

**IOWA GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR OVERSIZE LOAD PERMIT**

The State of Iowa, the Iowa Department of Transportation, and any other permit issuing authority assume no responsibility for the property of the permit holder. During movement under permit, the permit holder must meet the terms and conditions of the permit and must take all reasonable precautions to protect and safeguard the lives and property of the traveling public and adjacent property owners. A copy of a current certificate of public liability insurance in the amounts of \$100,000 bodily injury each person, \$200,000 bodily injury each occurrence, and \$50,000 property damage must be carried in the vehicle for which the permit has been issued. Nothing shall exempt the permit holder from compliance with any load limitations that have been or might be established on any bridge or road posted with embargo signs. The permit and any revisions will be void if the actual weights or dimensions exceed what is indicated on the permit or its revisions. Permits can be issued only for loads that are a single article that cannot be reasonably broken down to make it legal in size and weight. The permit must be carried in the cab of the vehicle for which it has been issued and be available for inspection. Proof of liability insurance may be either in writing or in electronic format.

Movement is allowed seven days a week except for designated holidays and for special events when abnormally high traffic counts can be expected. The designated holidays are Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. No movement will be allowed on these holidays or after 12 noon on days preceding these holidays and holiday weekends that include holidays falling on Monday, except as provided for in Iowa Code 321.457.

**Annual permits:** Routes must be checked for construction restrictions and clearance problems using the vertical clearance maps, bridge embargo maps, pavement restriction maps, and the 511ia.org website prior to moving under permit. Maps can be found at [iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers](http://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers).

**Escort requirements:** Escorts must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid Class A, B, C, or D driver's license, and carry proof of public liability insurance in the amounts of \$100,000/\$200,000/\$50,000. The escort vehicle must be approximately the size of a normal passenger automobile or pickup and must have a flashing or strobe amber light that shall be burning while escorting a permit load. The escorting vehicle shall not be used to tow a trailer while performing escorting duties. The escort shall not assume responsibility for stopping traffic. An on-duty peace officer, as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1, shall be contacted to provide any traffic control needed.

**Required warning devices and escort requirements for vehicles operating under permit**

	Flags/Signs	Lights	Escorts	
			Four-lane	Two-lane
<b>Length</b>				
75'1" up to and including 85'	Yes	Not required	Not required	Not required
Over 85' up to and including 120'	Yes	Yes	Not required	Not required
Over 120'	Yes	Not required	Rear	Rear
<b>Projections</b>				
Front: over 25'	Not required	Yes	Not required	Not required
Rear: over 4' up to and including 10'	Flags only	Not required	Not required	Not required
Rear: over 10'	Flags only	Yes	Not required	Not required
<b>Height</b>				
Over 14'6" up to 20'	Yes	Not required	Front with a height pole	Front with a height pole
<b>Weight</b>				
Over 80,000 lbs.	Not required	Yes	Not required	Not required
<b>Width</b>				
Over 8'6" up to 12'	Yes	Not required	Not required	Not required
Over 12' up to and including 14'6"	Yes	Not required	Rear*	Front*
Over 14'6" up to and including 16'6"	Yes	Not required	Rear*	Front
Over 16'6" up to and including 18'	Yes	Not required	Rear	Front

\*In lieu of an escort, a vehicle can display an amber light or strobe on the power unit and on 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, mounted on the towing unit is required. An escort can be used in lieu of amber light.

**Signs and flags:** A sign reading "Oversize Load" must be at least 18 inches high by 7 feet long with a minimum of 10-inch black letters with a 1 1/2-inch stroke, on a yellow background, and mounted on the front bumper and on the rear of the load. A rear sign for mobile homes must be mounted at least 7 feet above the highway surface, measuring from the bottom of the sign. Flags must be red or orange fluorescent and at least 18 inches square. Flags must be mounted as follows: one flag at each front corner of the towing unit and one flag at each rear corner of the load. In addition, there must be a flag at any additional protrusion in the width of the load. The signs or warning devices must be mounted so they can be removed or covered when the vehicle is within legal dimensions.

**Permitted tandem axle weights:** Vehicles operating under a permit issued pursuant to Iowa Code 321E.8, 321E.9, or 321E.9A may have a gross weight not to exceed 46,000 pounds on a single-tandem axle of the truck tractor and a gross weight not to exceed 46,000 pounds on a single-tandem axle of the trailer or semitrailer if each axle of each tandem group has at least four tires. No single axle of the tandem group may exceed 24,000 pounds. If the tandem axle is within a larger group of axles, the maximum weight of that specific group of axles shall not exceed 20,000 pounds per axle.

**Requirements for continuous moves:** Vehicles and loads may travel by permit between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise if, in addition to the general provisions and general requirements specified by the permit, the following conditions are met.

- a. Dimensions shall not exceed:
  - (1) Width: 11 feet.
  - (2) Height: 14 feet, 6 inches.
  - (3) Length: 100 feet.
  - (4) Weight: Permitted axle limits.
- b. Travel must be on roadways with a minimum width of 22 feet and minimum lane width of 11 feet.
- c. Safety lighting shall be provided at the widest part of a load. The lamps may be placed at the outer ends of the load itself or on appurtenances that are equal in width to the widest part of the load and positioned at both extreme front and rear of the vehicle or trailer as follows.
  - (1) One lighted red lamp on each side at the rear of the load.
  - (2) One lighted yellow or amber lamp on each side at the front of the load.