

Part 4 Vehicle Size, Weight, and Load Limitations

72-7-401 Application of size, weight, and load limitations for vehicles -- Exceptions.

- (1)
 - (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2), the maximum size, weight, and load limitations on vehicles under this part apply to all highways throughout the state.
 - (b) Local authorities may not alter the limitations except as expressly provided under Sections 41-6a-204 and 72-7-408.
- (2) Except as specifically made applicable, the size, weight, and load limitations in this chapter do not apply to:
 - (a) fire-fighting apparatus;
 - (b) highway construction and maintenance equipment being operated at the site of maintenance or at a construction project as authorized by a highway authority;
 - (c) highway construction and maintenance equipment temporarily being operated between a material site and a highway maintenance site or a highway construction project if:
 - (i) the section of any highway being used is not located within a county of the first or second class;
 - (ii) authorized for a specific highway project by the highway authority having jurisdiction over each highway being used;
 - (iii) the distance between the material site and maintenance site or highway construction project does not exceed 10 miles; and
 - (iv) the operator carries in the vehicle written verification of the authorization from the highway authority having jurisdiction over each highway being used;
 - (d) implements of husbandry incidentally moved on a highway while engaged in an agricultural operation or incidentally moved for repair or servicing, subject to the provisions of Section 72-7-407;
 - (e) vehicles transporting logs or poles from forest to sawmill:
 - (i) when required to move upon a highway other than the national system of interstate and defense highways;
 - (ii) if the gross vehicle weight does not exceed 80,000 pounds; and
 - (iii) the vehicle or combination of vehicles are in compliance with Subsections 72-7-404(1) and (2)(a); and
 - (f) tow trucks or towing vehicles under emergency conditions when:
 - (i) it becomes necessary to move a vehicle, combination of vehicles, special mobile equipment, or objects to the nearest safe area for parking or temporary storage;
 - (ii) no other alternative is available; and
 - (iii) the movement is for the safety of the traveling public.
- (3)
 - (a) Except when operating on the national system of interstate and defense highways, a motor vehicle carrying livestock as defined in Section 4-1-8, or a motor vehicle carrying raw grain if the grain is being transported by the farmer from his farm to market prior to bagging, weighing, or processing, may exceed by up to 2,000 pounds the tandem axle weight limitations specified under Section 72-7-404 without obtaining an overweight permit under Section 72-7-406.
 - (b) Subsection (3)(a) is an exception to Sections 72-7-404 and 72-7-406.

Amended by Chapter 2, 2005 General Session

72-7-402 Limitations as to vehicle width, height, length, and load extensions.

- (1)
 - (a) Except as provided by statute, all state or federally approved safety devices and any other lawful appurtenant devices, including refrigeration units, hitches, air line connections, and load securing devices related to the safe operation of a vehicle are excluded for purposes of measuring the width and length of a vehicle under the provisions of this part, if the devices are not designed or used for carrying cargo.
 - (b) Load-induced tire bulge is excluded for purposes of measuring the width of vehicles under the provisions of this part.
 - (c) Appurtenances attached to the sides or rear of a recreational vehicle that is not a commercial motor vehicle are excluded for purposes of measuring the width and length of the recreational vehicle if the additional width or length of the appurtenances does not exceed six inches.
- (2) A vehicle unladen or with a load may not exceed a width of 8-1/2 feet.
- (3) A vehicle unladen or with a load may not exceed a height of 14 feet.
- (4)
 - (a)
 - (i) A single-unit vehicle, unladen or with a load, may not exceed a length of 45 feet including front and rear bumpers.
 - (ii) In this section, a truck tractor coupled to one or more semitrailers or trailers is not considered a single-unit vehicle.
 - (b)
 - (i) Except as provided under Subsection (4)(b)(iii), a semitrailer, unladen or with a load, may not exceed a length of 48 feet excluding refrigeration units, hitches, air line connections, and safety appurtenances.
 - (ii) There is no overall length limitation on a truck tractor and semitrailer combination when the semitrailer length is 48 feet or less.
 - (iii) A semitrailer that exceeds a length of 48 feet but does not exceed a length of 53 feet may operate on a route designated by the department or within one mile of that route.
 - (c)
 - (i) Two trailers coupled together, unladen or with a load, may not exceed an overall length of 61 feet, measured from the front of the first trailer to the rear of the second trailer.
 - (ii) There is no overall length limitation on a truck tractor and double trailer combination when the trailers coupled together measure 61 feet or less.
 - (d) All other combinations of vehicles, unladen or with a load, when coupled together, may not exceed a total length of 65 feet, except the length limitations do not apply to combinations of vehicles operated at night by a public utility when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties, or when operated under a permit under Section 72-7-406.
- (5)
 - (a) Subject to Subsection (4), a vehicle or combination of vehicles may not carry any load extending more than three feet beyond the front of the body of the vehicle or more than six feet beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle.
 - (b) A passenger vehicle may not carry any load extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of the vehicle nor extending more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side of the vehicle.
- (6) Any exception to this section must be authorized by a permit as provided under Section 72-7-406.

