

TENNESSEE SUPERLOAD REQUIREMENTS

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is responsible for issuing permits for over dimensional and over weight loads traveling through Tennessee. When permits reach a certain size, they become what is commonly called a “Superload” permit. To help clarify this issue, in Tennessee, a Superload will be defined as any load where one or more of the following dimensions are exceeded:

Width	16’
Height	15’6”
Weight	165,000 lbs. gross weight
Length	N/A

The Department has developed the following requirements to expedite the process for obtaining a Superload permit:

1. Letter of Necessity

Letter justifying that the requested movement is in the interest of public welfare, safety, health, or defense. As well as not being detrimental or unsafe to traveling public and the highway can accommodate the movement.

2. Justification Letter

A letter from the manufacturer or shipper detailing all pertinent information that would qualify the proposed shipment for permitting on Tennessee highways. This letter should include, but is not limited to:

- Description of the Product
- Original Origin
- Final Destination
- Projected Delivery Date to Destination
- Statement that the load has been reduced to the smallest dimensions possible
- Explanation as to why the load cannot be shipped by other means of travel (i.e. rail or barge) to an area at or close to its destination to reduce the impact on the highway infrastructure

3. Detailed Shop Drawing

A detailed shop drawing, specification sheet or plans of the item(s) to be shipped showing ALL dimensions in U.S. measurements and unites.

4. Axle Configuration Drawing

A detailed shop drawing, specification sheet or plans showing both a longitudinal and a transverse view of the entire axle configuration including truck-tractor with axle spacing’s and weights on each axle in U.S. measurements. All submittal must include company name, company contact person, and telephone number.

5. Route Survey

A detailed route survey is required for all Superloads to be performed by the permit requesting company or an authorized agent for the permit requesting company.

- Superloads that exceed 16’ in width, and 165,000 lbs in weight:
 - The Route survey must provide information on horizontal clearances, turning movements at route intersections and any areas along the proposed route where lane shifts or turning movements require the permitted load to encroach into the opposing traffic lane. All conflict

areas are to be identified by highway route and milepost number. Identify locations along the route where the permitted load can exit main travel way to allow traffic to proceed.

- Superloads that exceed 15'6" in height:
 - The route survey must identify all conflict points such as overhead utility lines, traffic signals, tree branches or any other conflict points by highway route and milepost number. Provide method of addressing each conflict point including interchanges where off and on ramps are used to avoid overhead obstruction. Provide a list of safe areas by highway route and milepost number where the permitted load can exit the main travel way to allow traffic to proceed.

6. Utility Notification

Proof of utility notification and approval may be required for loads which exceed 16'6" in height. It will be the responsibility of the requesting company to contact the district offices, utility companies, and traffic signal owners along the Superload route. Notify the permit office of approval and support of the move. This may be done in writing, e-mail, or fax. A bucket truck will be required for all loads that exceed 16'5" in height.

7. Escort Requirements

A minimum of three (3) civilian escorts for ALL Superloads on all roadways as well as additional escorts may be required for loads over 18 feet in height.

8. Travel Times

No movement on the interstate system or highways between 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. in Shelby, Rutherford, Davidson, Hamilton, and Knox counties.

9. Lighting Requirements

ALL Superloads are required to have a lighting plan such that the entire load is easily visible to the traveling public from any direction. Flashing amber or strobe lights are to be mounted on all extremities. This lighting is in addition to other signs and lighting required.

10. Insurance Requirements

TDOT may require additional insurance coverage as security to compensate the State of Tennessee for any damage to any public property, roads, or bridges on the Superload route.

11. Railroad Coordination

It is the responsibility of the permittee to contact the appropriate rail company when a railroad crossing is part of the proposed route. The Department may require notification of crossing approval from the rail company before issuing a permit.