Oversize/Overweight Permit Manual

North Carolina

Foreword

The Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association is pleased to publish this Oversize/Overweight Permit Manual. Each state analysis includes information in a standardized format: contact, legal limits, special permit limits, general restrictions, types of permits available, fees, escort needs, fines, and restricted travel areas. Telephone numbers, locations, and hours of operation are listed for ports of entry and permit branches. However, readers are always advised to check with the state offices on current laws and procedures. This project could not have been completed without the advice and consultation of many state officials. We thank all of those who provided permit manuals, maps, laws, regulations, and various other forms of documentation.

Legal Notice

This SC&RA Oversize/Overweight Permit Manual is intended only to provide concise, easily read information, useful in planning movements of overdimensional and overweight loads. This Permit Manual is not intended to be an accurate summary of all the applicable laws and regulations. Users of the Permit Manual should confirm the information contained herein before dispatching vehicles and loads. The SC&RA cautions Permit Manual users that state laws and regulations are subject to change without notice, and that some time elapses between the effective date of such changes and the amendment of the Permit Manual to reflect those changes. The SC&RA assumes no responsibility for accident, injury, loss or claim, penalties or any other damage resulting from reliance on the contents of this Permit Manual.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialized Carriers &amp; Rigging Association</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5870 Trinity Parkway, Suite 200</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Centreville, VA 20120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE: (703) 698-0291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (571) 722-1698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.scranet.org">www.scranet.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@scranet.org">info@scranet.org</a></td>
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# NORTH CAROLINA

## CONTACT
Department of Transportation  
Oversize/Overweight Permit Office  
1425 Rock Quarry Road, Suite 109-110  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
Website:  [www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits](http://www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits)  
Hours: 7:30am – 5:00pm  
Toll Free:  1-888-574-6683  
Local:  (919) 733-7154  
Fax:  Toll Free 1-888-222-8347  
Local Fax:  (919) 733-7828 or (919) 733-7921  
7:30am – 4:00pm (Telephone Requests)  
Online Permitting:  [https://permitweb.dot.state.nc.us/](https://permitweb.dot.state.nc.us/)

## LEGAL LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WIDTH</th>
<th>HEIGHT</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVW</td>
<td>80,000*</td>
<td>8'6”</td>
<td>(all highways)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o (steer)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>13'6”</td>
<td>single unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>41’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ooo</td>
<td>Federal Bridge Formula Applies</td>
<td></td>
<td>28’ doubles only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60’ overall length (truck/trailer combo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Federal Bridge Formula Applies

**TOLERANCE:** Included in weights

Exception: Truck tractor/48’ semi-trailer combination with no overall length limitation is allowed on all roads and truck tractor/53 foot semi-trailer combination, with no overall length limitation is allowed on all NC primary (NC, US and Interstate) routes unless restricted.

- 60’ autotransporter (plus 5’ overhang)

**OVERHANG:** >4’ must display 18”x18” red or orange flag at rear of load  
Maximum overhang - 14’

## PERMIT LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WIDTH</th>
<th>HEIGHT</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o (steer)</td>
<td>20,000 lbs.</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>determined by route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>25,000 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>no set limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo</td>
<td>50,000 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tridem</td>
<td>60,000 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more</td>
<td>68,000 lbs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 axles</td>
<td>112,000 lbs. (94,500 – wheelbase &lt; 51’)</td>
<td>132,000 lbs. – maximum allowable weight for sealed ship containers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 axles</td>
<td>120,000 lbs. (108,000 – wheelbase &lt; 51’)</td>
<td>&gt;132,000 lbs. is considered a superload requiring engineering review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 axles</td>
<td>132,000 lbs. (122,000 – wheelbase &lt; 51’)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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NC-2 04/15  
SC&RA Oversize/Overweight Permit Manual
PERMIT RESTRICTIONS

General - A Single Trip Permit is valid for ten days. Travel is permitted between sunrise and sunset Monday through Saturday. No travel is permitted on Sunday or major holidays. Sunday travel may be authorized from sunrise to sunset after consideration of the overall permitted dimensions and the justification for the move. Permitted vehicle combinations not exceeding 112,000 lbs. gross weight and legal dimensions will be granted continuous travel, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Vehicle operators may haul blades to scrapers, graders, etc. attached provided that the overall width of the vehicle does not exceed 14’. Blades over 14’ in width must be removed, but may still be hauled on the same load and not considered a divisible load.

