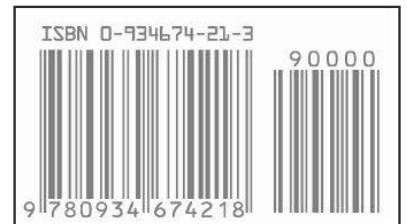


Vehicle Sizes and Weights Manual



J. J. Keller
& Associates, Inc.®
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VEHICLE SIZES & WEIGHTS MANUAL

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VEHICLE SIZES & WEIGHTS MANUAL

Introduction

The VEHICLE SIZES AND WEIGHTS MANUAL is designed to present, in an “easy to find” and understandable format, federal and state size and weight limitations, as well as the requirements for oversize and overweight movements.

The first part of the manual contains the federal size and weight limits and supporting regulations from 23 CFR Part 658, Truck Size and Weight, Route Designations—Length, Width, and Weight Limitations. The federal section also includes the Federal Highway Administration's *Bridge Formula Pamphlet*, which explains the federal bridge formula and how to use it.

The second part of the manual is organized by state and is made up of each state's legal vehicle size and weight limits, oversize and overweight permitting requirements, super load permit criteria, and state agency contact information. Within every state's information, we provide the legal limitations on vehicular length, width, height, and weight. As part of the weight limitations, we include the maximum single axle and tandem axle weights, maximum gross weight, maximum weight per inch width of tire (if established by the state), as well as any special weight limits or tolerances observed in the state. In each state's oversize and overweight movements section, we provide you with general information on how to obtain permits, types of permits available, permit fees, permitted vehicle limitations, sign/flag/lighting requirements for permitted loads, escort vehicle requirements, travel restrictions (including time-of-day restrictions and holiday restrictions), and more.

The last section of the manual includes information on Canada's size and weight limits. Canada's *Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Weights and Dimensions* is provided for your reference.

Revision bars, like the one at the left of this paragraph, are used in this publication to show where significant changes were made on update pages. The revision bar next to text on a page indicates that the text was revised. The date at the bottom of the page tells you when the revised page was issued.

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I. VEHICLE SIZES AND WEIGHTS LIMITATIONS

(a) Regulations

Vehicle operations in the state of Montana must comply with size and weight limitations. Regulations are applicable to both resident and non-resident operators.

(b) Size/Weight Limits

	All Highways
Width:	102 in
Height:	14 ft
Length:	
Bus	55 ft
Straight Trucks	55 ft
Truck-trailer	75 ft
Tractor-semitrailer combinations	No limit if semitrailer does not exceed 53 ft
Tractor-twin-trailer combination	No limit if trailers are not over 28 ft 6 in. and/or 61 ft combined trailer length
Semitrailer	53 ft
Trailers of twin-trailer combinations	28 ft 6 in (61 ft combined)
Boat-transporter combination	75 ft – 3-ft front, 4-ft rear overhang
Stinger-steered automobile transporter	80 ft – 4-ft front, 6-ft rear overhang
Saddlemounts (up to 3)	75 ft
Special limitations or restrictions	—
Weight:*	
Single axle – 2 tires	11,000 lb
Single axle – 4 tires	20,000 lb
Tandem axle – 8 tires	34,000 lb
Tridem axle	42,000 lb
Steering axle	N/S
Load per inch width of tire	500 lb — must be wide-based tires
-or-	
Gross wheel weight	N/S
Gross vehicle weight	On interstate and designated federal aid highways 80,000 lb
Gross vehicle weight	Uncapped formula B to 131,060 lb on allowed state highways
Tolerances	Up to 10%; \$10 trip permit fee charged. Permit only available to first location to reduce to legal weights.

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*A vehicle traveling on US93 from the border between Canada and the United States to 10 miles south of the border or on Montana highway 16 from the border between Canada and the United States to 20 miles south of the border is subject to the maximum allowable gross weight limits but is not subject to weight limits determined by the state bridge formula.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions

Montana's seasonal weight restrictions can be found at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/restrictions.shtml>.

II. OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT MOVEMENTS

(a) General Information

Operators of vehicles that exceed the legal size and weight limits must obtain a permit from the Department of Transportation prior to making any movement in the State of Montana. There are no exemptions from the permit requirements for overlength poles or pipes.

The special permit must be carried in the vehicle to which it was issued and open at all times to inspection by any peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the Department of Transportation.

The permittee will be responsible for checking the routes to be traveled to determine the clearances of bridges, underpasses, and other obstructions. The permit does not guarantee clearances for maximum height as specified in the list of bridges and structures prepared by the Department of Transportation. A list of maximum height clearances for bridges and structures may be obtained from the Helena Office as well as the other Division Offices.