(7) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

Amended by Chapter 412, 2015 General Session

72-7-403 Towing requirements and limitations on towing.

- (1)
- (a) The draw-bar or other connection between any two vehicles, one of which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, may not exceed 15 feet in length from one vehicle to the other except:
 - (i) in the case of a connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or structural material that cannot be dismembered when transported upon a pole trailer as defined in Section 41-6a-102; or
 - (ii) when operated under a permit under Section 72-7-406.
 - (b) When the connection between the two vehicles is a chain, rope, or cable, a red flag or other signal or cloth not less than 12 inches both in length and width shall be displayed on or near the midpoint of the connection.
- (2) A person may not operate a combination of vehicles when any trailer, semitrailer, or other vehicle being towed:
 - (a) whips or swerves from side to side dangerously or unreasonably; or
 - (b) fails to follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle.
- (3) A person who violates this section is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session

72-7-404 Maximum gross weight limitation for vehicles -- Bridge formula for weight limitations -- Minimum mandatory fines.

- (1)
- (a) As used in this section:
 - (i) "Axle load" means the total load on all wheels whose centers may be included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart.
 - (ii) "Tandem axle" means two or more axles spaced not less than 40 inches nor more than 96 inches apart and having at least one common point of weight suspension.
 - (b) The tire load rating shall be marked on the tire sidewall. A tire, wheel, or axle may not carry a greater weight than the manufacturer's rating.
- (2)
- (a) A vehicle may not be operated or moved on any highway in the state with:
 - (i) a gross weight in excess of 10,500 pounds on one wheel;
 - (ii) a single axle load in excess of 20,000 pounds; or
 - (iii) a tandem axle load in excess of 34,000 pounds.
 - (b) Subject to the limitations of Subsection (3), the gross vehicle weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed 80,000 pounds.
- (3)
- (a) Subject to the limitations in Subsection (2), no group of two or more consecutive axles between the first and last axle of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and no vehicle or combination of vehicles may carry a gross weight in excess of the weight provided by the following bridge formula, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b):

$$W = 500 \{LN/(N-1) + 12N+36\}$$

- (i) W = overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds.
- (ii) L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles. When the distance in feet includes a fraction of a foot of one inch or more the next larger number of feet shall be used.
- (iii) N = number of axles in the group under consideration.
- (b) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.
- (4) Any exception to this section must be authorized by an overweight permit as provided in Section 72-7-406.
- (5)
 - (a) Any person who violates this section is guilty of an infraction except that, notwithstanding Sections 76-3-301 and 76-3-302, the violator shall pay the largest minimum mandatory fine of either:
 - (i) \$50 plus the sum of the overweight axle fines calculated under Subsection (5)(b); or
 - (ii) \$50 plus the gross vehicle weight fine calculated under Subsection (5)(b).
 - (b) The fine for each axle and a gross vehicle weight violation shall be calculated according to the following schedule:

Number of Pounds Overweight	Axle Fine (Cents per Pound for Each Overweight Axle)	Gross Vehicle Weight Fine(Cents per Pound)
1 - 2,000	0	0
2,001 - 5,000	4	5
5,001 - 8,000	5	5
8,001 - 12,000	6	5
12,001 - 16,000	7	5
16,001 - 20,000	9	5
20,001 - 25,000	11	5
25,001 or more	13	5

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session

72-7-405 Measuring vehicles for size and weight compliance -- Summary powers of peace officers -- Penalty for violations.

- (1) Any peace officer having reason to believe that the height, width, length, or weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful may require the operator to stop the vehicle and submit to a measurement or weighing of the vehicle and load.
- (2) A peace officer may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest scales or port-of-entry if the scales or port-of-entry is within three miles.
- (3)
 - (a) A peace officer, special function officer, or port-of-entry agent may measure or weigh a vehicle and vehicle load for compliance with this chapter.
 - (b) If, upon measuring or weighing a vehicle and load, it is determined that the height, width, length, or weight is unlawful, the measuring or weighing peace officer, special function officer,

or port-of-entry agent may require the operator to park the vehicle in a suitable place. The vehicle shall remain parked until the vehicle or its load is adjusted or a portion of the load is removed to conform to legal limits. All materials unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at his risk.

