Oversize/Overweight Permitting in Iowa

May 17, 2016

Instructor & Document Source

- Phou Baccam (Iowa DOT)
- 21 years with IDOT
- 7 years with Motor Carrier Services
- Administrator of Oversize/Overweight Permits

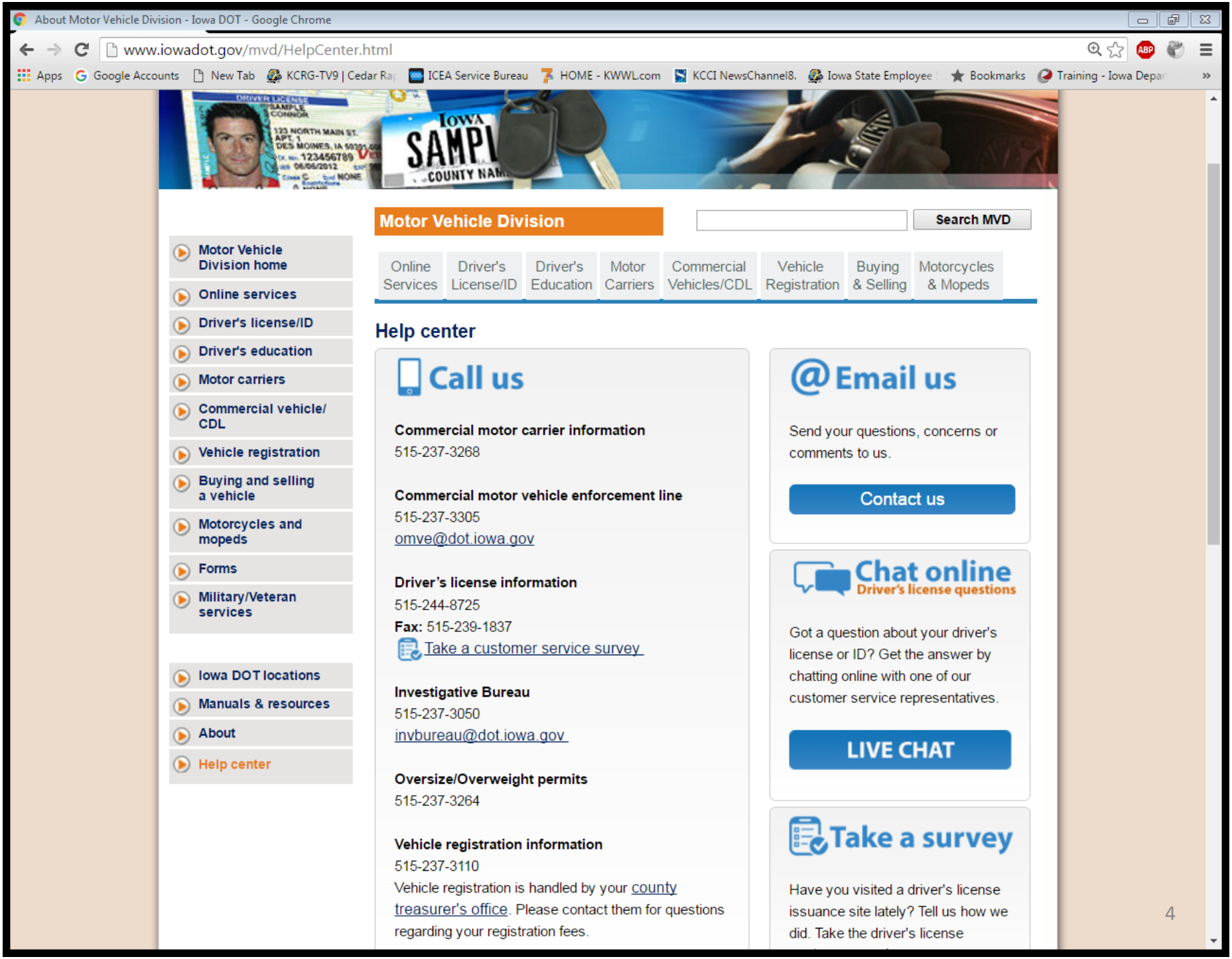
- Others: Scott Neubauer, Ping Lu (IDOT)

- Iowa Document Source: www.legis.iowa.gov

Potential Agenda Items

- What qualifies for an oversize/overweight permit ?
- What are the general permit requirements ?
- What are the types of permits (single trip/annuals)?
- What are the costs associated with the permits per Iowa Code?
- Escorting requirements for the permit holder
- Role of the IDOT Office of Motor Carrier Services in permitting
- Possible Legislative changes
- Discussion and questions from the viewing audience

- Disclaimer:
- What is shown is the current code, Please keep up to date with future changes.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515-237-3110
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Oversize/overweight/trip permits

URGENT: Safety Recall Initiated by Volvo Trucks

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is issuing this bulletin based upon a safety recall initiated by Volvo Trucks affecting nearly 20,000 Class 8 motor vehicles, with more than 17,000 affected vehicles in the United States. FMCSA has become aware of a critical safety defect that could severely affect the safe operation of these vehicles due to a faulty two-piece steering shaft. This condition can lead to separation of the steering shaft without warning and an immediate loss of steering ability and control which may lead to a vehicle crash. **Operators of vehicles affected by the Volvo recall should take the vehicles out of service as soon as possible.** FMCSA is publishing this advisory bulletin to raise awareness of this issue in order to prevent serious crashes.

