

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is kingpin and how is it measured?

How do I know if my vehicle needs a permit?

What types of permits are available at the TDOT Permit Office and how much do they cost?

How do I apply for a permit?

What forms of payment are accepted?

What are some important escort and safety requirements I need to know?

What is kingpin and how is it measured?

Tennessee over length law uses kingpin to determine if the vehicle is over length. Some Carriers get kingpin and bridge law mixed up. Where bridge law is the distance from the kingpin to center of single axle or center of tandem the over length kingpin is measured from the kingpin to the rear of the trailer or overhang. If the kingpin is over 50' the vehicle or load is over length and needs a permit.

How do I know if my vehicle needs a permit?

According to Tennessee Law, a vehicle or combination of vehicle and load requires a permit if any of the following dimensions are exceeded:

Width: If width exceeds 8'6"

Height: (13 feet and 6 inches)

Length: Truck tractor-semi-trailer combination – (50 feet)

Semi-trailers and trailers used in truck tractor-semi-trailer-trailer combination – (28 feet and 6 inches)

Overhang: 60 inches (5 feet) total for both the front and rear

Weight: No single axle shall exceed twenty thousand pounds (20,000 lbs.), no tandem group shall exceed thirty four thousand pounds (34,000 lbs.)

A permit is required if the vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads is overweight, over-width, over-length, or over-height. Commodity being hauled must be loaded so that the vehicle or vehicle and load combination presents the least dimension and exposure to the motoring public.

What types of permits are available at the TDOT Permit Office?

- 1.) **120,000 Overweight** - Allows up to 120,000 pounds in weight, 12'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. 120,000 overweight annual permits allows the load description to list multiple commodities. Only dimensions can be supplemented on a 120,000 pound annual permit.
- 2.) **150,000 Overweight** - Allows up to 150,000 pounds in weight, 12'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. 150,000 overweight annual permits allows the load description to list multiple commodities and both the dimensions and weight can be supplemented.
- 3.) **120,000 Construction** - Allows up to 120,000 pounds in weight, 13'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. 120,000 construction annuals allow the load description to only list construction equipment as the commodity and only dimensions can be supplemented on a 120,000 pound construction equipment permit.
- 4.) **150,000 Construction** - Allows up to 150,000 pounds in weight, 13'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. 150,000 construction annuals allow the load description to only list construction equipment as the commodity and both the weight and dimensions can be supplemented.
- 5.) **120,000 Fixed** - Allows a self-propelled unit to move up to 120,000 pounds in overall weight, 12'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. 120,000 fixed load annual permits are allowed to move on interstates, US routes and state routes as long as they don't exceed 24,000 pounds on any single axle. No other commodity can be listed with this annual permit and this permit cannot be supplemented for weight or dimension
- 6.) **150,000 Fixed** - Allows a self-propelled unit to move up to 150,000 pounds in overall weight, 12'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. 150,000 fixed load annual permits allows a self-propelled unit to move up to 24,000 pounds on the steer axle and up to 40,000 pounds on the drive axles. Self-propelled units over 120,000 pounds in gross weight can only travel on US or state routes. If the self-propelled unit exceeds 150,000 pounds in gross weight, the unit must be hauled by a tractor-trailer configuration and cannot exceed 20,000 pounds per axle. 150,000 pound annual permit can be supplemented for weight and/or dimensions.
- 7.) **Ocean Going Container** - Allows for movement of sealed containers that are for import or export to be moved up to 90,000 pounds in gross weight. No single axle can exceed 20,000 pounds and there must be a minimum of 5 load bearing axles. Annual permits for ocean going containers are route specific and customer must provide a detailed route of origin to destination and the annual permit will only be valid for the specified route. There are no supplements for ocean container permits.
- 8.) **Over dimensional** - Allows up to 12'-6" in width, 85' feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. There is no weight on this annual permit. Multiple commodities are allowed to be listed on the over dimensional permit and you can supplement dimensions on the over dimensional permit.
- 9.) **Roof Trusses** - Allows up to 14'-0" in width, 85'-0 feet in overall length and 13'-10" in height. There is no weight on this annual permit. Roof Truss annual permits are load specific and no other commodities can be hauled with this permit. Dimensions can be supplemented on this permit.
- 10.) **14ft. Mobile Home** - Allows up to 14'-0" in width, 120'-0" in overall length and 14'-2" in height. Carriers also use this annual permit to haul portable storage buildings. A metal placard is also issued along with the paper permit that displays the permit number and must be attached to the rear of the mobile home during movement of each mobile home or storage building. This mobile home does not have weight and can only be supplemented for height and length.