Self-propelled equipment must fax to the state a drawing showing axle weights, spacings, company name, serial number and amount of overhang (front & rear).

Divisible load permits are not available.

Insurance — Required to have minimum coverage consistent with federal requirements ($750,000-$5,000,000, depending upon commodity). ICC-regulated common carriers must file Form BMC-91X with state DOT. ICC-regulated contract and ICC-exempt carriers must file Form E only with state DOT.

Weekend/Night Travel – No travel is permitted on Sunday or major holidays unless otherwise authorized on the permit. Permitted vehicle combinations not exceeding 112,000 lbs. gross weight and legal dimensions will be granted continuous travel, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

General Commodities/Self Propelled Equipment
Monday through Saturday – sunrise to sunset – no Sunday travel unless otherwise stated on the permit. 12-foot to 14-foot Mobile/Manufactured Home
Monday through Saturday – sunrise to sunset – no Sunday travel unless otherwise stated on the permit. 16-foot Mobile/Manufactured Home
Monday through Saturday – 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
On oversize loads with width greater than 12 feet, travel prohibited within a 10-mile radius of the city limits of Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill between 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.
Continuous travel – (24 hours/seven days) is authorized if:
• the permitted gross weight does not exceed 112,000 pounds, and
• no overdimension of width, length or height is part of the permitted movement.

Single Trip Permit Information Required — Load description; exact origin, detailed routes and exact destination; truck license; overall vehicle dimensions; gross weight; axle weights; axle spacings; effective date; method by which permit to be transmitted.

Holiday Travel –

DATES PERMIT OFFICE CLOSED
New Year’s Day January 1, 2013
Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday January 21, 2013
Good Friday March 29, 2013
Memorial Day May 27, 2013
Independence Day July 4, 2013
Labor Day September 2, 2013
Veteran’s Day November 11, 2013
Thanksgiving November 28 & 29, 2013
Christmas December 24, 25 & 26, 2013
### TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Will be authorized on North Carolina highways from \textbf{noon Monday, December 31, 2012} until \textbf{noon Wednesday, January 2, 2013}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday</td>
<td>Travel is authorized by prior issued permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Travel is authorized by prior issued permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Will be authorized on North Carolina highways from \textbf{noon Friday, May 24, 2013} until \textbf{noon Tuesday, May 28, 2013}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Will be authorized on North Carolina highways from \textbf{noon Wednesday, July 3, 2013} until \textbf{noon Friday, July 5, 2013}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Will be authorized on North Carolina highways from \textbf{noon Friday, August 30, 2013} until \textbf{noon Tuesday, September 3, 2013}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Day</td>
<td>Travel is authorized by prior issued permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Will be authorized on North Carolina highways from \textbf{noon Wednesday, November 27, 2013} until \textbf{noon Friday, November 29, 2013}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>No travel for overwidth, overheight or overlength permitted vehicle/vehicle combinations or vehicle combinations with a gross weight exceeding 112,000 lbs. Will be authorized on North Carolina highways from \textbf{noon Tuesday, December 24, 2013} until \textbf{noon Thursday, December 26, 2013}.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inclement Weather** – No move shall be made when weather conditions render visibility less than 500 feet for a person or vehicle. Moves shall not be made when highway is covered with snow or ice or at any time travel conditions are considered unsafe by the Division of Highways, State Highway Patrol or other Law Enforcement Officers having jurisdiction.

### PERMIT TYPES

**Single Trip** — \textbf{Fee} $12 - $48 (state fee)  
\textbf{Valid} 10 calendar days for one single trip  
\textbf{Width} 15 feet maximum (mobile home may be permitted up to 16 feet)  
\textbf{Length} No overall length limitations, with the following exception:  
105 feet maximum for mobile homes/total combination  
\textbf{Height} Maximum determined by vertical clearance along authorized route of travel
Annual Oversize and/or Overweight — Valid for one year from effective date.