Get more information

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Vehicle dimensions

The maximum legal dimensions allowed on Iowa roadways.

Length	41-foot single vehicle
	45-foot bus
	61-foot articulated bus
	45-foot motor home and recreational motorsports vehicle
	65-foot motor home towing another vehicle, or any vehicle towing a travel trailer or fifth wheel travel trailer
	85-foot combination of two vehicles, one of which is a recreational motorports vehicle
	70-foot combination of three vehicles other than truck-tractor
	97-foot power units saddle mounted and/or full mounted on other power units. Except for triple saddle mounts, combinations of four vehicles are not allowed.
	53 foot maximum – semitrailer, loaded or empty
	57-foot lowboy trailers used exclusively for the transportation of construction equipment when used in a truck-tractor semitrailer combination
	28 foot 6 inch maximum – trailers or semitrailers when used in double-bottom combination
	65 foot maximum – power units designed to carry cargo when used in combination with a trailer or semitrailer when used exclusively for transporting automobiles, boats or recreational vehicle chassis; 3-foot overhang in front and 4-foot overhang in rear is allowed in addition to the overall length.
	75-foot stinger steer auto transports
	No overall length limits on truck-tractor, semitrailer combinations.
Width	8 feet 6 inches
Height	13 feet 6 inches
	14-foot auto transporters hauling passenger vehicles, light delivery trucks, pickup trucks or recreational vehicle chassis

CHAPTER 321E

VEHICLES OF EXCESSIVE SIZE AND WEIGHT

Referred to in §307.27, §321.423, §321.437, §321.453, §321.454, §321.457, §331.362

321E.1 Definition.
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321E.24 Warning and lighting devices on oversize loads.
321E.25 Use of highways of interstate system.
321E.26 Reserved.
321E.27 Definition. Transferred to §321E.1; 2013 Acts, ch 49, §28.
321E.28 Permits for manufactured or mobile homes or factory-built structures. Repealed by 2013 Acts, ch 49, §27.
321E.29 Excess size divisible load permits.
321E.29A Raw milk transporters.
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321E.31 Permit for moving certain manufactured or mobile homes. Repealed by 2013 Acts, ch 49, §27.
321E.32 Movement of structures and other loads on dolly axles.
321E.33 Oversize permit agreement. Repealed by 2013 Acts, ch 49,§27.
321E.34 Escort requirements.

321E.1 Definition.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, *"department"* means the state department of transportation

321E.2 Permits by department and local authorities.

1. The department and local authorities may in their discretion and upon application and with good cause shown issue permits for the movement of special mobile equipment being temporarily moved on streets, roads, or highways and for vehicles with indivisible loads which exceed the maximum dimensions and weights specified in sections 321.452 through 321.466, but not to exceed the limitations imposed in this section and sections 321E.3 through 321E.15 except as provided in section 321E.29.

2. Vehicles permitted to transport indivisible loads may do any of the following:

a. Exceed the width and length limitations specified in sections 321.454 and 321.457 for the purpose of picking up an indivisible load or returning from delivery of the indivisible load. Vehicles with retractable body extensions used to support cargo must be reduced to legal dimensions unless the vehicle is loaded and the extension is in use.

b. Move indivisible special mobile equipment which does not otherwise exceed the maximum dimensions and weights specified in sections 321.452 through 321.466 if the vehicle has an overall width not to exceed nine feet and all other conditions of the vehicle's permit are met.

3. A permit issued under this chapter shall be in writing or in an electronic format and shall be carried in the cab of the vehicle for which the permit has been issued. Permits issued under this chapter and the vehicle for which the permit has been issued shall be open to inspection at all times by any peace officer or an authorized agent of any permit-issuing authority.

4. When in the judgment of the permit-issuing authority the movement of a vehicle with an indivisible load or special mobile equipment which exceeds the maximum dimensions and weights will be unduly hazardous to public safety or will cause undue damage to infrastructure or other public or private property, the permit shall be denied and the reasons for denial endorsed on the application. Permits shall designate the days when and routes upon which loads and special mobile equipment may be moved within a county on other than primary roads.
5. A permit-issuing authority may allow persons requesting permits under this chapter to do so in person, through the internet, by facsimile machine, or by telephone, authorizing payment for the permits to be made upon receipt of an invoice sent to the persons by the permit-issuing authority.

321E.3 Permit-issuing authorities.

1. Permits issued under this chapter shall be issued by the authority responsible for the maintenance of the system of highways or streets. However, the department may issue permits on primary road extensions in cities in conjunction with movements on the rural primary road system. The department may issue an all-systems permit under section 321E.8 which is valid for movements on all highways or streets under the jurisdiction of either the state or those local authorities that have indicated to the department in writing, including by means of electronic communication, those streets or highways for which an all-systems permit is not valid. The department may issue annual permits pursuant to section 321E.8A valid only for operation on noninterstate highways in counties stipulated in the permit.

