

## Chapter Trans 254

### SINGLE TRIP PERMITS FOR OVERSIZE OR OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES OR LOADS

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**Trans 254.01 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish standards and procedures for the issuance of single trip oversize or overweight permits, pursuant to s. 348.26 (2), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.02 Definitions. (1)** Unless otherwise stated, the definitions of words and phrases in ss. 340.01 and 348.01 (2), Stats., and s. Trans 250.02 apply to this chapter.

**(2)** As used in this chapter:

(a) "Issuing authority" means the department of transportation or the officer in charge of maintenance of local highways.

**Note:** The officer in charge of maintenance of local highways varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and may include the county highway commissioner; the city, town or village engineer; and the head of a city, town, or village transportation or public works department, or other person.

(b) "Permit" means single trip oversize or overweight permits authorized under s. 348.26 (2), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.03 Permit application. (1)** An application for a permit shall be submitted to an issuing authority on a form approved by the department, and in accordance with s. 348.26, Stats.

**(2)** An application for a permit for the use of a state trunk highway shall be made to the department in any of the following ways:

(a) In person, at the department's central or district offices.

(b) By mail, addressed to the department's central office.

(c) By the telephone call-in procedure, described in ch. Trans 275.

(d) By authorized permit service.

**(3)** An application for a permit for the use of a highway maintained by a local authority shall be submitted to the applicable local authority in the manner prescribed by the local authority. An application for a permit for the use of a state trunk highway within the geographical boundaries of a local authority shall be submitted to the applicable local authority in the manner prescribed by the local authority.

**Note:** Permit application procedures are in s. Trans 250.025.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.04 Permit amendments. (1)** An application for an amendment to a permit shall be made to the issuing authority which issued the original permit.

**(2)** An application for an amendment may be made in the same manner as an application for an original permit.

**(3)** The request shall specify the permit number of the permit to be amended.

**(4)** A request for an extension of a permit may be made any time until the third day after the expiration date of the permit.

**(5)** An issuing authority may grant only one extension to a permit.

**(6)** Except as provided in sub. (7), a permit issued for less than 2 weeks may be extended not more than 2 weeks.

**(7)** An issuing authority may extend a permit not more than 2 additional weeks where highway or other conditions remain unchanged, or as the issuing authority deems necessary.

**Note:** Limitations on the amendment of permits are in s. Trans 250.10.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.05 Eligibility. (1)** Any vehicle or vehicle and load to be considered as operating under a permit shall satisfy requirements for a permit under s. 348.25, Stats.

**(2)** An issuing authority may not issue a permit for mobile homes or camping trailers under this chapter.

**(3)** An issuing authority may not issue a permit for transporting loads or articles which could reasonably be divided in a manner as to allow transporting of loads or articles in 2 or more loads that are not oversize or overweight, or both.

**(4)** An issuing authority may not issue a permit to transport more than one article if the vehicle, load, or vehicle and load is overweight.

**Note:** This section prohibits, among other things, the addition of an extra boom section to a load that is transported under a permit for an overweight vehicle, load, or vehicle and load. Transporting necessary blocking for a load, or transporting the necessary blocking on an otherwise empty vehicle to and from the origin or destination of the load is not prohibited.

**(5)** An issuing authority may not issue a permit for a vehicle and load exceeding 100 feet in overall length when the rear supporting axle is at or near the rear of the load unless the rear support is separately steered.

**(6)** An issuing authority may issue a permit only for a vehicle equipped with pneumatic tires.

**(7)** The issuance of a permit is not a guarantee of the sufficiency of any highway or structure for the transporting of the vehicle, load, or vehicle and load.

**(8)** A permit may not authorize the operation of more than 2 vehicles in combination.

**Note:** This does not prohibit the use of dollies to support or assist in supporting one or both ends of a trailer.

**(9)** A permit may authorize the operation of vehicle combinations consisting of a truck-tractor and semi-trailer with an earth-mover being transported with its power unit resting on the bed of a semi-trailer and its single rear axle trailing on the roadway behind the semi-trailer, in which case the gross weight of the rear axle of the earth mover may not exceed 35,000 pounds.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.06 Validity. (1)** A permit is valid only for the vehicle described in the application and permit.

