



PERMIT POLICY FOR MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES AND LOADS THAT ARE  
OVERWIDTH ONLY (EXCLUDES HAY, STRAW, MANUFACTURED HOMES)  
NDHP Motor Carrier Division  
Ref: 9-6 Annex F (04/2014)

## PURPOSE

To establish guidelines when permits will be issued for vehicles or loads exceeding legal width for movement on the state highway system.

## POLICY STATEMENT

As authorized by section 39-12-02 NDCC and Article 38-06 NDAC, the NDHP will issue annual permits, when good cause is shown, for the movement of overwidth vehicles and loads that do not exceed 14 feet 6 inches.

The following procedures outline the requirements and methods for issuing permits for overwidth movements.

## PROCEDURE

### A. Permit Requirements

1. Permits must be in possession prior to starting any movement. They shall contain such other restrictions as deemed necessary by the NDHP or NDDOT engineers. The NDHP has the authority to revoke permits when the holder violates or abuses the privilege or conditions of the permits.
2. General travel restrictions.
  - a. Annual permits shall not be issued for overwidth movements from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise unless:
    - 1) Ten feet or less in width, or
    - 2) Approved by the Superintendent.
  - b. Annual permits shall not authorize movements when inclement weather prevails, highways are slippery, or when visibility is poor.
  - c. Annual permits do not authorize travel on shoulders of road.
  - d. Overwidth vehicles and load movements shall allow traffic to pass.
  - e. All permits shall require a minimum distance of 1,000 feet between vehicles in a convoy of two or more vehicles.
  - f. An annual permit may be issued for up to 14 feet 6 inches in width.
    - 1) The permit is not valid when axle/gross weights exceed posted limits or legal weight limits.
    - 2) The permit is not valid when height or length exceeds legal limits.
  - g. Annual overwidth permits cannot be used for the movement of hay, straw, or manufactured homes.
3. General safety requirements.
  - a. All overwidth vehicles and loads shall have minimum 18 inch by 18 inch red or bright orange flags displayed on the traffic side front and rear.
  - b. Overwidth movements authorized to travel at night require:
    - 1) Clearance lights visible from the front, rear, and side, marking the outermost portion of the vehicle and load which extends beyond 8 feet 6 inches.
    - 2) One rotating or two flashing amber light(s) mounted above the cab visible at a distance not less than 500 feet.
      - a) When lights on the cab are not visible to the rear, additional flashing amber lights are required at the rear.
    - 3) Lights shall be SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) approved Class 1 lights and reflectors.
    - 4) Vehicle must be capable of traveling at the posted highway speed.
  - c. When the overall length of an overwidth movement exceeds 75 feet in length, there shall be at least a 12" x 60" **OVERSIZE LOAD** sign on the rear. The lettering shall be black on yellow background. The letters shall be at least 8 inches high with 1-inch brush stroke. The sign shall be covered or removed when the movement is not overdimensional.
    - 1) The length of the trailer or semitrailer including the load shall not exceed 53 feet and the length of a towed vehicle shall not exceed 60 feet.
  - d. When the load extends beyond the bed or body of the vehicle to the rear by four feet or more, a 12" x 12" red flag shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load.
  - e. Towing vehicle must have two mirrors to reflect a rear view of 200 feet to the driver.

- f. All commercial oversize vehicles must be equipped in accordance with the requirements and specifications of Parts 393 and 396 of 49CFR.
4. General size limitations.
  - a. Construction and building contractors' equipment and vehicles used to move such equipment are exempt from width limitations not to exceed ten feet in width when being moved by contractors or resident carriers. Housemovers' vehicles and equipment and specialized oil field vehicles commonly referred to as rig up trucks or jin trucks are considered construction equipment.
  - b. **ALL VERTICAL CLEARANCES SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERMITTEE.**
  - c. Road construction may limit overwidth movements on some highways. Contact the Highway Patrol Permit Office for width restrictions or visit the NDDOT Construction Services website at [www.dot.nd.gov/travel](http://www.dot.nd.gov/travel).
5. Government and emergency vehicles.
  - a. Governmental road maintenance equipment, North Dakota National Guard equipment, and emergency vehicles will be permitted on individual specifications or where emergencies necessitate.
6. Crossing state highways.
  - a. For movements that are overwidth only, permits **are not** required.
7. Movement over railroad crossings/tracks.
  - a. In the event of an emergency involving BNSF Railroad crossings/tracks, immediately call 1-800-832-5452 for assistance.
  - b. In the event of an emergency involving Red River Valley & Western Railroad crossings/tracks, immediately call 1-800-747-4919 for assistance.
8. Liability of permittee.
  - a. The applicant or permittee, as a condition for obtaining an annual overwidth permit, shall assume all responsibility for accidents, damage, or injury to any persons or damage to public or private property caused by the movement of any overwidth vehicle or load covered by the permit while upon public highways of the state.
  - b. The applicant or permittee agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the North Dakota Department of Transportation, the North Dakota Highway Patrol, their officers and employees from any and all claims resulting directly or indirectly from the movement of an overwidth vehicle or load on any public highway of the state of North Dakota.

#### B. Application Procedure

1. Annual permits for vehicles and loads up to 14 feet 6 inches in width can be purchased online at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp), click on E-Permits.
2. Information required to obtain a permit:
  - a. Company name, address, city, state, zip code, e-mail address, and telephone number.
  - b. Description of power unit: year, make, North Dakota registered gross vehicle weight (when applicable), serial number, license number and state, description of load, and overall width.
3. Permits can also be obtained from the Highway Patrol Permit Office, motor carrier inspectors, or troopers.
  - a. Applications to the Permit Office may be made in person, by mail, e-mail, telephone, or through a permit service company.
  - b. Applications may also be made with a trooper or motor carrier inspector, in person or by telephone.
4. A legible electronic or paper copy of the permit must be in possession prior to entering North Dakota or starting movement.
  - a. The applicant/driver is responsible for complying with the travel restrictions and safety requirements listed on the receipt/permit.
  - b. Violating provisions and conditions on an annual overwidth permit can result in voiding the permit.

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5. Each annual permit shall be company name and vehicle (power unit) specific, and they are not transferrable.
6. Annual overwidth permits expire December 31. The first four digits of the permit/receipt number will indicate if the permit is valid. For example: permit number 2014000001 would be issued for the calendar year 2014.
7. Permit fees.
  - a. \$100 for each annual overwidth permit (SFN 3507, Receipt/Permit).
  - b. \$20 for each annual overwidth permit (SFN 3507, Receipt/Permit) used for movement of a noncommercial fish house trailer moved by the owner.
  - c. Official, publicly-owned, emergency, or military vehicles shall not be required to pay charges for permits. (No fee to commercial hauler doing charity hauling.)
  - d. \$5 faxing fee.
8. Annual overwidth permits can be purchased online at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp), click on E-Permits. Application forms can be obtained from the North Dakota Highway Patrol, Permit Office, 600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept. 504, Bismarck, ND 58505-0240. The telephone number is 701-328-2621. The e-mail address is [ndhppermits@nd.gov](mailto:ndhppermits@nd.gov).