2. At the request of a local authority, the department shall issue permits under this chapter for highways or streets that are under the jurisdiction of the local authority if the local authority has indicated to the department in writing, including by means of electronic communication, those streets or highways for which a permit is not valid.

321E.7 Load limits per axle.

1. The gross weight on any axle of any vehicle or combination of vehicles traveling under a permit issued in accordance with this chapter shall not exceed the maximum axle load prescribed in section 321.463, except for the following:

a. Cranes being temporarily moved on streets, roads, or highways may have a gross weight of twenty-four thousand pounds on any single axle.

b. (1) Special mobile equipment other than cranes being temporarily moved on streets, roads, or highways may have a maximum gross weight of thirty-six thousand pounds on any single axle equipped with flotation pneumatic tires with a minimum size of twenty-six point five inches by twenty-five inches and a maximum gross weight of twenty thousand pounds on any single axle equipped with flotation pneumatic tires with a minimum size of eighteen inches by twenty-five inches.

(2) The department is authorized to adopt rules to permit the use of tire sizes and weights within the minimum and maximum specifications provided in subparagraph (1), provided that the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed one hundred twenty-six thousand pounds.

(3) A manufacturer of machinery or equipment manufactured or assembled in Iowa may be granted a permit for the movement of such machinery or equipment mounted on pneumatic tires with axle loads exceeding the maximum axle load prescribed in section 321.463 for distances not to exceed twenty-five miles at a speed not greater than twenty miles per hour. The movement of such machinery or equipment shall be over a specified route between the place of assembly or manufacture and a storage area, shipping point, proving ground, experimental area, weighing station, or another manufacturing plant.

c. Raw milk transporters operating under a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.29A shall not exceed the axle and gross weights specified in that section.

d. Compacted rubbish vehicles operating under a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.30 shall not exceed the axle and gross weights specified in that section.

2. The gross weight on any one axle of any vehicle or combination of vehicles traveling under a permit issued in accordance with this chapter shall not exceed the maximum axle load prescribed in section 321.463; except that any one axle on a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting special mobile equipment shall be allowed a one thousand pound weight tolerance, provided the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed the gross weight allowed by the permit.

3. Special mobile equipment, as defined in section 321.1, subsection 74, is not subject to the requirements for distance in feet between the extremes of any group of axles or the extreme axles of the vehicle or combination of vehicles as required by this chapter when being moved upon the highways if the operator has a permit issued under this chapter.

4. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2, a self-propelled implement of husbandry traveling under a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.8A may exceed the maximum axle loads prescribed under section 321.463 only when operated on a noninterstate highway in a county covered under the permit, provided the weight on any one axle does not exceed twenty-five thousand pounds, and provided the current and valid permit is carried in the vehicle. However, a vehicle traveling under a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.8A is not exempt from posted weight limitations on bridges.

321E.8 Annual permits.

Subject to the discretion and judgment provided for in section 321E.2, annual permits shall be issued in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Vehicles with indivisible loads, or manufactured or mobile homes including appurtenances, having an overall width not to exceed sixteen feet zero inches, an overall length not to exceed one hundred twenty feet zero inches, an overall height not to exceed fifteen feet five inches, and except for vehicles in compliance with section 321.463, subsection 5, paragraph *"c"*, subparagraph (1), a total gross weight not to exceed eighty thousand pounds, may be moved as follows:

a. Vehicles with indivisible loads, or manufactured or mobile homes including appurtenances, having an overall width not to exceed twelve feet five inches, an overall length not to exceed one hundred twenty feet zero inches, and an overall height not to exceed thirteen feet ten inches may be moved for unlimited distances without route approval from the permit-issuing authority.

b. Vehicles with indivisible loads, or manufactured or mobile homes including appurtenances, having an overall width not to exceed fourteen feet six inches, an overall length not to exceed one hundred twenty feet zero inches, and an overall height not to exceed fifteen feet five inches may be moved on the interstate highway system and primary highways with more than one lane traveling in each direction for unlimited distances and no more than fifty miles from the point of origin on all other highways without route approval from the permit-issuing authority.

321E.8A Self-propelled implement of husbandry — annual permit.

1. A self-propelled implement of husbandry equipped with flotation tires that is designed to be loaded and operated in the field and used exclusively for the application of organic or inorganic plant food materials, agricultural limestone, or agricultural chemicals, and that, as newly manufactured, exceeds the axle weight limits under section 321.463 when unloaded, may be operated on noninterstate highways in a county pursuant to a permit issued by the department for travel within the county, provided the vehicle does not violate posted weight limitations on bridges. Prior to issuing a permit, the department shall collect a fee of six hundred dollars for each county in which the vehicle will be operated during the period of the permit beginning July 1 and ending June 30, provided that a permit shall not be issued for a vehicle for operation in more than ten counties and the total amount of fees collected for a vehicle for the period of the permit shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars. Moneys collected by the department on behalf of the counties in which the vehicle will be operated shall be allotted equally to those counties and deposited in the secondary road funds of those counties. A vehicle for which a permit is issued under this section shall be assigned a permit number that shall be displayed on the door of the vehicle in numbers that contrast sharply in color with the background on which the number is placed, be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of fifty feet when the vehicle is stationary, and be maintained in a manner that retains the legibility. Only vehicles originally purchased or ordered prior to February 1, 2007, are eligible for a permit. New permits shall not be issued on or after July 1, 2007; however, a permit issued for a vehicle under this section prior to July 1, 2007, may be renewed for that vehicle annually upon payment of the appropriate county fees.