**(2)** An issuing authority may suspend a permit, or any of its conditions, because of seasonal highway conditions.

**Note:** Examples of seasonal highway conditions include spring thaw, flooding and traffic congestion.

**(3)** No condition of a permit may modify any law or regulation limiting loads because of local conditions, including load limits on bridges and highways, seasonal weight restrictions, or load limits imposed because of construction.

(4) A permit is not valid during periods when adverse weather or road conditions, such as fog, smoke, heavy rain, snow or ice, or wind velocity, impair the safety of a movement under the permit.

(5) A permit may not be used in combination with a multiple trip permit to authorize the movement of an oversize or overweight vehicle, load, or vehicle and load.

(6) A permit is valid only on the route specified in the permit.

(7) A permit is valid only for the movement specified in the permit, which may include the return trip on the reverse route if requested and approved, and which includes the movement of the empty vehicle, whether or not oversize or overweight, to and from the place of pickup or delivery of the permitted load.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.07 Registration requirements.** (1) A vehicle operating under a permit shall be registered as required by Wisconsin Statutes, and shall be registered at not less than the permit weight or at the maximum available registration weight, whichever is less.

(2) All other operational permits required by the department or other agencies having jurisdiction shall be obtained.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; correction in (2) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 6., Stats., Register, August, 1996, No. 488.

**Trans 254.08 Driver and operating requirements.**

(1) The driver of a vehicle operating under a permit shall carry the permit in the vehicle to which it applies and shall have the permit available for inspection by any police officer, representative of the issuing authority, or person in charge of the maintenance of the highway being used.

(2) The driver of a vehicle operating under a permit shall, whenever reasonable and practicable, maintain a distance of not less than 1,000 feet between the permitted vehicle and any vehicle the driver is following, unless actually engaged in overtaking and passing another vehicle.

(3) The driver of a vehicle operating under a permit shall allow traffic approaching or overtaking the permitted vehicle to pass, where it is safe to do so.

(4) The maximum speed of any vehicle with a load 16 feet or wider operating on highways without paved shoulders shall be 35 miles per hour.

(5) Except as provided in sub. (4), or unless a lower speed is specified in the permit, a vehicle operating under a permit may be operated at the posted speed limit.

(6) The right wheels of the towed unit may not leave the roadway, except to allow traffic to pass.

**Note:** A "roadway" does not include paved or unpaved shoulders. s. 340.01 (54), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.09 Maximum size, weight and loading limitations.** (1) The maximum size, axle, axle combination, and total weight limitations authorized by a permit may not be exceeded.

(2) Property transported under a permit shall be loaded to minimize its size and weight.

(3) An oversize vehicle used for transporting loads under a permit shall be reduced to legal size whenever possible when being operated without load.

**Note:** Legal sizes are set forth in ch. 348 and s. 349.16, Stats.

(4) A load transported under a permit may not extend beyond the front of the power unit, beyond the left fender line of the transporting vehicle, or more than 6 inches beyond the right fender of the transporting vehicle, unless the overhang is minimized by suitable positioning of the load upon the vehicle.

(5) Loads consisting of more than one article, none of which are oversize, may not be transported under the permit.

(6) Vehicles and loads which, when reasonably divided, would not be oversize or overweight, may not be transported under the permit.

(7) Loads which, when reasonably repositioned on the transporting vehicle would not be oversize or overweight, may not be transported under the permit.

(8) Loads consisting of more than one article, one or more of which are oversize, may be transported under a permit only if:

(a) The vehicle and load is not overweight, and

(b) The other articles transported do not cause the vehicle and load to be oversize in any manner differently from the largest single article.