11.) 16ft. Mobile Home - Allows up to 16'-0" in width, 120'-0" in overall length and 14'-2" in height. Carriers also use this annual permit to haul portable storage buildings. A metal placard is also issued along with the paper permit that displays the permit number and must be attached to the rear of the mobile home during movement of each mobile home or storage building. This mobile home does not have weight and can only be supplemented for height and length.

12.) Commercial Boats - Allows a commercial carrier to haul boats up to 14'-0" in width, 85'-0" in overall length and 13'-10" in height. There is no weight with this annual permit but dimensions can be supplemented and weight added to a single trip permit.

13.) Non-Commercial Boats - Allows a private, not-for-hire, individual to move a personal boat across the state. The yearly cost for a non-commercial boat is double the fee of a single trip permit and pricing varies based on size of boat. The non-commercial boat can cover width, length and height. When speaking with customers concerning non-commercial boats, it is suggested that you remind them that Sunday travel is not allowed in Tennessee.

14.) Single Trip Permit -

Valid: 6 calendar days from effective date

Width: 16 feet maximum

Height:

Weight: 150,000 pounds must pass bridge analysis

What is the cost of a TN OS/OW permit?

There are a variety of factors that make up the cost of a Tennessee DOT OS/OW permit. Below are the general parameters for pricing but is not a comprehensive list.

Excessive length or height: Fifteen dollars (\$15.00)

Excessive weight: Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) plus below
Twenty dollars (\$20.00) plus six cents (\$.06) per ton-mile.

Excessive Width: less than ten feet (10'), ten dollars (\$10.00)

Greater than ten feet (10') but not more than twelve feet (12'), fifteen dollars (\$15.00)

Greater than twelve feet (12') but not more than fourteen feet (14'), twenty five dollars (\$25.00)

Greater than fourteen feet (14') but not more than sixteen feet (16'), thirty dollars (\$30.00)

Annual Permits: One hundred twenty thousand pounds 120,000 lbs. cost five hundred dollars (\$500)
One hundred fifty thousand pound 150,000 lbs. cost one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
Ocean Going Container ninety thousand pounds (90,000), cost (\$500)
Mobile Home two thousand dollars (\$2,000)

Bridge analysis fees:

Movements up to three hundred thousand pounds (300,000 lbs.) cost, one hundred dollars for analysis (\$100.00)

Movements up to five hundred thousand pounds (500,000 lbs.) cost, three hundred dollars for analysis (\$300.00)

Movements up to one million pounds (1,000,000 lbs.) cost, five hundred dollars for analysis (\$500.00)

Movements over one million (1,000,000 lbs.), actual cost

How do I apply for a permit?

A permit can be applied for by telephone, fax, mail, internet, or in

person. Telephone: 615-741-3821

Fax: (334) 832-9084

Address (mail or walk-in):

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Over-Size and Over-weight Permits Office Suite 800
James K. Polk Bldg.
505 Deaderick st.
Nashville, TN 37243

What forms of payment are accepted?

Many forms of payment are accepted including:

Company Check

Cashier's Check

Money Order

Credit Card (Visa, Master Card, AMEX, Discover)

Escrow Accounts may be used for Single Trip Permits.

What are some important safety requirements I need to know?

Movement is not allowed from sunset to sunrise, anytime on Sunday, or anytime on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

When routing is applicable, the permitted vehicle will not travel any route other than the one permitted. If the permitted route becomes impassable, the permitted party is to halt travel and call the permit office for alternate routing.

Safety Requirements:

The escort vehicle must be a properly-licensed, single-unit vehicle (passenger automobile, pickup truck, or SUV) that allows an unobstructed 360° view for safety. No flatbed trucks, service vehicles, and no vehicle towing a trailer can be used as an escort vehicle.

An escort vehicle should allow for an unobstructed 360° view for safety. It should be equipped with two 18-inch square red flags mounted on the roof and two rotating or strobe amber lights that are visible 360°.

The escort's headlights are to be on low beam.

A yellow sign shall be mounted on the front and rear of any overwidth or overlength vehicle or load. When escorts are required, a yellow sign should be placed on the front of the escort vehicle (for front escorts) or the rear of the escorts (for rear escorts). The sign shall read "OVERSIZE LOAD" and be five feet wide by 12 inches high with ten-inch black letters with 1.5 inch brush stroke. The rear sign must not obscure the rear signals or lighting system. The wording "WIDE LOAD" is not an acceptable alternative.

18-inch square red flags are to be placed on all corners of an oversized vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads.

For mobile homes, the approved lighting system includes two rotating or strobe amber lights that are visible 360° placed at the rear corners of the mobile home. The lighting system should be controlled from inside the tractor cab with a warning device to alert the driver in the event of the malfunction. Two-way communication is required at all times with all units of the convoy.