2. A vehicle described in subsection 1 shall not be operated on a highway without a permit issued under this section. The owner of a vehicle that is operated in violation of section 321E.7, subsection 4, or this section is subject to a civil penalty of ten thousand dollars, in addition to any other penalties that may apply.

321E.9 Single-trip permits.

Subject to the discretion and judgment provided for in section 321E.2, single-trip permits, which may include a round trip to and from a job or delivery site, shall be issued in accordance with the following provisions:

1. The maximum height, width, length, and weight of vehicles and loads operating under permits authorized by this section shall be limited to the maximum physical limitations and clearances of the roadway and infrastructure of the intended route of travel, provided that the gross weight on any one axle does not exceed the maximum prescribed in section 321.463, pursuant to rules adopted pursuant to chapter 17A. The permit-issuing authority shall make the final determination regarding the issuance of a permit and the suitability of the intended route based upon known roadway clearances and capacities. Permits shall be authorized only when the movement will not cause undue stress or damage to highway pavement, bridges, or other highway infrastructure. In addition to the dimension and weight limitations of an intended route, a permit-issuing authority shall consider the interests of public safety and, at the discretion of the permit-issuing authority, may deny the issuance of a permit when the intended movement of any vehicle or load poses a potential risk to the public.

2. Vehicles with indivisible loads may be moved in special or emergency situations, provided the permit-issuing authority has reviewed the route and has approved the movement of the vehicle and load. The permit-issuing authority may impose any special restrictions on movements as deemed necessary or exempt movements from the restrictions of section 321E.11 by permit under this subsection.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, cranes exceeding the maximum gross weight on any axle as prescribed in section 321.463 or 321E.7 and used in the construction of alternative energy facilities may be moved with approval from the permit-issuing authority.

321E.9A Multi-trip permits.

Subject to the discretion and judgment provided for in section 321E.2, a multi-trip permit shall be issued for operation of vehicles, in accordance with the following:

1. Vehicles with indivisible loads having an overall length not to exceed one hundred twenty feet, an overall width not to exceed sixteen feet, and a height not to exceed fifteen feet five inches may be moved on highways specified by the permit-issuing authority, provided the gross weight on any one axle shall not exceed the maximum prescribed in section 321.463 and the total gross weight is not greater than one hundred fifty-six thousand pounds.
2. Vehicles or combinations of vehicles consisting of special mobile equipment not exceeding the height, length, and width limitations of this section being temporarily moved on highways with a maximum total gross weight limitation and a single axle weight limitation in accordance with section 321E.7 may be moved.
3. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A governing the issuance of permits under this section.

321E.9B Special alternative energy multi-trip permit.

Subject to the discretion and judgment provided for in section 321E.2, a multi-trip permit shall be issued for operation of vehicles in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Vehicles with an indivisible load having an overall length not to exceed two hundred twenty-five feet, an overall width not to exceed sixteen feet, a height not to exceed sixteen feet, and a total gross weight not to exceed two hundred fifty-six thousand pounds may be moved on highways specified by the permit-issuing authority to an alternative energy construction site or staging area for alternative energy transportation, provided the gross weight on any one axle shall not exceed twenty thousand pounds.
2. The special alternative energy multi-trip permit shall not exceed twelve months in duration.
3. The permit-issuing authority shall have discretion to include restrictions and require special considerations, such as responsibility for protection or repair of the roadway and bridges, prior to issuance of the permit.

321E.10 Semitrailers and trailers manufactured in Iowa.

The department or local authorities may upon application issue annual permits for the movement of semitrailers and trailers manufactured or assembled in this state that exceed the maximum length specified in section 321.457 and the maximum width specified in section 321.454. Movement of the semitrailers and trailers shall be solely for the purpose of delivery or transfer from the point of manufacture or assembly to another point of manufacture or assembly within the state or to a point outside the state; shall be only on roadways of twenty-four feet or more in width or on four-lane highways; shall be on the most direct route necessary for such movement; and shall display the special plates designated in section 321.57. All semitrailers and trailers under permit for such movement shall not contain freight or additional load. A vehicle or combination of two or more vehicles inclusive of front and rear bumpers, including towing units, involved in the movement of semitrailers and trailers shall not exceed an overall width of ten feet.

321E.11 Movement under permit — penalty.

1. Movements under permit in accordance with this chapter shall be permitted only during the hours from thirty minutes prior to sunrise to thirty minutes following sunset unless the permit-issuing authority determines that the movement can be better accomplished at another period of time because of traffic volume or other roadway-related conditions or the vehicle subject to the permit qualifies for nighttime movement as specified in subsection 2.