**Fee** $100 per vehicle (non-divisible general commodities)
$200 per vehicle (mobile homes)

**Valid** One year from effective date

**Width** 12 feet maximum* (14 feet farm equipment)

**Length** 105 feet hauling one item commodity or truck tractor/48-feet semi-trailer combination hauling multiple commodities in line (not route specific)
53 feet semi-trailer combination hauling multiple commodities in line (route specific - primary routes only)
60 feet with truck/trailer combination hauling multiple commodities in line
105-feet toter/mobile home combination

**Height** 13 feet 6 inches (legal)

**Overweight** Minimum 51-foot wheelbase, *(One item)* vehicle combinations can qualify for movement up to 90,000 pounds. *(Travel not authorized on posted roads or posted bridges.)*
Over 90,000 pounds, route specific *(exact origin, detailed route and destination).*

**Self-Propelled Equipment**
The original permit request — annual or single trip permit — for cranes or off-road equipment must include schematics of the unit including axle spacings, axle weights, gross weight, width, overall length and length of front and/or rear overhang.
The maximum permitted gross weight varies depending on extreme wheelbase and axle grouping measurement.

**FEES**

**Single Trip Permit** - $12 for each dimension over lawful dimensions including length, width, height and weight.

**Superload Permit** - $12 for each dimension over lawful dimensions including length, width, height or weight will be charged in addition to a fee of $3.00 per 1,000 lbs over 132,000 lbs gross weight. A non-refundable application fee of $100 is due and payable when application is submitted for review (width less than 17 feet wide is not charged an application fee).

**Annual Permit** - $100 per vehicle.

**ESCORTS AND SIGNS**

**Labeling** — Red or orange flags measuring 18” square. Yellow 7’ x 18” banners with 10” high 1-1/2” black brush stroke lettering bearing the legend "OVERSIZE LOAD" or "WIDE LOAD" on all loads 10’ wide or greater.

All escort vehicles must have an amber flashing light with minimum 5” diameter base with minimum 4” lens on top of escort vehicle.
**Escort Vehicles and Personnel** — One lead escort is required for a vehicle over 12’ in width on any two-lane road. Vehicles traveling on four-lane highways needing only one escort for overwidth must have that escort following the load. Two escorts are required for vehicles over 14’ in width. Front pole car escort required for loads over 14’5” high. Rear escort required for length over 110’. Front and rear escort required for length at or over 150’.

Escorts may be required at anytime at the discretion of the issuing agent.
No driver or passenger other than a certified escort vehicle operator is allowed to travel in the escort vehicle.

**Size/Weight** — Must be a vehicle weighing more than 2,000 pounds gross weight with a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) less than 17,000 lbs. Escort vehicle is not authorized to tow a trailer.
**Identification** — Shall display placards or an identification sign measuring at least 8” x 12” providing escort company’s or individual’s name and telephone number and shall be displayed on the right and left side of the power unit.
**Headlamps** — Must be burning during movement.
**Height Pole Indicator** — Required for front escort vehicle for overheight moves in excess of 14’5”.
**Radio** — Two way radio contact with power unit of mobile/modular combination.
**Stop/Slow Paddle** — The sign shall be at least 18” x 18” with 6” high letters, octagonal, and should be mounted on a rigid handle. For more visibility, a 24” x 24” sign size or a high-intensity flashing stop/slow paddle may be used.
**Vest/High Visibility Clothing** — Shall wear an approved safety vest, shirt, or coat while flagging. Approved colors are orange, yellow, yellow-green, or fluorescent versions of these colors.
**Channelization Devices** — At least three bi-directional retro reflective triangles, with minimum 17” arm length and minimum arm width of 2”.
**Fire Extinguisher** — Minimum five lb., Type “BC” or “ABC”. It is recommended to use an extinguisher with a metal head, as plastic heads lose pressure more easily.

**Certification** — All escort vehicle operators are required to obtain an approved escort certification prior to performing the duties of an oversize/overweight load escort vehicle operator in North Carolina. Certified Escort Vehicle Operator Training provided by the North Carolina Community College System.
Contact the Permit Unit at (919) 733 4740 or visit the website at [www.ncdot.org/osowpermits](http://www.ncdot.org/osowpermits) to obtain a list of the colleges.

### FINES

All permit violations are assessed civil penalties due and payable at the time of inspection.

**Overweight Single or Tandem Axle** —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axle Weight</th>
<th>Fine Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 1,000</td>
<td>$.04 per pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,001 – 2,000</td>
<td>$.06 per pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 2,000</td>
<td>$.10 per pound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Axle Groups** —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axle Weight</th>
<th>Fine Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 2,000</td>
<td>$.02 per pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,001 – 5,000</td>
<td>$.04 per pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 5,000</td>
<td>$.10 per pound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fines are assessed beginning from legal weight. The schedules apply separately to each axle group, licensed weight, over permit, or over gross violated. Drivers may shift load only if over by 1,000 lbs. or less on the axles and only if gross weight is not exceeded.