The following permits are available:

- Single-trip overdimensional permits, issued for dimensions exceeding the term permit;
- Single-trip overweight permits, required when the weight exceeds the allowable load or the allowable axle load for a non-reducible or indivisible load; issued for a single trip from one location to another only (return trip requires another permit);
- Term permits (annual permits);
- Self-issuing permit, trip or term self-issuing permits are available at the Helena office only;
- No-fee permits, issued to federal, state, county, city, and foreign governments at no cost; and
- Triple-trailer combination permits ("special vehicle combination" permits), available by calling Montana Department of Transportation.

Permits are non-transferable. Owner/operators breaking a lease agreement with a carrier are not allowed to transfer permits.

Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) regional permits

Ten western states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington have joined together allowing carriers needing oversize/overweight permits for operation on the highways of the Regional Network. Each member jurisdiction may issue regional permits and collect fees allowing operations in the other members' jurisdictions. Certain requirements have to be met when applying for each permit.

Permits are issued only for an "envelope" vehicle of the following non-reducible maximum dimensions:

Length:	110 ft overall
Height:	14 ft
Width:	14 ft

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Weight:	160,000 lb gross weight 21,500 lb Single Axle 43,000 lb Tandem Axle 53,000 lb per Tridem (wheelbase more than 8 ft and less than 13 ft) 600 pounds per inch of tire
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The single trip permit will be valid for a period of five working days, for use by the permitted vehicle only (tractor and trailer).

(b) Fees

Permit	Fee
Single trip oversize	\$10
100-ft long Interstate single trip	10
Single trip triples permit	20
Annual Overdimensional Permit	75

For loads that are overweight on bridge but that have legal axle weights (non-divisible loads), the fees are:

- \$10 for up to and including 100 miles;
- \$30 for 101 to 199 miles; or
- \$50 for 200 miles and over.

The mileage fees for single trip overweight permits are as follows based upon the sum excess in axle or axle group weight.

Total Excess Axle Weight Pounds	Cost of Miles Traveled Dollars
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

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Over 100,000 pounds is \$70 + \$3.50 per 5,000 pounds or part of 5,000 pounds in excess of 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 pound increment.

There will be an annual overweight permit of \$200 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 total excess axle weight.

Term oversize permit fees are as follows:

Load Conditions	Fees
95 ft long, 15 ft wide, 14 ft 6 in high	\$75
100 ft long (Interstate only)	125
120 ft long, non-divisible length (width and height not included)	125
Triples	200

(c) Insurance Requirements

A minimum of \$1 million combined single limit bodily injury and property damage liability per occurrence is required before a special permit may be issued.

(d) Permitted Vehicle Limitations

The following conditions apply to term permits:

Load/Vehicle Conditions	Maximum Permit Limits
Width, non-reducible load	15 ft
Width, reducible load	9 ft
Height	15 ft 6 in
Length, single power unit, non-reducible	120 ft
Length, single power unit, reducible	55 ft
Length, single semitrailer	57 ft
Length, truck-trailer	95 ft
Length, non-divisible loads (cranes, unladen heavy-haul combinations with boosters and jeeps, truck-trailer with non-reducible load such as poles, etc.)	120 ft, all highways (term permit is for length only; exceeding width and height requires a separate permit)
Rocky mountain doubles	81 ft of combined trailer length (if the combined trailer length is within 81 ft, the maximum combination length of 95 ft does not apply; if the combined trailer length exceeds 81 ft and the total combination does not exceed 95 ft, a permit may be issued for a combination length of 95 ft)

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Load/Vehicle Conditions	Maximum Permit Limits
Length, combination doubles	100 ft, Interstate only (if combined trailer length exceeds 81 ft and the combination length exceeds 95 ft, a permit may be issued for a combination length of 100 ft)
Combination of vehicle length without overhang	95 ft, all highways
Double trailers	If either trailer exceeds 28 ½ ft or combined trailer length exceeds 61 ft, then permit is required regardless of overall combination length.
Triples	Interstate travel only; length limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powered by a cab-over or tilt-cab, 105 ft length inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang; or • Powered by a conventional truck-tractor, 110 ft, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang.

Single trip permits may be issued if any dimension exceeds the maximum term permit width, height, or length.

Term overweight permits may be issued for non-divisible loads.

The Department of Transportation adopts and incorporates by reference weight tables established by the Bridge Bureau of the Department of Transportation for use in determining the conditions for the movement of overweight vehicles or loads information pertaining to weight tables and special permits for overweight vehicles and loads is available at the Motor Carrier Services Division at (406) 444-6130.