2. A permitted vehicle which has an overall length not to exceed one hundred feet, an overall width not to exceed eleven feet, and an overall height not to exceed fourteen feet, six inches, may operate under permit from thirty minutes following sunset to thirty minutes prior to sunrise on primary and nonprimary highway system roadways that are at least twenty-two feet in total width with at least eleven feet of lane width. Vehicles operating under the provisions of this subsection shall be equipped with operating projecting-load lighting devices which are in addition to the required vehicle lighting and the signs, flags, and warning lights required for vehicles operating under permit. Additional safety lighting and escorts may be required for movement at night as determined by the permit-issuing authority.

3. Except as provided in section 321.457, no movement under permit shall be permitted on holidays, after 12:00 noon on days preceding holidays and holiday weekends, or special events when abnormally high traffic volumes can be expected. Such restrictions shall not be applicable to urban transit systems as defined in section 324A.1.

4. For the purposes of this chapter, *"holidays"* shall include Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

5. A person who violates this section commits a simple misdemeanor.

321E.14 Fees for permits.

1. Permit-issuing authorities may charge the following fees:

a. Fifty dollars for an annual permit issued pursuant to section 321E.8, subsection 1.

b. Four hundred dollars for an annual permit issued pursuant to section 321E.8, subsection 2.

c. Two hundred dollars for a multi-trip permit issued pursuant to section 321E.9A.

d. Six hundred dollars for a special alternative energy multi-trip permit issued pursuant to section 321E.9B.

e. Thirty-five dollars for a single-trip permit issued pursuant to section 321E.9.

f. Twenty-five dollars for an annual permit for special mobile equipment, as defined in section 321.1, subsection 74, issued pursuant to section 321E.7, subsection 3, with a combined gross weight of not more than eighty thousand pounds.

g. Twenty-five dollars for a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.29 or 321E.29A.

h. One hundred dollars for a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.30.

i. One hundred sixty dollars for an annual all-systems permit issued pursuant to section 321E.8, which shall be deposited in the road use tax fund.

2. Fees for the movement of buildings, parts of buildings, or unusual vehicles or loads may be increased to cover the costs of inspections by the permit-issuing authority.

3. A fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars per day or a prorated fraction of that fee per person and car for escort service may be charged when requested or when required under this chapter. Proration of escort fees between state and local authorities when more than one governmental authority provides or is required to provide escort for a movement during the period of a day shall be determined by rule under section 321E.15.

4. The department and local authorities may charge a permit applicant for the cost of trimming trees and removal and replacement of natural obstructions or official signs and

signals or other public or private property required to be removed during the movement of a vehicle and load.

321E.29 Excess size divisible load permits.

1. Vehicles or a combination of vehicles with divisible loads in excess of the width, length, or height requirements of chapter 321 may be moved on the highways of this state if the department or permit-issuing authority determines there is a special or emergency situation which warrants the issuance of a special permit. The combined gross weight or gross weight on any one axle or group of axles may exceed the limits established in section 321.463, subject to the limits and routes established by the permit-issuing authority.

2. Annual permits may be issued for vehicles with divisible loads of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding without a finding of special or emergency situations if the movement meets the requirements of this chapter, provided the following limits are not exceeded:

a. Overall width not to exceed twelve feet five inches.

b. Overall length not to exceed seventy-five feet.

c. Overall height not to exceed fourteen feet six inches.

d. Total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles not to exceed eighty thousand pounds.

321E.32 Movement of structures and other loads on dolly axles.

The movement of structures and other indivisible loads on dolly axles shall be subject to the same weight limits that apply to all other indivisible loads. However, when an indivisible load is moved and the transverse dolly axles under the load have a clear inside spacing of five feet or more, each axle shall be considered a separate axle in determining the axle weight limitations provided by law

321E.34 Escort requirements.

1. The operator of an escort vehicle serving as an escort in the movement of vehicles and loads of excess size and weight under permits required by this chapter shall have a driver's license as defined in section 321.1 valid for the operation of the escort vehicle.
2. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A for all escort requirements. The rules shall include operator requirements; escort vehicle requirements; and length, height, width, and weight requirements for the load or vehicle being moved under an annual or single-trip permit or in a special or emergency situation

321.453 Exceptions.

1. Except as provided in sections 321.463, 321.471, and 321.474, the provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and load and the permit requirements of chapter 321E do not apply to any of the following:

a. Fire apparatus.

b. Road maintenance equipment owned by, under lease to, or used in the performance of a contract with any state or local authority.

c. Implements of husbandry when moved or moving upon a highway that is not a portion of the interstate.

d. Equipment used primarily for construction of permanent conservation practices on agricultural land when moved or moving upon a highway that is not a portion of the interstate, so long as the equipment is without payload and the movement does not violate posted weight limitations on bridges.