- (4) An operator who fails or refuses to stop and submit the vehicle and load to a measurement or weighing, or who fails or refuses when directed by a peace officer, special function officer, or port-of-entry agent to comply with this section is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session

72-7-406 Oversize permits and oversize and overweight permits for vehicles of excessive size or weight -- Applications -- Restrictions -- Fees -- Rulemaking provisions -- Penalty.

- (1)
- (a) The department may, upon receipt of an application and good cause shown, issue in writing an oversize permit or an oversize and overweight permit. The oversize permit or oversize and overweight permit may authorize the applicant to operate or move upon a highway:
 - (i) a vehicle or combination of vehicles, unladen or with a load weighing more than the maximum weight specified in Section 72-7-404 for any wheel, axle, group of axles, or total gross weight; or
 - (ii) a vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds the vehicle width, height, or length provisions under Section 72-7-402 or draw-bar length restriction under Subsection 72-7-403(1)(a).
 - (b) Except as provided under Subsection (8), an oversize and overweight permit may not be issued under this section to allow the transportation of a load that is reasonably divisible.
 - (c) The maximum size or weight authorized by a permit under this section shall be within limits that do not impair the state's ability to qualify for federal-aid highway funds.
 - (d) The department may deny or issue a permit under this section to protect the safety of the traveling public and to protect highway foundation, surfaces, or structures from undue damage by one or more of the following:
 - (i) limiting the number of trips the vehicle may make;
 - (ii) establishing seasonal or other time limits within which the vehicle may operate or move on the highway indicated;
 - (iii) requiring security in addition to the permit to compensate for any potential damage by the vehicle to any highway; and
 - (iv) otherwise limiting the conditions of operation or movement of the vehicle.
 - (e) Prior to granting a permit under this section, the department shall approve the route of any vehicle or combination of vehicles.
- (2) An application for a permit under this section shall state:
- (a) the proposed maximum wheel loads, maximum axle loads, all axle spacings of each vehicle or combination of vehicles;
 - (b) the proposed maximum load size and maximum size of each vehicle or combination of vehicles;
 - (c) the specific roads requested to be used under authority of the permit; and
 - (d) if the permit is requested for a single trip or if other seasonal limits or time limits apply.
- (3) Each oversize permit or oversize and overweight permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be available for inspection by any peace officer, special function officer, port of entry agent, or other personnel authorized by the department.

- (4) A permit under this section may not be issued or is not valid unless the vehicle or combination of vehicles is:
 - (a) properly registered for the weight authorized by the permit; or
 - (b) registered for a gross laden weight of 78,001 pounds or over, if the gross laden weight authorized by the permit exceeds 80,000 pounds.
- (5)
 - (a)
 - (i) An oversize permit may be issued under this section for a vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds one or more of the maximum width, height, or length provisions under Section 72-7-402.
 - (ii) Except for an annual oversize permit for an implement of husbandry under Section 72-7-407 or for an annual oversize permit issued under Subsection (5)(a)(iii), only a single trip oversize permit may be issued for a vehicle or combination of vehicles that is more than 14 feet 6 inches wide, 14 feet high, or 105 feet long.
 - (iii) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the department shall make rules for the issuance of an annual oversize permit for a vehicle or combination of vehicles that is more than 14 feet 6 inches wide, 14 feet high, or 105 feet long if the department determines that the permit is needed to accommodate highway transportation needs for multiple trips on a specified route.
 - (b) The fee is \$30 for a single trip oversize permit under this Subsection (5). This permit is valid for not more than 96 continuous hours.
 - (c) The fee is \$75 for a semiannual oversize permit under this Subsection (5). This permit is valid for not more than 180 continuous days.
 - (d) The fee is \$90 for an annual oversize permit under this Subsection (5). This permit is valid for not more than 365 continuous days.
- (6)
 - (a) An oversize and overweight permit may be issued under this section for a vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying a nondivisible load that exceeds one or more of the maximum weight provisions of Section 72-7-404 up to a gross weight of 125,000 pounds.
 - (b) The fee is \$60 for a single trip oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (6). This permit is valid for not more than 96 continuous hours.
 - (c) A semiannual oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (6) is valid for not more than 180 continuous days. The fee for this permit is:
 - (i) \$180 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 80,000 pounds, but not exceeding 84,000 pounds;
 - (ii) \$320 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 84,000 pounds, but not exceeding 112,000 pounds; and
 - (iii) \$420 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 112,000 pounds, but not exceeding 125,000 pounds.
 - (d) An annual oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (6) is valid for not more than 365 continuous days. The fee for this permit is:
 - (i) \$240 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 80,000 pounds, but not exceeding 84,000 pounds;
 - (ii) \$480 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 84,000 pounds, but not exceeding 112,000 pounds; and
 - (iii) \$540 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 112,000 pounds, but not exceeding 125,000 pounds.
- (7)

