all heavily traveled adjoining commercial or residential areas between the hours of 7:00-9:00 A.M. and 4:00-6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, because of traffic.

Mobile homes 16' wide are allowed to move and permits are issued for a period of 6 days, only from 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, Saturday all day. Mobile homes over 14'2" require permits.

#### **Types of Permits**

Excessive Width:	
8'6" but less than 14'	\$20
Over 14' up to 16'	\$30
Over 16'	\$30 Plus \$5 for each additional foot or fraction thereof greater than 16'.
Houseboats:	
Over 16' up to 18'	\$500
Over 18' up to 20'	\$750
Over 20'	\$1,000
Excessive Height or Length:	\$20
Excessive Weight:	\$20 Plus \$.06 Cents per ton mile.
Towing vehicles Excess weight over 165,000 pounds:	Twelve cents (\$.12) per ton mile
Evaluation of Bridges and Similar Structures Required For:	
Loads weighing over 165,000 lbs.	
but not more than 250,000 lbs.	\$100
but not more than 500,000 lbs.	\$300
Loads weighing over 500,000 lbs.	Actual cost
Mobile Homes	
Width Up to 14' wide	\$50
Height over 14'2"	\$50
Length	\$25
Over 14' wide	\$100 plus above charges

### Annual Permits

Annual permits may be obtained for overdimensional and/or overweight vehicles. Annuals are truck specific and may be issued up to 13'6" wide, 13'10" high, 90' long and 165,000 lbs. Weight and dimensions are separate fees. The fee is \$100.00 per dimension with exception of weight shown below:

Up to 100,000 lbs.	\$750
Up to 120,000 lbs.	\$1,500
Up to 140,000 lbs.	\$2,250
Up to 155,000 lbs.	\$3,000
Up to 165,000 lbs.	\$3,500
Height of 13'10"	\$100
Width of 13'6"	\$100
Length of 90'	\$100

Supplements can be obtained if a dimension exceeds their current annual. Charges occur based on new dimension required.

### Mobile Homes

Up to 14' wide, 14'2" high, and 90' long	\$1,000
Up to 16' wide, 14'2" high, and 90' long	\$2000

### Roof Trusses

Up to 14' wide, 13'10 high, 85' long	\$500
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### Ocean Going Container

\$750

### INFORMATION NEEDED TO ORDER A PERMIT

Name and address of applicant, load description, method of moving, overall dimensions, spacings of axles, origin, destination, routes, proposed effective date and address to which permits are to be transmitted and method of transmission.

For super heavy and/or extra overdimensional movement, complete and detailed proposal of movement, detailed sketch of vehicle and load, tire size, and contact pressures, distance between axles and distribution to axles, overall length, width and height of movement and detailed traffic control proposal

## Escorts

### When Escorts Are Needed:

### #Escorts

#### On 2-Lane Highways:

- Width over 10' up to 12'6" where pavement width (excluding shoulders) is less than 24' 1 Front
- Width over 10' up to 12'6" @ bridge structures where road width is less than 20' 1 Flagperson
- Width over 12'6" up to 13'6" 1 Front

#### On 4-Lane or Interstate Highways:

- Width over 12'6" up to 13'6" 1 Rear

Over 15'6" high or 16' wide requires a route survey. Height poles should be set at 6" greater than the height of the load for surveys.

On All Highways:

1	<u>Width</u> over 13'6" (if approved)	2 (Front & Rear)
1	<u>Height</u> over 13'6" up to 15'	No escort
	Special permit needed w/special routing	
1	<u>Height</u> over 15' if approved, using height pole	1 Front
1	<u>Length</u> over 75' up to 90'	Needs light (see signs/lt. section)
1	<u>Length</u> over 90' up to 120'	1 Rear
1	<u>Length</u> over 120'	2 (Front & Rear)
1	Moving <u>houses</u>	2 (Front & Rear)
1	<u>Weight</u> GVW over 150,000 lbs - needs approval by TN DOT	—

Mobile Homes:

On 2-Lane Highways:

