

## **14.0 Oversize/Overweight Information**

Any vehicle, combination of vehicles, or load whose size or weight is not provided for in New Mexico laws must have an oversize or overweight permit. These special transportation permits may be obtained from the Oversize/Overweight Permit Office.

Mailing Address: Oversize/Overweight Permits  
P. O. Box 1628  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1628

Telephone Number: 505-827-0376  
Fax Number: 505-827-0385

### **Policy**

- A. The Motor Transportation Division, upon application for a permit and good cause being shown, and after required investigations have been completed, will issue the permit if the move is determined to be feasible, will not adversely affect the overall traveling public, and will not create any undue hazards to public or private property.
- B. Permits will not be issued for vehicles or loads which can be reduced or dismantled.

### **Statutory Dimensions**

The maximum legal dimensions for the movement of vehicles and loads over State Highways are:

- A. Width: 8 feet 6 inches
- B. Height: 14 feet
- C. Length for a single vehicle: 40 feet
- D. Length for a truck, or tractor and semi-trailer: 65 feet
- E. Length for a tractor, semi-trailer and trailer: 65 feet

### **Statutory Load Limits on Single Axles, Wheels and Tires**

- A. The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty-one thousand six hundred pounds (21,600 lbs), nor shall any one wheel carry a load in excess of

eleven thousand pounds (11,000 lbs), nor shall a tandem axle, as herein defined, carry a load in excess of thirty-four thousand three hundred twenty pounds (34,320 lbs).

- B. A single-axle load is defined as the total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes forty inches (40”) or less apart extending across the full width of the vehicle. A tandem axle load is defined as the total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes more than forty inches (40”) apart but less than one hundred twenty inches (120”) apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle. The allowed load on tandem axles shall not exceed the gross weight given below.
- C. No wheel equipped with pneumatic, solid rubber or cushion tires shall carry a load in excess of six hundred pounds (600 lbs.) for each inch of tire width. The width of pneumatic tires shall be taken at the manufacturer’s rating. The width of solid rubber and cushion tires shall be measured at the flange of the rim.

**Statutory Gross Weights, Multi-axle**

- A. Subject to the limit upon the weight imposed upon the highway through any one axle, the total gross weight with load imposed upon the highway by any one group of two (2) or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed the gross weight given for the respective distance between the first and last axles of the group of axles measured longitudinally, to the nearest foot, as set forth in the following table:

**TABLE ONE**

When distance between first and last axle is:                      Maximum Gross weight allowed is:

|    |        |
|----|--------|
| 4  | 34,320 |
| 5  | 35,100 |
| 6  | 35,880 |
| 7  | 36,660 |
| 8  | 37,440 |
| 9  | 38,220 |
| 10 | 39,000 |
| 11 | 39,780 |
| 12 | 40,560 |
| 13 | 41,340 |
| 14 | 42,120 |
| 15 | 42,900 |
| 16 | 43,680 |

|    |        |
|----|--------|
| 17 | 44,460 |
| 18 | 45,240 |

B. The total gross weight with load imposed on the highway by any vehicle or combination of vehicles where the distance between the first and last axles is more than eighteen feet (18') shall not exceed that given for the respective distances in the following table:

**TABLE TWO**

When distance between first and last axles is:                      Maximum gross weight allowed is:

|    |        |
|----|--------|
| 19 | 53,100 |
| 20 | 54,000 |
| 21 | 54,900 |
| 22 | 55,800 |
| 23 | 56,700 |
| 24 | 57,600 |
| 25 | 58,500 |
| 26 | 59,400 |
| 27 | 60,300 |
| 28 | 61,200 |
| 29 | 62,100 |
| 30 | 63,000 |
| 31 | 63,900 |
| 32 | 64,800 |
| 33 | 65,700 |
| 34 | 66,600 |
| 35 | 67,500 |
| 36 | 68,400 |
| 37 | 69,300 |
| 38 | 70,200 |
| 39 | 71,100 |
| 40 | 72,000 |
| 41 | 72,900 |
| 42 | 73,800 |
| 43 | 74,700 |
| 44 | 75,600 |
| 45 | 76,500 |
| 46 | 77,400 |
| 47 | 78,300 |
| 48 | 79,200 |
| 49 | 80,100 |
| 50 | 81,000 |
| 51 | 81,900 |
| 52 | 82,800 |