- (a) A single trip oversize and overweight permit may be issued under this section for a vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying a nondivisible load that exceeds:
 - (i) one or more of the maximum weight provisions of Section 72-7-404; or
 - (ii) a gross weight of 125,000 pounds.
- (b)
 - (i) The fee for a single trip oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (7), which is valid for not more than 96 continuous hours, is \$.012 per mile for each 1,000 pounds above 80,000 pounds subject to the rounding described in Subsection (7)(c).
 - (ii) The minimum fee that may be charged under this Subsection (7) is \$80.
 - (iii) The maximum fee that may be charged under this Subsection (7) is \$540.
- (c)
 - (i) The miles used to calculate the fee under this Subsection (7) shall be rounded up to the nearest 50 mile increment.
 - (ii) The pounds used to calculate the fee under this Subsection (7) shall be rounded up to the nearest 25,000 pound increment.
 - (iii) The dollar amount used to calculate the fee under this Subsection (7) shall be rounded to the nearest \$10 increment.
- (8)
 - (a) An oversize and overweight permit may be issued under this section for a vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying a divisible load if:
 - (i) the bridge formula under Subsection 72-7-404(3) is not exceeded; and
 - (ii) the length of the vehicle or combination of vehicles is:
 - (A) more than the limitations specified under Subsections 72-7-402(4)(c) and (d) or Subsection 72-7-403(1)(a) but not exceeding 81 feet in cargo carrying length and the application is for a single trip, semiannual trip, or annual trip permit; or
 - (B) more than 81 feet in cargo carrying length but not exceeding 95 feet in cargo carrying length and the application is for an annual trip permit.
 - (b) The fee is \$60 for a single trip oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (8). The permit is valid for not more than 96 continuous hours.
 - (c) The fee for a semiannual oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (8), which permit is valid for not more than 180 continuous days is:
 - (i) \$180 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 80,000 pounds, but not exceeding 84,000 pounds;
 - (ii) \$320 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 84,000 pounds, but not exceeding 112,000 pounds; and
 - (iii) \$420 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 112,000 pounds, but not exceeding 129,000 pounds.
 - (d) The fee for an annual oversize and overweight permit under this Subsection (8), which permit is valid for not more than 365 continuous days is:
 - (i) \$240 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 80,000 pounds, but not exceeding 84,000 pounds;
 - (ii) \$480 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 84,000 pounds, but not exceeding 112,000 pounds; and
 - (iii) \$540 for a vehicle or combination of vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 112,000 pounds, but not exceeding 129,000 pounds.
- (9) Permit fees collected under this section shall be credited monthly to the Transportation Fund.
- (10) The department shall prepare maps, drawings, and instructions as guidance when issuing permits under this section.

(11) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the department shall make rules governing the issuance and revocation of all permits under this section and Section 72-7-407.

(12) Any person who violates any of the terms or conditions of a permit issued under this section:

- (a) may have the person's permit revoked; and
- (b) is guilty of an infraction, except that a violation of any rule made under Subsection (11) is not subject to a criminal penalty.

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session

72-7-407 Implements of husbandry -- Escort vehicle requirements -- Oversize permit -- Penalty.

- (1) As used in this section, "escort vehicle" means a motor vehicle, as defined under Section 41-1a-102, that has its emergency warning lights operating, and that is being used to warn approaching motorists by either preceding or following a slow or oversized vehicle, object, or implement of husbandry being moved on the highway.
- (2) An implement of husbandry being moved on a highway shall be accompanied by:
 - (a) front and rear escort vehicles when the implement of husbandry is 16 feet in width or greater unless the implement of husbandry is moved by a farmer or rancher or the farmer or rancher's employees in connection with an agricultural operation; or
 - (b) one or more escort vehicles when the implement of husbandry is traveling on a highway where special hazards exist related to weather, pedestrians, other traffic, or highway conditions.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (2), a person may not move an implement of husbandry on a highway during hours of darkness without lights and reflectors as required under Section 41-6a-1608 or 41-6a-1609.
- (4)
 - (a) Except for an implement of husbandry moved by a farmer or rancher or the farmer's or rancher's employees in connection with an agricultural operation, a person may not move an implement of husbandry on the highway without:
 - (i) an oversize permit obtained under Section 72-7-406 if required;
 - (ii) trained escort vehicle drivers and approved escort vehicles when required under Subsection (2); and
 - (iii) compliance with the vehicle weight requirements of Section 72-7-404.
 - (b)
 - (i) The department shall issue an annual oversize permit for the purpose of allowing the movement of implements of husbandry on the highways in accordance with this chapter.
 - (ii) The permit shall require the applicant to obtain verbal permission from the department for each trip involving the movement of an implement of husbandry 16 feet or greater in width.
- (5) Any person who violates this section is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session