(e) Sign Requirements

OVERSIZE LOAD or WIDE LOAD signs must be marked with letters measuring eight inches in height. There are no specific color or size requirements.

An OVERSIZE LOAD or WIDE LOAD sign must be visible front and rear of the vehicle when the movement exceeds 10 feet in width.

(f) Flags and Lighting Requirements

Flags

According to 49 CFR 393.87, any commercial motor vehicle transporting a load which extends beyond the sides by more than four inches or more than four feet beyond the rear must have the extremities of the load marked with red or orange fluorescent warning flags. Each warning flag must be at least 18 inches square. There must be a single flag at the extreme rear if the projecting load is two feet wide or less. Two warning flags are required if the projecting load is wider than two feet. Flags must be located to indicate maximum width of loads which extend beyond the sides and/or rear of the vehicle.

Lights

Flashing amber lights are required on the rear of all oversize vehicles exceeding 10 feet in width.

Flashing amber lights must measure five inches in diameter, with a minimum candle power of 50 and a flashing frequency of 60 to 90 per minute. The lights must be mounted at each end of the sign and must be operating at all times when moving an oversize vehicle. A revolving light or strobe light may be substituted for flashing lights. Lights must be flashing at all times when moving an oversize vehicle or load.

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(g) Escort/Flagperson Requirements

Flag vehicles (escort vehicles) are required on the Interstates and non-Interstates as follows:

Highway Type	Escort Requirements
Non-Interstates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One flag vehicle in front when vehicle or load exceeds 12 feet 6 inches wide;• One flag vehicle in front and one rear when vehicle or load exceeds 16 feet 6 inches in width; and• One flag vehicle required in rear if length is over 110 feet.
Interstates	One flag vehicle in rear if load is over 16 feet 6 inches wide and/or 120 feet long.

Vehicles or loads up to 16 feet 6 inches in width are not required to have a rear flag vehicle if they're equipped with front and rear OVERSIZE LOAD signs and two flashing lights or one revolving/strobe light mounted on the power unit.

A rear flag vehicle escort is not required for a vehicle that exceeds 12 feet 6 inches in width that is hauling or towing an implement of husbandry, construction equipment, or forestry equipment, and that is operating under a special permit, if the vehicle is operating at highway speed or with the flow of traffic.

Flagperson requirements

On non-Interstate primary and secondary highways, two flag vehicles, or one flag vehicle and one flag person, equipped with high visibility clothing and hand-signaling devices, are required when speed restrictions over structures are imposed. High visibility clothing will be a flagger's vest, shirt, or jacket, orange, yellow, strong yellow green, or fluorescent versions of these colors. Hand signaling devices must be a STOP/SLOW paddle 18 inches wide and octagonal in shape, with letters at least six inches high. The background of the STOP face must be red with white letters and border.

Before crossing any non-Interstate structure(s), the hauling unit must come to a complete stop approximately 50 feet from the end of the structure. After flag vehicles or flagpersons have stopped all traffic onto the structure, the overweight vehicle must proceed at a speed not to exceed five miles per hour with the center of the unit directly over the center line of the roadway of the structure. There may be no alteration of the speed (changing of gears) while on the structure or approach, and flag vehicles or flag persons may not permit any other traffic on the structure until the overloaded vehicle is off the structure.

(h) Escort Car/Company Requirements

A flag vehicle (escort vehicle) may be any passenger car or two-axle truck a minimum of 60 inches wide. The maximum manufacturer's rating for the flag vehicle may 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 flag vehicle may not exceed a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds. A flag vehicle must be legal size and weight and must be clearly distinguished from and identifiable as the escort vehicle. A flag vehicle may pull a trailer or carry any item(s) or equipment that:

- Is within legal limits of size and weight;
- Allows an unobstructed view of the flashing lights and signs used by the flag vehicle;
- Complies with all state traffic laws; and
- Possesses current registration and valid insurance.

Service or mechanic trucks used as a flag vehicle must not have a utility box which extends above the cab more than 12 inches or beyond the width of the cab by more than six inches on either side.

The flag vehicle preceding or following the property being transported must be between 500 and 1,000 feet of the movement.

All flag vehicles must be equipped with two-way radio communication.

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Escort car signs, flags, and lights

A sign with the words OVERSIZE LOAD or similar wording must be visible from the front of the vehicle and rear of the vehicle at all times when piloting an oversize load. Letters must be at least eight inches high. The letters must be dark in color on a light-colored background. When not being operated as a flag vehicle, signs must be removed.

