



SEASONAL PERMIT POLICY  
NDHP Motor Carrier Operations  
Ref: 9-16 (12/08)

## PURPOSE

To establish guidelines when seasonal permits will be issued for commercial haystack and hay bale movers, overwidth and/or overweight self-propelled fertilizer spreaders, overwidth and/or overweight self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators, overwidth hay grinders, overwidth grain cleaners, and overwidth forage harvesters that are exempt from width limitations so they can be moved upon the highways of the state of North Dakota.

## POLICY STATEMENT

As authorized by sections 39-12-04 and 39-12-05.3 NDCC, the NDHP will issue seasonal permits in lieu of single trip permits for overwidth movements of hay in the stack, hay bales, hay grinders, grain cleaners, forage harvesters, fertilizer spreaders and agricultural chemical applicators being transported by another vehicle, and for overwidth and overweight movements of self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators operating under their own power.

## PROCEDURE

### A. Travel Restrictions

1. Seasonal permits shall not authorize movements from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, except self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators operating under their own power.
2. Movement is not authorized when inclement weather prevails, highways are slippery, or when visibility is poor.
3. Haystacks and hay bales must be moved along the extreme right edge of roadway.
4. Seasonal permits do not authorize movement of haystacks and hay bales on I-29 and I-94 when using haystack moving equipment. If no alternate routes are available, a \$20 single trip permit may be issued provided a pilot car follows the movement.

### B. Size Limitations

1. The seasonal permits issued for stackmovers will show "**EXEMPT**" on the width. All other types of vehicles used for hauling hay bales will be restricted to 12 feet in overall width, except trailers designed specifically for hauling hay bales shall not exceed 12 feet 10 inches wide including the loading arm (trailer extensions must be retracted when unladen).
2. The seasonal permits issued for haystack moving equipment will show 17 feet 6 inches in height. All other types of vehicles or vehicle combinations hauling hay will be restricted to 15 feet in overall height.
3. Legal length for **truck-mounted** haystack moving equipment is 56 feet.
4. Vehicle combinations exceeding 75 feet in overall length must travel on highways that are designated state and US highways, to include the interstate system.

### C. Axle weight limitations on self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled chemical applicators operating under their own power.

1. The maximum permissible weight on a single axle shall not exceed 22,000 pounds gross weight, whether empty or loaded.
  - a. The weight per inch width of tire shall not exceed 550 pounds.

- b. Travel is not allowed on the interstate system when the gross weight on a single axle exceeds 20,000 pounds.
- D. Flagging requirements for self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators whether being operated under their own power or being transported by another vehicle, hay grinders, grain cleaners, forage harvesters, and vehicles or combinations of vehicles hauling hay bales if they do not exceed 14 feet 6 inches in overall width.
1. Red or bright orange flags shall be mounted on the most practical outside dimension on the traffic side of the overwidth vehicle or load, front and rear. If one flag is visible from both the front and rear, only one flag would be required. All flags shall be made of red or bright orange cloth or other suitable material and shall be at least 12 inches by 12 inches in size, or
  2. The overwidth movement may be followed by a pilot car equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that is visible from the rear for a minimum 500 feet, or
  3. The overwidth vehicle itself, or vehicle towing or hauling an overwidth load, may be equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that is visible from the rear for a minimum 500 feet.
- E. Flagging requirements for haystack moving equipment or any other vehicle or load exempt from width limitations that **exceeds** 14 feet 6 inches in overall width.
1. Red or bright orange flag that is at least 12 inches by 12 inches in size shall be mounted on a pole showing the extreme outside width and height on the traffic side of the load. If one flag is not clearly visible from the front and rear, then flags must be mounted on both the front and rear of the vehicle; or
  2. The overwidth movement shall be preceded and followed by pilot cars equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) mounted on top of the highest part of the vehicle that is visible for a minimum 500 feet; or
  3. The vehicle, or vehicle towing or hauling the load, shall be equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that is visible from the front and rear for a minimum 500 feet.
- F. Sign Requirements
1. When the overall length of a vehicle combination exceeds 75 feet in length, there must be a minimum 12" X 60" OVERSIZE LOAD sign on the rear. The lettering must be black on yellow background. Letters must be at least 8 inches high with 1- inch brush stroke (trailer and load length cannot exceed 53 feet).
- G. Vehicle hazard warning signal lamp requirements for self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators traveling between sunset and sunrise.
1. Vehicular hazard warning signal lamps used to display warning to the front must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and must display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display warning to the rear must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and must show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights must be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet in normal sunlight.
- H. Commercial haystack movers who have a seasonal permit in possession may also haul hay bales.
- I. A North Dakota farmer or rancher moving his or her own hay (bales or haystacks) is not required to have a

seasonal permit or single trip permit, regardless of what type of equipment is used. A farm truck with mounted haystack moving equipment is considered an implement of husbandry and exempt from registration.

- J. Towing vehicle must have two mirrors to reflect a rear view of 200 feet to the driver.
- K. Trailer extensions must be retracted (folded) when empty.
- L. All commercial oversize vehicles must be equipped in accordance with the requirements and specifications of Parts 393 and 396 of 49CFR.
- M. A seasonal permit shall be in lieu of registration requirements during the period covered by such permit. This exemption does not include trucks pulling trailers or truck-tractor semitrailer combinations. It does not exempt a nonresident commercial mover from trip permits. A seasonal permit does not exempt trucks pulling trailers or truck-tractor semitrailer combinations from the interstate permit when exceeding 80,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight and traveling on I-29 or I-94.
- N. Application Procedure
  - 1. Seasonal permits can be purchased online at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp) or obtained from the Highway Patrol permit section. Applications can be made in person, by mail, or to any highway patrol officer.
    - a. SFN 3527, Application for North Dakota Seasonal Permit, must be completed as follows:
      - 1) Applicant's name, address, telephone number, and email address.
      - 2) Indicate whether application is new or renewal. If it is a renewal and there are no changes from the previous year, the application does not have to be filled out. Write the previous year's number on the receipt.
      - 3) Check the type of vehicle.
      - 4) Description of power unit: type, unit number, year, make, license number and state, and serial number (VIN – minimum 8 digits).
      - 5) Description of towed unit: type, serial number (VIN – minimum 8 digits) when applicable, and description of load.
      - 6) Overall dimensions of vehicle or vehicle combination.
      - 7) Check the total number of axles on the power unit and towed unit (when applicable).
      - 8) Indicate the number of tires per axle, tire width, and axle spacings.
      - 9) Axle weight(s) that exceed legal limits on self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators operating under their own power.
    - b. Seasonal permits for hauling hay can be issued to truck-mounted stack movers, towed stack movers, towed bale handlers, trucks, or other legal vehicle combinations.
    - c. An insurance certificate **must** be submitted showing proof of liability and property damage coverage of not less than \$300,000. The certificate must include the insured's name, name of the insurance company, policy number, and policy expiration date.
      - 1) An official receipt showing the required insurance information shall be acceptable as an insurance certificate. The carrier must sign the official receipt/permit acknowledging the information is correct.
    - d. Seasonal permits expire December 31 but are considered valid through January 31 of the following year.
    - e. If an application for a seasonal permit is made to a highway patrol officer, upon payment of the \$50 fee, Official Receipt/Permit (SFN 3507) can be used as a temporary seasonal permit for 30 days.

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2. The permit fee for each seasonal permit is \$50.
3. Application forms for seasonal permits can be obtained by visiting the NDHP website at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp) or from the North Dakota Highway Patrol, Motor Carrier Operations, 600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept. 504, Bismarck, ND 58505-0240. The telephone number is 701-328-2621.