**Note:** For example, if a storage tank which is overwidth and overheight (but not overlength) is the single largest article transported, then a toolbox which is not wider, and is not higher, and does not make the vehicle and load overlength or overweight may also be transported.

However, a beam placed crosswise which makes the overall width wider than the storage tank may not be transported as an additional article. Similarly, a beam placed lengthwise which makes the vehicle and load overlength may not be transported as an additional article.

Finally, if the vehicle and load were overweight, then no additional article may be transported.

(9) The load shall be properly secured and fastened to the transporting vehicle.

(10) Wheels on one side of a transporting vehicle may not carry more than 60% of the total gross load.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.10 Equipment requirements.** (1) LIGHTING. An oversize vehicle, or a vehicle with an oversize load operating during the hours of darkness, shall be equipped with the following additional lamps:

(a) For a vehicle with a load which extends beyond the width of the vehicle:

1. At the outermost extremity of the foremost edge of the projecting load, an amber lamp visible from the front and side.

2. At the outermost extremity at the rearmost edge of the projecting load, a red lamp visible from the rear and side.

3. Any portion of an overwidth load extending beyond the width of the foremost or rearmost edge of the vehicle or load, shall be marked with an amber lamp visible from the front, both sides, and rear.

4. The overwidth portion of a load measuring 3 feet or less from front to rear, shall be marked with an amber lamp visible from the front, both sides and rear, except that if the overwidth projection is located at or near the rear it shall be marked by a red lamp visible from front, side and rear.

(b) For a vehicle with a load which extends more than 4 feet beyond the rear of the vehicle:

1. On each side of the projecting load, 1 red lamp, visible from the side, located so as to indicate maximum overhang.

2. On the rear of the projecting load, 2 red lamps, visible from the rear, 1 at each side; and 2 red reflectors visible from the rear, 1 at each side, located so as to indicate maximum width.

(c) All required lamps shall be illuminated whenever a vehicle is operated during hours of darkness. All lamps shall be visible at a distance of 500 feet.

(2) WARNING LAMPS. When required by a permit, warning lamps shall be operated as follows:

(a) All amber flashing or revolving warning lamps shall have a reflector at least 6 inches in diameter and shall be bright enough to be clearly visible and attention-attracting at a distance of 500 feet under all conditions when the load is on the highway, except when visibility is obstructed by a hillcrest, a curve, or an object such as another vehicle.

(b) All warning lamps shall flash at a rate of 30 to 90 times per minute.

(c) Strobe lamps may be used in lieu of flashing or revolving lamps.

(d) Warning lamps may not be operated when a vehicle is not operating under the permit.

**(3) FLAGS.** (a) When a vehicle, load, or vehicle and load is overlength, a single flag shall be fastened at the extreme rear of the load if the overlength or projecting portion is 2 feet wide or less.

(b) When a vehicle, load, or vehicle and load is overlength, 2 flags shall be fastened at the rear of the load to indicate maximum width if the overlength or projecting portion is wider than 2 feet.

(c) When a vehicle, load, or vehicle and load is overwidth, a flag shall be fastened at each front and rear corner of the load. In addition, if any part of the load is more than 4 inches wider than the width of load or vehicle at the front or rear, a flag shall be placed at the widest point of the load.

(d) Each flag shall be solid red or orange in color, and not less than 18 inches square.

(e) In order to wave freely, flags shall be securely fastened by at least one corner or securely mounted on a staff.

**(4) SIGNS.** (a) When a vehicle, load, or vehicle and load, is more than 10 feet wide or is overlength, 2 warning signs shall be displayed. One sign shall be fastened at the front of the power unit and the other at either the rear of the towed unit or at the rear of the load.

(b) Each sign shall state, in black letters on a yellow background, "OVERSIZE LOAD," and may not be less than 7 feet long and 18 inches high. The letters of the sign may not be less than 10 inches high with a brush stroke of not less than 1.4 inches.

(c) The sign message may not be displayed when the vehicle is not operating under the permit.

