

**HOUGHTON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
GUIDELINES FOR THE MOVEMENT OF OVERSIZE OR
OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES AND LOADS**

General instructions, information and procedure governing the issuance of special permits for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles and loads on roads under the jurisdiction of the Houghton County Road Commission.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

The statutes of the state of Michigan authorize the Houghton County Road Commission to issue special permits for the movement over county roads of vehicles or loads, which exceed the size or weight limitations specified by law.

It is the purpose of the Houghton County Road Commission to permit the movement of necessary overweight and oversize vehicles or loads consistent with the following obligations:

- A. Protection of the motoring public from potential traffic hazards.
- B. Protection of road surfaces, structures and private property.

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- A. Permits are issued only to business entities or individuals actually doing the transporting. The transporting vehicles to be used must be owned by the applicant or operated under a bona fide lease or rental agreement.
- B. The issuance of permits is limited to those vehicles and/or loads which cannot reasonably be divided, dismantled, reduced or otherwise rearranged to conform to legal dimensions and/or weights as provided by law.

Loads shall be arranged to affect the minimum dimensions for height, length or width. Staggered loading is not permitted. If a loaded commodity creates a single over-dimension, two or more commodities may be transported as one load provided the permit application so indicates, legal axle loadings are not exceeded, and provided no additional nonconforming dimensions of width, height or length are created or made greater by the additional commodities. Permits will not be issued for the use of double bottoms (truck tractor, semi-trailer and trailer or truck tractor and 2 semi-trailers, or truck and trailer or semi-trailer).

- C. As a matter of general procedure, permits will not be issued for transportation of loads exceeding limitations specified in the attachment. Efforts should be made to move vehicles or loads exceeding these limitations by some means or other than by roadway or to dismantle the object being moved to comply with the limitations. However, issuance of permits may be considered for limited movement of special loads if all efforts to utilize other means of transportation have been exhausted and if the object being moved cannot feasibly be reduced to comply with the specified limitations. A complete written explanation is to be submitted with a properly completed application for further consideration.

- D. Vehicle Gauge - The measurement across the vehicle from outside of tire to outside of tire on the self-propelled equipment or the trailer or semi-trailer or other towed equipment. This information is required for overweight loads only.

E. Weight - A request for an overweight permit will not be approved for a load consisting of more than one object, and in no event, shall any wheel load exceed 700 pounds per inch of tire width, except that permits will be approved for empty self-propelled scrapers provided it does not exceed 850 pounds per inch of tire width.

No overweight permits will be issued during the springtime weight restrictions period, except in case of public emergency.

F. Width - Extended permits will not be valid for widths in excess of 8 feet 6 inches during the springtime weight restriction period, except in a case of public emergency.

G. Height - Careful consideration must be given to any application requesting movement where the overall height exceeds 13 feet 6 inches because of possible overhead obstructions on proposed routes. All applications for permits in excess of 13 feet 6 inches shall certify that the proposed route has been travelled to assure vertical clearance.

H. Escort Vehicles - An escort vehicle must be a passenger car or pickup truck with at least one flashing or rotating amber light on top of the cab. Amber lights are to be visible for 360 degrees for a distance of 500 ft. There will be displayed on the roof of the escort vehicle, one Oversize Load sign 5 feet long by 12 inches high with 8 inch high black letters on yellow background.

I. Permits are issued for daylight hours only, Monday through Saturday. In some instances other time limitations may be applied.

Under no conditions will a permit be issued for a movement to take place from 12 noon on the day preceding and continuing until daylight of the 1st day after the holidays here listed:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

When a holiday occurs on a Friday or Monday, permits will not be valid for the period beginning the 12 noon before the three day weekend, and ending daylight of the 1st day after the three day weekend.

J. A single round trip permit may be issued for one move in and one move out; this permit may be valid for 5 days. An annual permit may be issued for an unlimited number of trips annually.

K. Permit Fees - Single Move Permit \$25.00
Extended Transportation Permit: \$100.00

*Checks and money orders to be made payable to the Houghton County Road Commission.

HOW SINGLE MOVE PERMITS ARE OBTAINED

Application may be submitted at the Houghton County Road Commission office by mail, in person or by facsimile (with prior approval).

