

TRIP PERMITS FOR OVERSIZE VEHICLES

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



WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO REGULATE OVERSIZE 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, which is 20,000 pounds/axle and 80,000 pounds total weight. 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?

You can apply for a permit on our website at <http://apps.ventura.org/tranpermits/>. For first-time applicants, you will need to set up an account.

A \$16 fee for single permit and \$90 fee for annual permit is charged for processing. Applicants will be asked to submit the required information and the carrier's insurance policy, listing the County of Ventura Transportation Department as certificate holder. This information is needed in the event of damage to public property.

PWATD: <http://vcpublicworks.org/transportation-department/transportation>

Permits: <http://apps.ventura.org/tranpermits/>

Guidelines: <http://vcpublicworks.org/transportation-department/ordinances-policies-and-guidelines>

Maps ([link](#)), restricted roads ([link](#)) and bridges ([link](#)), and [CVC](#).

WHEN IS A VEHICLE CONSIDERED EXTRALEGAL?

WEIGHT: An overweight permit can be issued for a vehicle or load exceeding the legal weights specified in CVC Section 35550 and 35551. The allowable weights for an overweight vehicle mostly depend on the allowable weights permitted on the bridges and culverts on the travel route. The allowable weights are listed on the Caltrans weight charts for bridge loading.

HEIGHT: CVC Section 35250 specifies the maximum height of a vehicle to be 14 feet. An oversize permit can be issued for a vehicle or load over 14 feet in height. It is important to check all undercrossing heights for clearance.

LENGTH: CVC Section 35400 specifies the maximum length of vehicle to be 40 feet and 65 feet if coupled, with certain exceptions. An oversize permit when issued for vehicles and loads over 40 feet will give special considerations for long combinations of vehicles that can have problems in turning corners.

WIDTH: CVC Section 35100 specifies the maximum width of vehicle to be 8.5 feet (102 inches) with certain exceptions. An oversize permit when issued for vehicles over 8.5 feet in width will consider the pavement width, turning radius, and potential 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 and CHP escorts. CHP escorts may also be required for vehicle combinations of extraordinary size.

WHEN IS A PERMIT NOT VALID?

Permits are null and void if the permit:

- a. Is illegible; is not signed by an authorized representative of the County or permit holder; 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
- d. Is used to represent proper authority for carrying a load or moving a vehicle during times and/or dates not 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 a permit.

MOVING EXTRALEGAL VEHICLES DURING HOLIDAYS, INCLEMENT WEATHER, OR IN CONVOYS

Unless authorized on the face of the permit, movement is prohibited on some holidays. A list of observed holiday may be found at: <http://www.vcrma.org/planning/hours.html>.

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 shall not exceed legal width or 6,000 pounds 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 wheels and have an unladen weight of not less than 6,500 pounds.

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 guide 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, contact the Permits Section.

Phone: (805) 654-2055

Email: PWA.TransPermits@ventura.org.

[PWATD Home](#)