Flashing amber lights, visible front and rear, a minimum of five inches in diameter, 50 candlepower, 60 to 90 flashes per minute, must be mounted at each end of an OVERSIZE LOAD (or similarly worded) sign on the roof of the flag vehicle. A revolving or strobe light may be substituted for flashing lights. Lights must be flashing at all times when piloting an oversize load.

(i) Travel Restrictions

The dimensions of the load determine the hours of travel, as follows:

Load Conditions	Travel Details
Load does not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 feet wide;• 110 feet long; or• 14 feet 6 inches high	Travel is allowed during darkness, weekends, holidays, and on red-route highways. The load or vehicle must have lights the full width and length.
Load does not exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 feet wide*;• 120 feet long; or• 18 feet high	Travel is allowed during daylight hours, seven days per week (excluding holidays and holiday weekends and on red routes).
Load exceeds: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 feet wide*;• 120 feet long; or• 18 feet high	Travel is not allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, or holiday weekends.

*Over 17 feet high requires Helena office approval.

On red-route highways, the following vehicles may not travel after 3 p.m. on Friday to sunrise on Saturday and from noon on Sunday to sunrise on Monday:

- Single units over 55 feet long;
- Vehicle combination exceeding 10 feet width; and
- Combinations over 14 feet 5 inches high.

On red-route highways the following vehicle combinations may not travel after 3 p.m. on Friday until sunrise on Monday:

- Combinations exceeding 18 feet width or height; or
- Combinations exceeding 120 feet length.

Information regarding restricted vertical clearances of over 17 feet may be obtained by contacting District Offices in Missoula, Butte, Great Falls, Glendive, and Billings, or area offices of Kalispell, Bozeman, Havre, Wolf Point, Miles City, and Lewistown.

In no instance is a county maintained road to be subjected to heavy truck traffic without prior discussion with the county or counties concerned. When seasonal load limits are imposed overweight permits are not valid unless accompanied by written authorization from the district maintenance chief. During portions of the critical breakup period, specific units (such as contractor's equipment) may be allowed to travel during the early morning hours when the ground is frozen, weather permitting. A 400-pound per inch width of tire restriction and

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a 35 miles per hour speed limit will be imposed on designated state-highway routes showing pavement breakup. Specific areas of distress within these routes may be posted for lower speeds and weight when necessary.

Holiday restrictions

Vehicle combinations exceeding 10 feet width, 110 feet length, and over 14 feet 6 inches height are not allowed to travel on the following holidays or holiday weekends:

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

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

Speed limits

Speed is restricted to 65 miles per hour on Interstates and 60 miles per hour on non-Interstates, or lower, as posted.

The Department may restrict speed as a condition of the permit in cases of extreme overweight. On Interstate highways, unless specifically noted on the special permit, loads may maintain a maximum speed of 55 miles per hour unless otherwise posted for a lower speed.

(j) Manufactured Housing Permits

Mobile homes and mobile home combinations over 75 feet in length must obtain oversize permits.

Overwidth mobile home movements exceeding 12 feet 6 inches in width must be preceded by one flag car to warn and regulate traffic. No flag cars are required for movements over completed sections of the Interstate System of Highways. The use of two-way radio communication between pilot cars and toter is required.

(k) Annual, Extended, And/Or Other Permits

Term permits are issued for a calendar year and expire on December 31 each year.

Term permits are issued to Montana IRP-plated vehicles, on the IRP cab card (vehicle combinations up to 95 feet only) are issued for a yearly period, expiring on the last day of the period showing on the cab card.

(l) Sealed Containerized Cargo Permits

Montana does not have special provisions concerning sealed containerized cargo permits.

III. SUPER LOADS

In the state of Montana, super loads are considered as any load that exceeds 17 feet high, 18 feet wide, 150 feet long, or is in excess of 107,000 pounds.

If load exceeds any of these dimensions or weights, the transporter must submit an application including drawings, axle spacings, and tire sizes to the state.

In addition, if hauling an overweight load, the vehicle must be registered under IRP for more than 80,000 pounds. This must be done through the vehicle's base state. The state of Montana does not allow IRP registration in excess of 130,000 pounds.

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Processing will take anywhere from two weeks to a month to receive a permit.

IV. AGENCY REFERENCES

(a) Sizes and Weights

Regulatory agency

Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Services Division
(406) 444-6130
www.mdt.mt.gov/

Montana Highway Patrol
(406) 444-3780
<https://dojmt.gov/highwaypatrol/>

Permit agency

Same as above

Super loads

Montana Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Services Division
(406) 444-7262
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Mountain Time)
www.mdt.mt.gov/

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