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| 53         | 83,700 |
| 54         | 84,600 |
| 55         | 85,500 |
| 56 or over | 86,400 |

- C. The distance between the centers of the axles shall be measured to the nearest even foot. When a fraction is exactly one-half the next larger whole number shall be used.

### **When Required**

A special permit is required when any person proposes to move, over state highways, a vehicle or combination, with or without load, which exceeds the size or weight maximum established by law. Permits may be issued only when the move meets all requirements set forth in the law and the conditions specified by division policy. Unless specifically exempted by statute, no vehicle or load, which exceeds statutory size or weight limits, will be allowed to move without a special permit.

Certificate of insurance required - Conditions precedent to issuance of a permit are:

- A. The applicant must file a certificate of automobile liability insurance with the Motor Transportation Division. Insurance carrier must be duly authorized to transact business in this state and certificates must show satisfactory evidence of the following coverage:
- (1) Automobile bodily injury liability, providing:
    - (a) \$50,000 for each person; and
    - (b) \$100,000 for each accident;
  - (2) Automobile property damage liability, providing
    - (a) \$25, 000 for each accident;

The State Highway Department shall conduct all engineering investigations and inspections, when requested by the Motor Transportation Division. The results of such inspections will be summarized and the Motor Transportation Division will be advised of the feasibility of the proposed movement.

### **Restricted Movement**

Unless specifically stated on the special permit, movement after sunset or before sunrise on weekdays and Saturdays or movement at any time on Sundays or on legal holidays shall not be permitted.

### **Holidays upon which Permit Movements are Prohibited**

- A. Unless expressly specified on the special permit, movement is prohibited on the following legal holidays:
- (1) New Years Day
  - (2) Memorial Day
  - (3) Independence Day
  - (4) Labor Day
  - (5) Thanksgiving Day
  - (6) Christmas Day
- B. When any of these holidays falls on a weekday, movement restrictions shall run from sunset of the day proceeding such holiday to daylight of the day following such holiday. When the holiday shall fall, or be observed, on a Monday, the holiday restriction shall apply from sunset Friday until daylight Tuesday.

### **Inclement Weather**

- A. Inclement weather may include any one or all of the following:
- (1) snow;
  - (2) ice;
  - (3) fog, rain, dust or other weather condition which limits visibility to less than one thousand feet (1000') (approximately 2/10 mile); or
  - (4) any weather condition which is determined by the department, the State Highway and Transportation Department, the state police, or other law enforcement official to create a safety hazard.
- B. Any one of the above conditions warrants the prohibiting of oversize load movement on the highways. Movement during such inclement weather is a violation of the permit and is cause for the cancellation of the permit. Permit vehicles encountering such conditions will immediately move the load to a safe stopping place, and will clear the highway until unfavorable conditions cease to exist and movement may be resumed under safe operating conditions.

**No movement of a manufactured home shall occur during inclement weather.**

## Marking Requirements

**Flags Required:** A permitted vehicle or load must be properly flagged at all times. “Properly flagged” means that flags colored red, florescent red or florescent orange and which are no less than twelve inches (12”) on any side are affixed to the vehicle or load in accordance with the Motor Carrier Safety Act.

**Signs Required:** The appropriate oversize load signs must be properly affixed on both the front and the rear of the permitted vehicle. The **“OVERWIDTH”, “OVERHEIGHT”, “OVERLENGTH” or “OVERSIZE”** sign may be used to designate over-width, over-length or over-height loads. The letters must be black, and at least one inch (1”) wide by ten inches (10”) high. The background of the sign must be bright yellow.