### RESTRICTED TRAVEL

At the discretion of the issuing agent.

**Moving heavy equipment at railroad grade crossing.**

(a) No person shall operate or move any crawler-type tractor, crane, or roller or any equipment or structure having a normal operating speed of five or less miles per hour upon or across any tracks at a railroad crossing without first complying with this section.

(b) Notice of any intended crossing described in subsection (a) of this section shall be given to a superintendent of the railroad and a reasonable time be given to the railroad to provide protection at the crossing.
(c) Before making any crossing described in subsection (a) of this section, the person operating or moving the vehicle or equipment shall:
   (1) Stop the vehicle or equipment not less than 15' or more than 50' from the nearest rail of the railroad;
   (2) While stopped, shall listen and look both directions along the track for any approaching train and for signals indicating the approach of a train, and
   (3) Shall not proceed until crossing can be made safely.
(d) No crossing described in subsection (a) of this section shall be made when warning is given by automatic signal or crossing gates or a flagman or otherwise of the immediate approach of a railroad train or car.
(e) Subsection (c) of this section shall not apply at any railroad crossing where State or local authorities have determined that trains are not operating during certain periods or seasons of the year and have erected an official sign carrying the legend “Exempt.”
(f) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of an infraction and punished in accordance with G.S. 20-176. Violation of this section shall not constitute negligence per se 91991, c.368, s. 1.)

PERMIT ORDERING

There are six methods by which single trip permits may be obtained from the Central Permit Office:

(1) DIRECT FAX ESCROW ACCOUNT (See Publication DF-4 for additional information)
   (Escrow Deposit Required, Monthly Activity Summary)

(2) CREDIT CARD PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS AND TRUCKING COMPANIES
   (MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express)
   The applicable state fee for each individual single trip permit + $5.00 transmittal fee + $5.00 credit card processing fee will be charged.

(3) CONTRACTED PERMIT SERVICES

(4) WALK-IN CUSTOMER
   Central Permit Office or pick up at Department of Transportation Highway Division/District Office after contacting the Central Permit Office for the required pre-issue of permit.

(5) POSTAL MAIL
   North Carolina Department of Transportation
   Oversize/Overweight Permit Unit
   1425 Rock Quarry Road, Suite 109
   Raleigh, NC 27610

   Also, there are several North Carolina permit policies that apply to all customers obtaining oversize and/or overweight permits.

   (1) You may request directly by telephone to the Central Permit Office at 1-888-574-6683 or (919) 733-7154 (local), by faxing a single trip application to (919) 733-7828, or by submitting an application via web if you have a direct fax account set up with our office. Applications may be downloaded from our web page at www.ncdot.org/~osowpermits or faxed to you upon request. Forms may be reproduced for future use.

   (2) All requests with a vertical height in excess of fourteen feet (14’) are required to be requested in writing at least two working days prior to the effective date for review and processing.

   (3) Incomplete information on the faxed application will result in the application being faxed back to the requestor and will delay issuance of the permit(s). A resend of an application for more information is not a denial of the request. The requested information should be entered on the returned application stamped “resent for additional information” and refaxed as soon as possible to our office.

   (4) Oversize/overweight permits obtained through our credit card program cannot be faxed to a truck stop or a Department of Transportation Division Office.

   (5) The maximum number of permits that may be requested in a single telephone call is four (4). A mobile/modular home (doublewide), with the same serial number and route of travel will be considered as one request.

   (6) No stamps, additions or deletions are to be made to the North Carolina issued document. All agency stamps must be made above or below the contents of the permit.

For additional information, please contact 1-888-221-8166.
(6) Internet
The Internet Permit Application System provides an easy way to apply for single trip permits. To use this system, you must register with our office. A user identification and password is required for access to the system. Internet Explorer 4.0 or Netscape 4.5 or above is required. For a registration packet including more information, call the NCDOT Central Permit Office at (919) 733-4740 or 1-888-221-8166.

RECENT & PENDING CHANGES
This section contains all recent and pending changes shared by this state with SC&RA in the last 12 months.