1	<u>Width</u> over 10' and less than 14' where pavement width is less than 24' wide and all 2-lane hwy's & on all interstates where 2-lanes are traveled	1 Front
1	<u>Width</u> over 10' up to 14' @ bridge structures where road width is less than 20'	1 Flagperson
1	<u>Width</u> over 14' to 16'	2 (Front & Rear)

On 4 or More Lanes

1	<u>Width</u> over 12' up to 14'	1 Rear
1	<u>Width</u> over 14'1" up to 16'	2 (Front & Rear)

\*Houseboats:

1	<u>Width</u> over 12' up to 13'6" on all 2-lane hwy's	1 Front
1	<u>Width</u> over 12' up to 13'6" on all 4-lane hwy's	1 Rear
1	<u>Width</u> over 13'6" up to 17' on all highways	2 (1 Front & 1 Rear)
1	<u>Width</u> over 17'	3 (2 Front & 1 Rear)

\*Houseboats restricted to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Any load over 18' wide or 18' high require THP (Tennessee Highway Patrol) escorts. THP escorts in addition to other required escorts. THP moves require a minimum of two (2) officers for a minimum of four (4) hours at a rate of \$65.00 per hour + \$.13/mile. Can take up to an additional 10 days to schedule a move if a THP escort required.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS**

Escort Vehicles shall comply with the following requirements:

- The escort vehicle must not weight more than 2,000 pounds with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating less than 10,000 pounds and must be properly licensed.
- Identification signs or placards showing the name of the company or the owner or driver of the escort vehicle must be in a conspicuous place on both the right and left sides. The signs or placards shall be at least 8" x 12" and shall contain the telephone number of the owner or driver plainly legible and visible to the motoring public.
- All escorts must be equipped with either a rotating amber light or strobe type amber light which is visible from at least 500 feet and has a horizontal placement which shall be visible from all directions 360 degrees.
- Escort vehicles shall display bumper mounted or roof mounted yellow signs reading "oversize load", with black letters a minimum of 10" high, 1 1/2" wide brush stroke.
- Two flags either red or fluorescent orange in color, which must be at least 18" in size, shall be mounted at approximately a 40 to 70 degree angle on the escort vehicle.
- During escort operations the following equipment must be in the escort vehicle: operable two-way electronic communications, two 5-pound fire extinguishers, stop and go paddle, orange safety vest or jacket, red hand-held flag, two oversize load banners, hard hat, reflecting triangles. Other recommended, but not required: hand-held two-way communications, flares, maps, and height indicator.
- Loads over 10' wide require a flagperson at all bridge structures where roadway width is less than 20'.

**SIGNS**

All movements exceeding 10' wide and/or 75' long shall bear information signs. Adequate marking shall be provided to outline the extremities of the load. Overwidth or overlength shall bear a sign reading "Oversize Load" mounted on the front and rear of the movement.

The signs/banner must be at least 7' long and 18" high. Signs shall be yellow with black lettering 10" high with a 1-5/8" brush stroke. Signs shall be in a good shape, clean and readable.

**FLAGS**

Red flags shall be fastened to the load front and rear at the top and bottom of each side which is widest. Flags shall extend from the load in a manner in which they will be visible to traffic approaching both the front and the rear. If the widest part of the load is between the top and the bottom, flags shall be placed at this point both front and rear. All warning flags shall be of solid red color and at least 18" square.

**LIGHTS**

For any motor vehicle issues a special permit pursuant to subsection (a) that has a truck-tractor and semitrailer combination carrying a load in excess of width or length limitations, the load shall be marked as follows for movements between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset to one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise:

- (1) On each side of the projecting load, one (1) red side marker lamp, visible from the side, located so as to indicate maximum overhand; and
- (2) On the rear of the projecting load:
  - a. Two (2) red lamps, visible from the rear, one (1) at each side; and b. Two (2) red reflectors, visible from the rear, one (1) at each side, located so as to indicate maximum width.