72-7-408 Highway authority -- Restrictions on highway use -- Erection and maintenance of signs designating restrictions -- Penalty.

(1)

- (a) Subject to Subsection (1)(b), a highway authority may by rule or ordinance prescribe procedures and criteria which prohibit the operation of any vehicle or impose restrictions on the weight of a vehicle upon any highway under its jurisdiction.
 - (b) A highway authority may impose restrictions for a highway under Subsection (1)(a) if an engineering inspection concludes that, due to deterioration caused by climatic conditions, a highway will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless certain vehicles are prohibited or vehicle weights are restricted.
- (2) The highway authority imposing restrictions under this section shall erect signs citing the provisions of the rule or ordinance at each end of that portion of any highway affected. The restriction is effective only when the signs are erected and maintained.
- (3) Any person who violates any restriction imposed under the authority of this section is guilty of an infraction.

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session

72-7-409 Loads on vehicles -- Limitations -- Confining, securing, and fastening load required -- Penalty.

- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "Agricultural product" means any raw product which is derived from agriculture, including silage, hay, straw, grain, manure, and other similar product.
 - (b) "Vehicle" has the same meaning set forth in Section 41-1a-102.
- (2) A vehicle may not be operated or moved on any highway unless the vehicle is constructed or loaded to prevent its contents from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping.
- (3)
- (a) In addition to the requirements under Subsection (2), a vehicle carrying dirt, sand, gravel, rock fragments, pebbles, crushed base, aggregate, any other similar material, or scrap metal shall have a covering over the entire load unless:
 - (i) the highest point of the load does not extend above the top of any exterior wall or sideboard of the cargo compartment of the vehicle; and
 - (ii) the outer edges of the load are at least six inches below the top inside edges of the exterior walls or sideboards of the cargo compartment of the vehicle.
 - (b) In addition to the requirements under Subsection (2), a vehicle carrying trash or garbage shall have a covering over the entire load.
 - (c) The following material is exempt from the provisions of Subsection (3)(a):
 - (i) hot mix asphalt;
 - (ii) construction debris or scrap metal if the debris or scrap metal is a size and in a form not susceptible to being blown out of the vehicle;
 - (iii) material being transported across a highway between two parcels of property that would be contiguous but for the highway that is being crossed; and
 - (iv) material listed under Subsection (3)(a) that is enclosed on all sides by containers, bags, or packaging.
 - (d) A chemical substance capable of coating or bonding a load so that the load is confined on a vehicle, may be considered a covering for purposes of Subsection (3)(a) so long as the chemical substance remains effective at confining the load.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to a vehicle or implement of husbandry carrying an agricultural product, if the agricultural product is:
- (a) being transported in a manner which is not a hazard or a potential hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle or to other highway users; and

- (b) loaded in a manner that only allows minimal spillage.
- (5)
- (a) An authorized vehicle performing snow removal services on a highway is exempt from the requirements of this section.
 - (b) This section does not prohibit the necessary spreading of any substance connected with highway maintenance, construction, securing traction, or snow removal.
- (6) A person may not operate a vehicle with a load on any highway unless the load and any load covering is fastened, secured, and confined to prevent the covering or load from becoming loose, detached, or in any manner a hazard to the safe operation of the vehicle, or to other highway users.
- (7) Before entering a highway, the operator of a vehicle carrying any material listed under Subsection (3), shall remove all loose material on any portion of the vehicle not designed to carry the material.
- (8)
- (a) Any person who violates this section is guilty of an infraction.
 - (b) A person who violates a provision of this section shall be fined not less than:
 - (i) \$200 for a violation; or
 - (ii) \$500 for a second or subsequent violation within three years of a previous violation of this section.
 - (c) A person who violates a provision of this section while operating a commercial vehicle as defined in Section 72-9-102 shall be fined:
 - (i) not less than \$500 for a violation; or
 - (ii) \$1,000 for a second or subsequent violation within three years of a previous violation of this section.

Amended by Chapter 303, 2016 General Session