# Oversize load

Indivisible loads and vehicles that transport indivisible loads which exceed legal dimensions or weight, may be eligible to be moved by permit if the government agency with jurisdiction for the highways on the route of travel authorizes the movement and issues an oversize or overweight load permit.

**Indivisible load or vehicle**
Any load or vehicle exceeding applicable length, height, width or weight limits which, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

1. Compromise the intended use of the vehicle (i.e., make it unable to perform the function for which it was intended).
2. Destroy the value of the load or vehicle (i.e., make it unusable for its intended purpose).
3. Require more than eight work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment.

The applicant for an indivisible load permit has the burden of proof as to the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

**Permit types**
Single trip and annual permits are available, with different limitations on their use.

State, county and city oversize load permits must be obtained separately. Except for a state issued All-Systems Permit authorized by a participating county or city, state-issued permits are not valid on county and city highways. County and city permits are also not valid on state highways.

**General requirements**
All vehicles operating under permit must carry a copy of the permit in the vehicle and make it available upon request of any authorized official. A copy of the Iowa General Provisions for Oversize Load Permit must also be carried with the permit. All provisions noted on the permit and general provisions must be followed.

**Oversize/Overweight permits**

| Permit type | Single trip | Annual | | Annual*** oversize/overweight | Multitrip |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | $35 | $50 | | $400 | $200 |
| **Axle weight** | 20,000 pounds per axle *See exception. | 20,000 pounds per axle | | 20,000 pounds per axle | 20,000 pounds per axle |
| **Gross weight** | No limit | 80,000 pounds | | 156,000 pounds | 156,000 pounds |
| **Height** | No limit | 13 feet 10 in. | 15 feet 5 in. | 15 feet 5 in. | 15 feet 5 in. |
| **Length** | No limit | 120 feet | 120 feet | 120 feet | 120 feet |
| **Width** | No limit | 12 feet 5 in. | 16 feet | 13 feet 5 inches | 16 feet |
| **Interstate travel** | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed | No interstate highway travel more than 80,000 pounds | Allowed |
| **Routing** | MCS routing required | MCS routing not required | MCS routing required when loads are more than 14 feet 6 in. wide. MCS routing required when loads are more than a 50-mile radius unless route continues on at least four-lane roads. | MCS routing not required. | Carrier provides route and Iowa DOT verifies. Load can change, configuration cannot. |
| **Valid** | One trip in five days | 12 months from month issued | | 12 months from issued | 60 days |
| **Special mobile equipment except cranes** | Allowed up to 36,000 pounds single axle; 126,000 gross weight with qualifying tires** | Allowed up to 36,000 pounds single axle; 80,000 pounds gross weight with qualifying tires** | | Allowed up to 36,000 pounds single axle; 126,000 gross weight with qualifying tires** | |
| **Hay, straw, or stover annual permit ($25)** | **Maximum Dimensions of** **Length:** 75 feet **Width:** 12 feet 5 in. **Height:** 14 feet 6 in. **Weight:** 80,000 pounds | | | | |
| **Carrier route check** | None | None | None | - Construction and embargo maps<br>- Vertical clearance maps<br>- 156 Kip map<br>- Check with Iowa DOT to ensure no changes | None |

These permits are valid only for movement on state and federal highways. County and city permits must be obtained separately. *Exception: Cranes with pneumatic tires meeting the definition of an indivisible vehicle may have a maximum of 24,000 pounds per axle; single-trip permit and round-trip permits only; and travel is allowed on the interstate system. **Exception: Formula for construction equipment with flotation pneumatic tires: Axle weight = 20,000 pounds + (tire width - 18) x 1,882 pounds. *** Vehicles operating under an annual oversize/overweight permit can operate under annuals with no weight guidelines when they can meet the annual permit requirements with no weight dimensions.