### Marking Requirements for Manufactured Homes:

The towing unit involved in the movement of an oversized manufactured home must have a minimum wheelbase of 99 inches, a minimum of four tires on the drive axle(s) and a gross vehicle weight rating of:

6,000 pounds or more if the manufactured home width is ten feet (10’) or less;

8,000 pounds or more if the manufactured home width is greater than ten feet (10’) but not greater than twelve feet (12’); or

9,000 pounds or more if the manufactured home width is greater than twelve feet (12’).

A yellow sign at least twelve inches (12”) by five feet (5’) reading **“WIDE LOAD”** or **“OVERSIZE LOAD”** with black letters at least ten inches (10”) high and one inch (1”) wide must be displayed on the front of the towing unit and on the rear of the manufactured home.

**Lights:** In addition to normally required lights, the towing unit must be equipped with two roof mounted amber rotating, flashing or strobe warning lights. At least one amber warning light must be affixed to the rear of the manufactured home. The required warning lights must have an intensity

sufficient to be seen at a distance of one thousand feet (1,000') in bright sunlight. The manufactured home must be equipped with brake, turn signal and tail lights which are connected to the lighting system of the towing unit to warn approaching motorists of any braking or turning of the unit.

**Flags:** A square or rectangular red or fluorescent orange flag, no less than twelve inches (12") on any side is required at each corner of the manufactured home and at each front corner of the towing vehicle.

### **Escort Required:**

Escort(s) are required for the movement of all widths exceeding fourteen feet (14'), and may be required for widths of less than fourteen feet (14') depending upon routes to be traveled. Escorts are required for the movement of loads exceeding thirteen feet six inches (13' 6") on any of the following Group A restricted highways:

NM 2 from Roswell to Artesia;  
US 70 from Ruidoso Downs to Hondo;  
US 380 from San Antonio to Hondo;  
US 285 from Lamy Junction to Clines Corner;  
NM 4 from 5.5 miles east of San Ysidro to NM 502;  
US 68 from Velarde to Taos;  
NM 522 from Arroyo Hondo to Questa;  
US 84 from Abiquiu to Chama;  
NM 12 from Datil to US 180 Junction; and  
US 180 from Silver City to NM 12 Junction.

Escort(s) are required for the movement of loads exceeding twelve feet (12') on any of the following Group B restricted highways:

NM 152 from Central to Hillsboro;  
US 82 from Alamogordo to Hope; and  
US 64 from Taos to Cimarron.

### **Permit Fees**

- A. Single Trip Permits: \$15.00
- B. Multiple Trip Permits: \$60.00.

### **Wrecker Services, Maximum Width, Height and Length**

Maximum width allowed when towing disabled or wrecked vehicles is twelve feet (12'), including the towing of a vehicle on a dolly, under a multiple trip special permit. This limit includes the width of the towed vehicle plus all load binders or other equipment required to tie or hold the unit together.

Maximum height of fourteen feet (14') applies when towing vehicles under a multiple trip special permit, unless damage to the wrecked or disabled vehicle causes protruding pieces which cannot be reasonably removed before towing, in which case fifteen feet (15') is the maximum permissible height.

Maximum length allowed when towing vehicles shall not exceed one hundred fifteen feet (115'). No exception may be made for an over-length tow-bar between wrecker and towed vehicles. Regardless of length, a combination of vehicles moving in a wrecker service operation shall not exceed three (3) vehicles. The second trailer of a three-(3) vehicle combination shall be disconnected prior to any towing operation under an emergency annual permit; however, when the situation presents a point of safety the second trailer shall be disconnected and parked. This regulation applies to Class D wrecker service and applies to Class C wrecker service when this combination of vehicles being towed does not exceed 25,000 pounds or is not specifically prohibited in the certificate.

**See Appendix C for Oversize/Overweight Permits for other jurisdictions. See Page 44, for Maximum Weights for IRP Jurisdictions.**