2. A vehicle that is carrying an implement of husbandry or equipment used primarily for construction of permanent conservation practices and is exempted from the permit requirements under this section shall be equipped with an amber flashing light visible from the rear. If the amber flashing light is obstructed by the loaded implement or equipment, the loaded implement or equipment shall also be equipped with and display an amber flashing light. The vehicle shall also be equipped with warning flags on that portion of the vehicle which protrudes into oncoming traffic, and shall only operate from thirty minutes prior to sunrise to thirty minutes following sunset.

Form 442052
(01-14)

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 which have been or might be established on any bridge or road that is 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.

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 which include holidays that fall on Monday, except as provided for in Section 321.457 of the Code.

Any reportable accident involving a vehicle operating under permit must be reported in writing to the Director of the Office of Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services, P.O. Box 10382, Des Moines, IA 50306-0382.

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 an amber revolving light. The light must be at least 7" high and 7" in diameter, with at least a 100-candlepower lamp providing 360º warning (or a strobe light), and be mounted on top of the escort vehicle which must be burning while escorting a permit load. An 18" square red flag must be on each corner of the front bumper of the vehicle.

-- A rear escort is required when vehicle length exceeds 120 feet.

-- A rear escort is required when the width of the vehicle and load is over 16 feet 6 inches and travel is on 4 lane roadways.

-- A rear escort or an amber light or strobe light on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load when width exceeds one-half the roadway up to and including 16 feet 6 inches and travel is on 4 lane roadways.

-- A front escort is required when: Width is up to and including 14 feet 6 inches and exceeds one-half the roadway and travel is on 2 lane roadways with lane width less than 12 feet OR Width is up to and including 14 feet 6 inches and exceeds one-half the roadway and travel is on 2 lane roadways, with lane width 12 feet or more without sufficient shoulders OR Width is over 14 feet 6 inches and travel is on 2 lane roadways.

-- A front escort - or an amber light or strobe light on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load, when width is up to and including 14 feet 6 inches and exceeds one-half the roadway and travel is on 2 lane roadways with lane width 12 feet or more with sufficient shoulders.

-- A front escort with mounted height pole is required when height exceeds 14 feet 6 inches up to and including 20 feet. An escort but no height pole is required after 20 feet.

Lighting Requirements - An amber revolving light at least 7 inch high and 7 inch in diameter with at least a 100-candlepower lamp providing 360 degree warning (or strobe light) visible from front and rear, mounted on the towing unit is required when: Length exceeds 85 feet up to and including 120 feet OR Front-end projection exceeds 25 feet OR Rear-end projection exceeds 10 feet OR Weight exceeds 80,000 pounds. An escort can be used in lieu of amber light.

Signs and Flags - Signs and flags are required when a vehicle and load exceeds 75 feet in length, 8 feet 6 inches in width, and/or 14 feet 4 inches in height. In addition flags are required when the vehicle rear projection exceeds 4 feet. A sign reading "Oversize Load" must be at least 18 inches high by 7 feet long with a minimum of 12 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 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.

Definition of sufficient shoulder - A gravel or paved surface extending a minimum of 6 feet beyond the edge of the roadway.

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 which 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.

Telephone number for more information (515) 237-3264.

IOWA Code supercedes the rules of Chapter 511

CHAPTER 511
SPECIAL PERMITS FOR OPERATION AND MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES AND LOADS OF EXCESS SIZE AND WEIGHT

[Appeared as Ch 2, Highway Commission, 1973 IDR; amended in July 1974 and January and July 1975 Supplements]
[Previously numbered as (07,E) Ch 12, transferred at the request of the department on 10/8/75]
[Prior to 6/3/87, Transportation Department[820]—(07,F) Ch 2]

761—511.1(321E) Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Department" means the Iowa department of transportation.

"Dimensions" or *"size"* means length, width or height limits.

"Overdimensional" or *"oversize"* means the exceeding of statutory length, width or height limits.

"Permit" means a permit issued under Iowa Code chapter 321E for the movement of an overdimensional or overweight vehicle, combination of vehicles, or vehicle with load. The term includes any additions or supplements thereto issued by the permit-issuing authority.

"Permit-issuing authority" means the:

1. Department's office of motor carrier services for permits for movement on the primary system.
2. Authority responsible for the maintenance of a nonprimary system of highways or streets for permits for movement on that system. However, the office of motor carrier services may issue single-trip permits on primary road extensions in cities in conjunction with movement on the rural primary road system.

"Primary roads" or *"primary road system"* is defined in Iowa Code section 306.3. The primary road system includes the interstate road system.

511.15(3) *Requirements for escorts, flags, signs and lights.* The following chart explains the minimum escort and warning devices required for vehicles operating under permit.