**(5) HAZARD MARKERS.** (a) When required by the conditions of a permit, black and white or black and yellow diagonally striped reflectorized hazard markers, not less than 12 inches wide by 36 inches high, shall be fastened to, or in front of and behind the load, so as to be fully visible to traffic approaching from both the front and rear of the vehicle.

(b) All hazard markers shall be located at right angles to the centerline of the vehicle so as to indicate the widest part of the load on each side of the vehicle.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.11 Times of operation.** **(1)** Except as otherwise specified in a permit, a vehicle, load, or vehicle and load that is overweight, but not oversize, may operate 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.

**(2)** Except as otherwise specified in a permit, no oversize vehicle or vehicle combination operating under a permit that is equal to or less than 12 feet in width, 13½ feet in height, and 100 feet in length, may be operated:

(a) Between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Sunday.

(b) Between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Friday between the 4th Friday in May and Labor Day.

(c) Between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on any holiday, or, when Independence Day falls on Sunday, on the following Monday.

(d) Between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the day before any holiday, except that this restriction does not apply to Independence Day when it falls on a Sunday.

**(3)** In addition to the conditions provided in sub. (2), no oversize vehicle or vehicle combination operating under a permit that exceeds 12 feet in width, 13½ feet in height, or 100 feet in length, may operate:

(a) During the hours of darkness.

(b) During the period beginning at 12:00 noon on the day preceding and continuing until sunrise on the day following every Sunday and holiday.

**(4)** In addition to the conditions provided in subs. (2) and (3), no oversize vehicle or vehicle combination may operate on any

part of the Milwaukee county expressway system constructed pursuant to s. 59.965, Stats.:

(a) Between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

(b) Between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Sunday. (4a) Subsection (4) does not apply to U.S. highway 45 between West Florist Avenue and West Hampton Avenue or to interstate highway 94 between the Waukesha county line and 108th Street.

**(5)** An issuing authority may issue a permit for times other than those specified in sub. (1), (2), (3), or (4), under extraordinary circumstances when, in the opinion of the issuing authority, public health and welfare is better served, and may impose additional conditions to promote the safe operation of the vehicle and load.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; am. (4) (intro.), cr. (4a), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

**Trans 254.12 Route limitations.** **(1)** No vehicle, vehicle combination, or load exceeding 16 feet in width may be operated or transported upon any portion of the national system of interstate and defense highways unless the permit contains a special condition authorizing movement with a greater width upon the interstate highway system.

**(2)** No permit allowing the dimensions of a vehicle or load to exceed 11 feet in width, 13½ feet in height or 100 feet in length is valid on any part of the Milwaukee county expressway system constructed pursuant to s. 59.965, Stats., except on U.S. highway 45 between West Florist Avenue and West Hampton Avenue and on interstate highway 94 between the Waukesha county line and 108th Street.

**(3)** Self-propelled, carry-all scrapers operating under a permit may not be operated on the interstate highway system, the Milwaukee county expressway system, or on U.S. highway 41 between Green Bay and Milwaukee.

**(4)** An oversize or overweight vehicle may not be operated on a highway, whether loaded or empty, at any time that the permit is not valid.

**(5)** A permit issued by the department for a movement which is partly on the state trunk highway system and partly on other classes of highways is valid only on state highways.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.13 Power unit change.** In the event of a breakdown or unavailability of the power unit listed on the application and permit, another power unit may be substituted, provided that the make and vehicle identification number, or license number and state, of the substitute power unit are written on the permit. The issuing authority shall be advised by telephone prior to operating the substitute power unit with the oversize load. Changes in the terms of the permit, other than the identification of the power unit, require a written request and a written amendment to the permit authorizing the change. The driver of a vehicle operating under a permit shall have the amended permit in his or her possession prior to the movement of the load.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.14 Insurance and liability conditions.** **(1)** In applying for and accepting a permit, a permittee agrees to:

(a) Pay any claim for any bodily injury or property damage resulting from operation under the permit for which the permittee is legally responsible.

