

## OVERSIZED VEHICLE PERMITS

### WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE OVERSIZED VEHICLES?

Under the appropriate authority of Division 15, Chapter 5, Article 6, of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), the County of Ventura may, at its discretion, issue special permits to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximums specified in the CVC. Permits must be carried in the vehicle to which it refers at all times, while the vehicle is being moved within the highway limits, and must be available for inspection by a law enforcement officer.

### HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT?

The County of Ventura issues oversize permits from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays, at the public service permit counter located on the third floor of the Hall of Administration, County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009.

A \$16 fee for single permit and \$90 fee for annual permit is charged for processing. Applicants will be asked to supply the information needed on the permit form, including the vehicle's insurance carrier and policy number that name the County as certificate holder. This information is needed in the event of damage to public property.

### WHEN ARE VEHICLES CONSIDERED OVERSIZED?

**WEIGHT:** An oversize permit can be issued for an overweight load. If the load is overweight, the actual load distribution should be beyond those called for in Section 35550, CVC. The reason for issuing a permit for overweight vehicles is the effect on the condition of the street. Overweight vehicles cause structural damage to the street, and may also affect underground structures.

**HEIGHT:** An over-height permit can be issued for a vehicle or load over 14 feet in height, Section 35250, CVC. It is important to check all overcrossing/undercrossing heights for clearance. Caltrans has a list of clearances along the freeway, and the County has a list of clearances, both for freeway structures and railroad structures.

**LENGTH:** An over-length permit can be issued for vehicles and loads over 40 feet in length, Section 35400, CVC. Additional special considerations are given for long combinations of vehicles that can have problems in turning corners.

**WIDTH:** An over-width permit can be issued for vehicles over 101 inches (8.5 feet) in width, Section 35100, CVC. A wide vehicle or load on a street with narrow travel lanes creates problems for other traffic.

Front and rear pilot cars will be required when the width of the vehicle/load exceeds 12 feet or the length exceeds 75 feet. If the width exceeds 14 feet, the vehicle will be required to be transported between sunset and sunrise. Vehicles issued a permit that require one or more pilot cars by Caltrans or by other public agencies must retain the pilot car(s) through the County unincorporated areas. Vehicles exceeding 16 feet in height will require local utility clearances.

### WHEN IS A PERMIT NOT VALID?

Permits are null and void if the permit:

- a. Is illegible, it is not signed by an authorized representative of the County, or is presented without the attachments specifically named and required upon the face of the permit.
- b. Has been altered, or if an attempt to alter is apparent, or the permit is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load and/or moving a vehicle that is not specifically described on the face of the permit.
- c. Is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load or moving a vehicle by any company, crew, or equipment not specifically named or organizationally related to the company, agency, or firm to which the permit was issued.
- d. Is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load or moving a vehicle before and/or after the times and dates authorized.

### DAMAGE REPAIR AND LIABILITY

In accepting a permit, the applicant agrees to repair at his own expense and to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works, any damage to highway appurtenances or structures. Notwithstanding, work or repair may be done by County forces and the cost borne by the applicant.

In the event of damage to facilities such as bridges, traffic signals, light standards, and other appurtenances, a written report must be filed with the County within 72 hours after such damage has been done. Failure to make this report will be considered cause for cancellation of all permit privileges pending

a satisfactory arrangement for repair or replacement of the damaged facility.

The applicant is also responsible for all liability for injury to or death of any person, or damage to property that may occur through any act or omission of either the applicant or the County arising from the issuance of this permit.

### **MOVING OVERSIZED VEHICLES DURING HOLIDAYS, INCLEMENT WEATHER OR IN CONVOYS**

Unless authorized on the face of the permit, movement is prohibited on some holidays. A list can be obtained from the permit counter.

Movement shall not occur in the dark, fog, rain or wind when visibility is restricted to less than 1,000 feet. Movement is prohibited when road surfaces are hazardous due to rain, ice, or frost, or when use of tire chains is mandatory. No moving shall be done when the velocity of the wind is such that it causes the vehicle being towed to whip or swerve from side-to-side or fail to follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle.

Any accident caused by excessive wind or weather conditions shall be considered a prima facie violation of this condition. Movement in convoy shall not be permitted unless specified on the face of the permit.

Open sided units shall be covered by plywood, hard board or other rigid material. In lieu of rigid material, suitable plastics or other flexible material may be used. Billowing or flapping of plastic will not be permitted.

### **MANUFACTURED HOUSING AXLE WEIGHT**

Axle weights for manufactured housing (CVC 387) shall not exceed legal width or 6,000 lbs. per axle. Tractor units towing manufactured housing that exceed the legal width and up to 12 feet in width shall be equipped with dual rear wheel and have an unladen weight of not less than 6,500 lbs.

### **TOW CARS**

Disabled legal vehicles or legal combination of vehicles may be towed on County roads to the nearest appropriate place of repair, or to the nearest secure storage area that is appropriate for the vehicle or load, whichever is closest and most accessible. It is not the intent of this permit to allow these combinations to be towed to their ultimate destination for convenience, unless that destination meets the above criteria.

Disabled legal vehicles or combination of vehicles, when connected to a tow car, may exceed legal gross weight. When one end of a truck or truck tractor of legal weight is elevated by a tow car, the drive axles, the tow car, and/or the drive axle or axles of the disabled vehicle may exceed legal axle or axle group weight limitations. If any axle or axle group exceeds legal weight, movement is limited to the routes or area shown on an attachment to the transportation permit.

### **REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES**

If you have questions or wish to apply for a permit, please call the Permit Counter at: **(805) 654-2055**

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# **TRIP PERMIT PROCEDURES FOR OVERSIZED VEHICLES OR LOADS**



**Public Works Agency  
Transportation Department  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura CA 93009-1620**