Minimum Warning Devices and Escort Requirements
For Vehicles Operating Under Permit

	Flags/Signs	Lights	Escorts	
			4-Lane	2-Lane
Length				
75'1" up to and including 85'	✓	not required	not required	not required
Over 85' up to and including 120'	✓	✓	not required	not required
Over 120'	✓	not required	rear	rear
Projections				
Front: over 25'	not required	✓	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	✓	not required	not required
Height				
Over 14'4" up to and including 20'	✓	not required	front with a height pole	front with a height pole
Weight				
Over 80,000 lbs.	not required	✓	not required	not required

Width				Lane Width Less than 12'	Lane Width 12' and more
Over 8'6" up to half the roadway	✓	not required	not required	not required	not required
Over half the roadway, up to and including 14'6"					
with sufficient shoulders	✓	not required	rear *	front	front *
without sufficient shoulders	✓	not required	rear *	front	front
Over 14'6" up to and including 16'6"	✓	not required	rear *	front	front
Over 16'6" up to and including 18'	✓	not required	rear	front	front

*In lieu of an escort, a carrier can display an amber light or strobe light on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load.

✓Required

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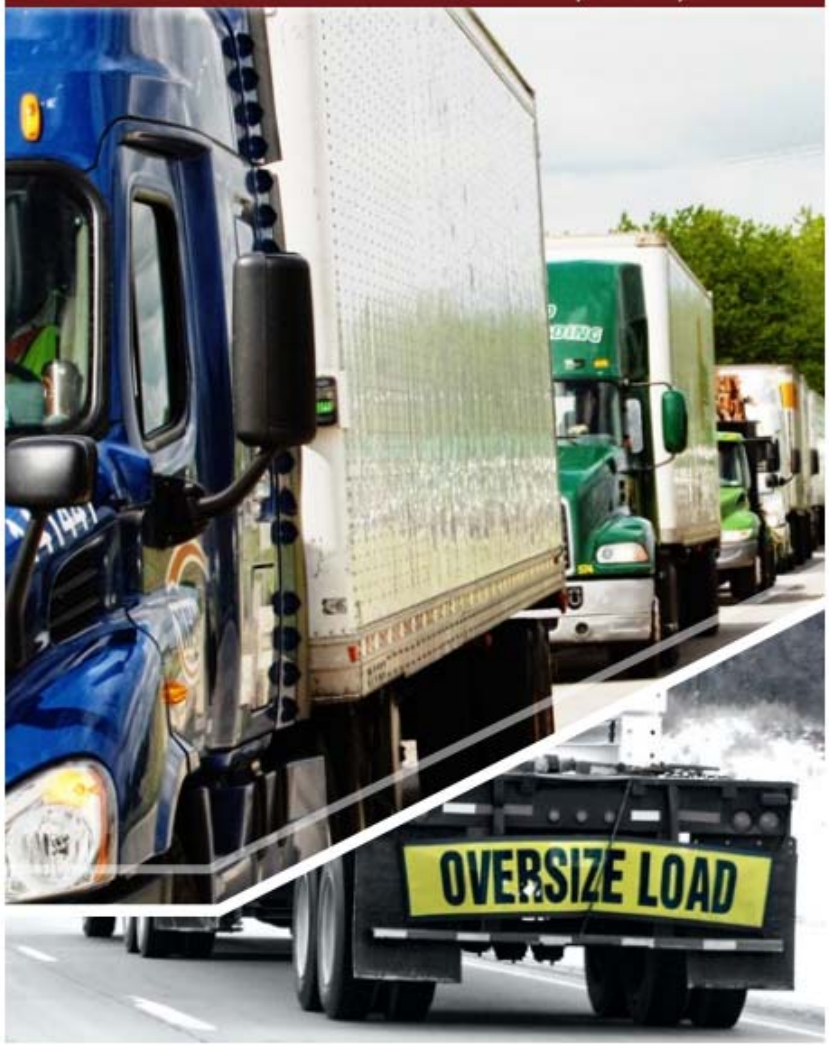
www.iowadot.gov/**mvd/motorcarriers/default.htm**

IOWA TRUCK INFORMATION GUIDE

July 2015-July 2016 Edition



Primary Highway System

Maximum weights for vehicles on the Interstate Highway System, and noninterstate federal and state highways

Table 3

Distance in feet between axle centers	Number of consecutive axles					
	Two axles	Three axles	Four axles	Five axles	Six axles	Seven axles
4	34,000	34,000				
5	34,000	34,000				
6	34,000	34,000				
7	34,000	34,000				
8	34,000	34,000				
8'1"	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500	48,500			
11	40,000	44,000	49,500			
12	40,000	45,000	50,000			
13	40,000	45,500	50,500	56,000		
14	40,000	46,500	51,500	57,000		
15	40,000	47,000	52,000	57,500		
16	40,000	48,000	52,500	58,000		
17	40,000	48,500	53,500	58,500	64,000	
18	40,000	49,500	54,000	59,000	65,000	
19	40,000	50,000	54,500	60,000	65,500	
20	40,000	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	71,500
21	40,000	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	72,500
22	40,000	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	73,000
23	40,000	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	73,500
24	40,000	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
25	40,000	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26	40,000	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27	40,000	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	76,000
28	40,000	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29	40,000	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30	40,000	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31	40,000	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32	40,000	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33	40,000	60,000	64,000	68,500	74,000	79,500
34	40,000	60,000	64,500	69,500	74,500	80,000
35	40,000	60,000	65,500	70,000	75,000	80,000
36	40,000	60,000	68,000	70,500	75,500	80,000
37	40,000	60,000	68,000	71,000	76,000	80,000
38	40,000	60,000	68,000	72,000	77,000	80,000
39	40,000	60,000	68,000	72,500	77,500	80,000
40	40,000	60,000	68,500	73,000	78,000	80,000
41	40,000	60,000	69,500	73,500	78,500	80,000
42	40,000	60,000	70,000	74,000	79,000	80,000
43	40,000	60,000	70,500	75,000	80,000	80,000
44	40,000	60,000	71,500	75,500	80,000	80,000
45	40,000	60,000	72,000	76,000	80,000	80,000
46	40,000	60,000	72,500	76,500	80,000	80,000
47	40,000	60,000	73,500	77,500	80,000	80,000
48	40,000	60,000	74,000	78,000	80,000	80,000
49	40,000	60,000	74,500	78,500	80,000	80,000
50	40,000	60,000	75,500	79,000	80,000	80,000
51	40,000	60,000	76,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
52	40,000	60,000	76,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
53	40,000	60,000	77,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
54	40,000	60,000	78,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
55	40,000	60,000	78,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
56	40,000	60,000	79,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
57	40,000	60,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000