(b) Hold the state, its subdivisions, officers, employees and agents harmless from any claim which may arise from operation over public highways under the permit.

**(2)** Whether or not insurance, bond, or deposit as set forth in sub. (7) is required, the permittee shall be liable for all damages which any highway or its appurtenances may sustain by reason of any operation under the permit.

(3) An issuing authority may waive insurance requirements for permits issued to government.

(4) Where a certificate of insurance is required, no insurer may cancel the certificate of insurance without providing the issuing authority 10 days advance written notice of the cancellation.

(5) An issuing authority may require a permittee to provide more bodily injury and property damage liability coverage than is set forth in sub. (6).

(6) The following insurance amounts are required:

(a) When the permitted load does not exceed 12 feet in width, 13½ feet in height, or 100 feet in length and is not overweight by more than 25%:

Bodily injury liability—each person . . . . .	\$150,000	or	\$750,000
Bodily injury liability—each accident . . . . .	\$450,000	combined single	
Property damage liability—each accident . . . . .	\$300,000	limit	

(b) When the permitted load exceeds the size or weight limitations in par. (a):

Bodily injury liability—each person . . . . .	\$200,000	or	\$1,000,000
Bodily injury liability—each accident . . . . .	\$600,000	combined single	
Property damage liability—each accident . . . . .	\$400,000	limit	

(7) A permittee shall certify, and may be required to present satisfactory written evidence, that the amount of insurance coverage given in sub. (6), or a bond in a form satisfactory to the issuing authority, will be in effect for the vehicle and load designated in the permit while operating on the public highway, unless this requirement is expressly waived by the issuing authority.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.15 General conditions and requirements.**

(1) A permittee shall comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules and policies of any state agency or subdivision of the state, unless they are modified by the conditions of the permit.

(2) When a vehicle operating under a permit is overweight, the permittee shall give prior notice to the owners of overhead wires, cables, or other facilities which may be affected.

(3) A properly equipped escort vehicle as described in ch. Trans 252 shall accompany a vehicle and load:

(a) When any part of a vehicle or load extends beyond the left of the roadway centerline on 2-way roadways,

(b) When any part of a vehicle or load extends beyond the left edge of the right hand lane on highways with more than 2 lanes, or

(c) On a highway designated in the permit.

(4) A vehicle and load that does not require an escort vehicle may, when safe, move to the left of the centerline or beyond the left lane line while crossing a bridge or railroad crossing, but only after yielding to all other traffic.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.16 Special conditions.** (1) When a load is transported under a permit, the permittee may be required by an issuing authority to provide a traffic officer or flagperson to direct traffic, 2 escorts, or police escort.

(2) All loads 16 feet wide or wider shall have 2 properly equipped escorts.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Trans 254.17 Denial, suspension or revocation of permit.** (1) An issuing authority may deny, suspend, or revoke a permit for good cause, pursuant to s. 348.25 (7), Stats. Grounds for the denial, suspension, or revocation of a permit include:

(a) Violation of any condition of a permit.

(b) Preventing an employe of an issuing authority or a law enforcement officer from performing his or her official duties, or interfering with the lawful performance of his or her duties.

(c) Physically assaulting an employe of an issuing authority or a law enforcement officer while performing his or her official duties.

(d) Making a material misstatement in an application for a permit.

(e) Unauthorized alteration of a permit.

(f) Refusal or failure, without just cause, to produce required records.

(g) Payment of an application fee with a worthless check.

(h) Violation of any other applicable provision under ch. 348, Stats., or this chapter.

(2) A permittee shall immediately return a suspended or revoked permit to the issuing authority, after receiving notice from the issuing authority of the suspension or revocation of the permit.

**Note:** If a permit is denied, suspended, or revoked, an applicant or permittee may request a hearing before the division of hearings and appeals, pursuant to s. 348.25 (9), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.