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Insurance coverage as required by the laws of this state shall be in effect for moves operating with an oversize or overweight permit. Permits are not valid if insurance expires. Applicant shall present evidence that at least the following insurance coverage is in full force and effect on each vehicle while operating on the public highways under special permit:

Bodily Injury Liability - each person.....\$500,000.00
Bodily Injury Liability - each accident..... \$1,000,000.00
Property Damage Liability - each accident.....\$1,000,000.00

Single Limit Policy.....\$1,000,000.00
 Worker's Compensation.....Statutory Coverage

The permittee or contractor shall name the Houghton County Road Commission as additional insured, on any general comprehensive liability insurance or commercial general liability insurance carried by the permittee or contractor worded as follows:

“The Board of Houghton County Road Commissioners, the Houghton County Road Commission, and their officers, agents and employees, are named as additional insured parties.”

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT (SCRAPERS, MOBILE CRANES, LOADERS, ETC.)

SINGLE TRIP PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

- 16 feet in width
- 15 feet in height
- 150 feet in overall combination length

EXTENDED PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

- 12 feet 6 inches in width
- 13 feet 6 inches in height
- 75 feet in overall combination length
- 45 feet in length of one truck or power unit

Maximum Allowable Gross Axle Loading:

Spacing Between Axles	25% Over Normal Loading	40% Over Normal Loading*
9 feet or over	22,500 pounds	25,200 pounds
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	16,250 pounds	18,200 pounds
Less than 3 ½ feet	11,250 pounds	12, 600 pounds

*For permit to be valid over the 25% limit and up to the 40% limit requires 48 hours advance notification to the Houghton County Road Commission and specific route assignment and approval for the specific move that exceeds the 25% limit. In no case may this permit be used to exceed the 40% limit.

PREFABRICATED ITEMS (STRUCTURAL STEEL, TRUSSES, TANKS & AWNINGS, ETC.)

SINGLE TRIP PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

- 16 feet in width
- 15 feet in height
- 150 feet in overall combination length

EXTENDED PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

- 12 feet 6 inches in width

13 feet 6 inches in height
 75 feet in overall combination length
 45 feet in length of one truck or power unit

Maximum Allowable Gross Axle Loading:

Spacing Between Axles	25% Over Normal Loading	40% Over Normal Loading*
9 feet or over	22,500 pounds	25,200 pounds
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	16,250 pounds	18,200 pounds
Less than 3 ½ feet	11,250 pounds	12, 600 pounds

*For permit to be valid over the 25% limit and up to the 40% limit requires 48 hours advance notification to the Houghton County Road Commission and specific route assignment and approval for the specific move that exceeds the 25% limit. In no case may this permit be used to exceed the 40% limit.

BOATS

SINGLE TRIP PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

16 feet in width
 15 feet in height
 150 feet in overall combination length

EXTENDED PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

12 feet 6 inches in width
 13 feet 6 inches in height
 75 feet in overall combination length
 45 feet in length of one truck or power unit

Maximum Allowable Gross Axle Loading:

Spacing Between Axles	25% Over Normal Loading	40% Over Normal Loading*
9 feet or over	22,500 pounds	25,200 pounds
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	16,250 pounds	18,200 pounds
Less than 3 ½ feet	11,250 pounds	12, 600 pounds

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POLES, PIPE & SIMILAR TYPE LOADS

SINGLE TRIP PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

- 16 feet in width
- 15 feet in height
- 150 feet in overall combination length

EXTENDED PERMITS

Maximum overall dimensions (loaded or unloaded):

- 8 feet 6" in width
- 13 feet 6 inches in loaded height
- 75 feet in overall combination length

Consideration will be given to the issuance of extended permits for loads of utility poles in excess of 75 feet to:

- i. Public utility companies and organizations doing work for public utility companies.
- ii. Firms under contract to utility companies and wishing to obtain extended permits in excess of 75 feet in length shall submit written confirmation from the utility company. The permits, if issued, will be issued to cover the service area of the utility company.

Maximum Allowable Gross Axle Loading:

Spacing Between Axles	25% Over Normal Loading	40% Over Normal Loading*
9 feet or over	22,500 pounds	25,200 pounds
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	16,250 pounds	18,200 pounds
Less than 3 ½ feet	11,250 pounds	12, 600 pounds

*For permit to be valid over the 25% limit and up to the 40% limit requires 48 hours advance notification to the Houghton County Road Commission and specific route assignment and approval for the specific move that exceeds the 25% limit. In no case may this permit be used to exceed the 40% limit.