Other than a special farm plated truck, CMVs with six or seven axles operating on noninterstate highways may also use Table 2.

Agricultural operations

Implements of husbandry

An implement of husbandry is a vehicle or special mobile equipment designed or reconstructed for agricultural purposes and used exclusively in an agricultural operation. Implements of husbandry may be self-propelled or towed vehicles. Motor trucks, truck-tractors, pickups, farm trailers, and semitrailers are not implements of husbandry, except for some self-propelled ag-lime and fertilizer spreaders and semitrailers that are reconstructed and used exclusively for agricultural purposes. The vehicles on the following list are considered to be implements of husbandry. This list should not be considered to exclude other vehicles that may also meet the definition.

- Combines
- Farm tractors, wheeled or tracked
- Fertilizer and chemical applicators
- Fence-line feeders
- Grain carts
- Gravity-flow grain wagons
- Tank wagons

Maximum speed for implements of husbandry

All self-propelled implements of husbandry must be operated on public highways at speeds 35 mph or less. Failure to operate at 35 mph or less will result in the loss of all implement of husbandry exemptions and may lead to significant penalties. Towed implements of husbandry are not restricted to 35 mph, but must be operated safely at or below posted speed limits and must comply with any speed ratings or restrictions on the implement tires, if so marked.

Slow-moving vehicle signs

Every farm tractor, farm tractor towing equipment, self-propelled implement, or special mobile equipment operated on the highway at speeds 35 mph or less must be equipped and properly display a reflective slow-moving vehicle sign that meets the American Society of Agricultural Engineers standards. The sign must be visible to the rear of the implement or combination at all times, day or night. When towed implements of husbandry are operated at speeds greater than 35 mph, the sign must be removed or hidden from view.

Implements on roadways

All vehicles operating on public roadways, including implements of husbandry regardless of width, must yield one-half of the roadway to other traffic.

Driven implements on bridges

When a bridge has a posted weight limit, that weight limit applies to all vehicles or combinations, including implements of husbandry being driven on or attempting to drive on a bridge.

The weight limit on the bridge applies to the gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, not just that portion of the vehicle or combination that is positioned on the structure while crossing.

Simply stated, all vehicles, including driven and towed implements of husbandry must comply with posted bridge weight limits.

Implements of husbandry transported on hauling units that are being taken for repair are not required to comply with posted bridge weight limits.

Implements and roadway embargoes

The state, counties and cities are authorized to embargo public highways as needed to protect the roadway from excessive damage due to seasonal or climatic changes. Weight embargoes must be posted and signed by the government agency with jurisdiction over the roadway. Driven implements of husbandry and implements transported on hauling units taken for repair are excepted from roadway weight embargoes.

Roadway and bridge summary chart

A chart summarizing when different types of vehicles, including implements of husbandry, can legally operate on embargoed roadways and weight limited bridges is located in the **vehicle weight section** of this book.

Farm Safety Initiative

For information on agricultural operations and commercial vehicle laws, visit the Iowa DOT's Farm Safety Initiative website: **www.iowadot.gov/farmersafety**.

Milk Products (Section 1409)

- The FAST Act amends 23 U.S.C. 127(a) to establish that a vehicle carrying fluid milk products shall be considered a load that cannot be easily dismantled or divided (non-divisible). States may, therefore, issue permits for such vehicles, in accordance with State law, to exceed the gross weight limit of 80,000 pounds or the maximum weight allowed by the Federal Bridge Formula. [23 U.S.C. 127(a)(13)]

DIVISION IV

OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT MOTOR VEHICLES

Sec. 35. Section 321E.7, subsection 1, Code 2016, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Vehicles operating under a permit issued pursuant to section 321E.8, 321E.9, or 321E.9A may have a gross weight not to exceed forty-six thousand pounds on a single tandem axle of the truck tractor and a gross weight not to exceed forty-six thousand pounds on a single tandem axle of the trailer or semitrailer if each axle of each tandem group has at least four tires.

Questions ?