**Insurance**

- (1) Any person, firm, company, corporation or other who undertakes the movement of any overweight and/or overdimensional article and/or commodity on the highways of the State of Tennessee shall hold the State of Tennessee, its officers and employees, harmless from any claims for damages resulting from the exercise of any of the privileges granted under the Special Permits issued for such overweight and/or overdimensional movement, and to this end, shall carry liability insurance with an Insurer, acceptable to the Commissioner of Transportation, and shall furnish a certificate of insurance to the Commissioner of Transportation, in the amount of not less than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for each claimant injured and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence.
- (2) The certificate of insurance shall provide that the Insurer shall give, to the Department of Transportation of the State of Tennessee, written notice of intention to terminate said required insurance by certified mail, said termination to become effective thirty (30) days after receipt of said notice from the Insurer by the Department of Transportation.

**Weigh Stations**

US 11/70 Knoxville 1/4 mile E. of Dixie Lee Jct.  
I-24 Manchester between exits 114 & 117, M.M.115 EB, WB  
I-40 Brownsville between exits 47 and 52, M.M. 50 EB, WB  
US 41 Jasper 3 miles W. of Jasper  
I-65 Portland 2 miles S. of KY State Line NB, SB  
US 70/79 Brownsville 6 miles S.W. of Brownsville W. side of Hatchie River  
US 231 Fayetteville 5 miles S. of Fayetteville

## Restricted Travel

No oversize/overweight movement of vehicles exceeding 12'6" wide, 15' high, or 90' long Monday-Friday 7:00am-9:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm in Davidson county, Rutherford county, Hamilton county, Knox county, and Shelby county; regardless if carrier is operating on a single trip or annual permit. Under these dimensions are not restricted by curfew hours. Mobile homes, site-built house & house boats must observe curfew hours regardless of height, width, or length. County Maps can be found at: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/topic/maps-county>

Boat transporters should Clean, Drain, Dry boats prior to transport. All boats being transported to the Pacific Northwest states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana MUST Call Before You Haul prior to transport by calling this toll-free number: 1-844-311-4873.

Maps, Bridges, Restrictions

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/central-services/oversize---overweight-permits/bridge-information.html>

**Drivers going into or coming out of the following ports will be required to have a Transportation Workers Identification Card (TWIC) issued by the Transportation Safety Administration:**

*Chattanooga, Memphis, Old Hickory*

### SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions.

## Holidays

Travel is prohibited for escorted loads, mobile homes, site built houses, & houseboats on the following holidays:

New Year's Day  
Good Friday  
Memorial Day

Independence Day  
Labor Day

Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

The State Permit Office will be closed on the above mentioned holidays as well as Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day and the day after Thanksgiving, but travel will only be restricted to mobile homes, site built houses, & houseboats on these additional days.

## Fines

Responsibility of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

Overdimension Only: \$25-\$105 + court costs.

Overweight Fines: \$25, plus (1) court costs (ranging between \$40-\$90), and (2) \$.03 per lb. for the first 3 percent over, and \$.05 per lb. for the remainder.

Overweight fines are computed based on the permit weight, unless the amount of weight over would require another axle. If another axle would be required, then fines are computed based on the legal weight of the vehicle.

The state allows no time to shift a load to make axle weights legal. Operators may be fined for either over-axle or over-gross violations, whichever produces the greater fine.



**Super Load**

Any load exceeding 16' wide, 15'6" high or 165,000 lbs. is considered a super load.

Application must be made in writing and contain a detailed proposal of movement, detailed sketch of vehicle and load, tire size, axle spacings, axle weights and overall dimensions. Permit valid for six (6) days. A route survey is required. .

Loads over 150,000 lbs. must go to the Bridge Department.

Allow 1 - 3 days for processing.

Superload permit with weight approximate processing times:

165,000 pounds and under	3 days
165,001 – 250,000 pounds	5 days
250,001 – 500,000 pounds	15 days
Greater than 500,000 pounds	30 days

Permits may take more or less time depending on the complexity of the movement.

Superload permits can be amended per the directions listed under the PERMIT LIMITS section of this manual.

**For more information please contact:**

**Comdata**

**(800) 749-7174**

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

**(800) 749-7166**