

Town of Hanover, NH

Regulations for Movement of Oversized and Over Weight Loads on Public Ways

I. Purpose.

The following establishes procedures and criteria for application to the Town of Hanover for a special permit to move non-divisible vehicles or objects having weight, width, height or length greater than statutorily allowed limits set forth in RSA [266](#). Pursuant to RSA [266:24](#), the Selectmen are empowered to make rules for the protection and to prevent the abuse of ways and bridges as provided by RSA [47:17](#) and RSA [41:11](#). Any person who violates the conditions of any permit issued pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a violation.

II. Scope.

These rules shall apply to anyone wishing to move a non-divisible vehicle or object, which has a weight, width, height or length greater than prescribed in RSA [266](#), within the Town of Hanover when a permit from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation is not required because the move is entirely off the State highway system. Permits issued by the Town are valid for use on Hanover roads only. Use of the State highway system requires a permit from the NH Department of Transportation. Permits shall not be issued when the load can be readily divided so that it meets statutory dimension requirements.

III. Exceptions.

A. Federal, State and local governmental subdivisions, and farmers moving their own farm equipment shall be exempt.

B. No permit shall be required for vehicles driving upon the ways of this state in compliance with the following statutes:

- (1) Length exceptions per RSA 266:11-a;
- (2) Width exceptions per RSA 266:13, 15;
- (3) Weight exceptions per RSA 266:19-a, 21, 23;
- (4) Highway building equipment or construction zone exception per RSA 266:20; and
- (5) Truck axles length exception per RSA 266:24-a.

C. No permit shall be required for vehicles driving upon the ways of this state in compliance with a permit recognized as enforceable in New Hampshire per the terms of the New England transportation consortium (NETC) regional agreement authorized by RSA [266:24-b](#).

IV. Permit Requirements.

A. A single trip permit shall be required to allow the movement of a specific vehicle and its non-divisible load along a specified route during a period of one calendar week from date of issue if the load consists of buildings, structures, equipment or other materials upon an independent carriage assembly exceeding 12 feet 0 inches in width.

B. No permit shall issue unless the Public Works Director or his designee reviews the request, and confirms that:

1. The building (if applicable) to be moved is structurally sound;
2. The vehicle and equipment are adequate to safely perform the move;
3. The pavement and highway structure are adequate to support the move along the entire route; and
4. There are adequate horizontal and vertical clearance and turning paths along the entire route.

C. If the vehicle and load exceed 15 feet 0 inches in width, 13 feet 6 inches in height, 115,000 pounds in weight for a 5 axle unit, or 150,000 pounds in gross vehicle weight, no permit shall issue unless the applicant provides the Town with the following additional information, obtained at the applicant's own expense:

1. A written report of an engineering inspection, performed by a currently licensed New Hampshire professional engineer, certifying that the vehicle, load, object, and proposed route meets each of the criteria specified in section “B” above; and
2. A confirmation from the Public Works Director or his designee that the proposed route meets each of the criteria in section “B” above.
3. In order to minimize the impact on traffic volume and flow along the proposed route, the Town may restrict the timing and route of any single trip move in which the nature of the vehicle or load requires:
 - a. The move to occur at a time not permitted by Section VIII.
 - b. The move to occur in an unusual manner, including but not limited to special or wrong-way movements; or

- c. The move to be facilitated by law enforcement officials to maintain the safety of motorists.

V. General Conditions

All permits shall be issued subject to the following general conditions:

- (1) Permits shall be issued only to the person or firm who will actually do the hauling;
- (2) Permits shall not be issued for loads that can be reasonably reduced to legal size and/or weight such as when attachments can be removed from equipment to reduce an oversize load to within legal limits;
- (3) The vehicle shall be registered for the legal maximum weight;

VI. Applicant Responsibility.

A. The applicant shall assume all responsibility for injury to persons or damage to public or private property caused directly or indirectly by the transportation of the vehicle or load under permit. The applicant shall provide proof of sufficient liability and property damage insurance.

B. Acceptance of the permit by the applicant shall be deemed certification by the applicant that:

- (1) The applicant is in compliance with all operational requirements;
- (2) Dimension and weight limitations specified shall not be exceeded;
- (3) Registration and license requirements have been met including financial responsibility obligations; and
- (4) The applicant complies with related rules adopted by the New Hampshire department of safety.

C. The permit, or facsimile of the permit shall be carried in the vehicle during the move. Telephonic confirmation shall not be accepted in lieu of the actual permit.

D. Red flags at least 12 inches square, secured by at least one corner or mounted on a staff, shall be required on all over-dimension loads to adequately mark load extremities longitudinally and laterally.

E. Overwidth loads shall have at least 2 and up to 6 flags mounted at the widest extremity and corners of the load, and placed so as not to increase the overall load width.

F. Overlength loads or loads with rear or front end overhang in excess of 4 feet 0 inches shall display one flag at the end of the overhang if less than 2 feet 0 inches wide, and 2 flags if the overhang is over 2 feet 0 inches wide.

G. Warning signs shall be displayed during the move on the front of the hauling vehicle and on the rear of the hauling vehicle or load whichever provides best rear display. The legend shall read "OVERSIZE LOAD." The signs shall not be less than 7 feet 0 inches wide and 18 inches high with 10-inch high black letters featuring a 1.4-inch brush stroke on a yellow background. Signs shall be made of durable material unaffected by moisture.

H. All oversize load signs shall be removed, covered or otherwise sight restricted when not being used for an oversize move.

VII. Escort Vehicles.

A. Unless police vehicles are used, the applicant shall furnish one escort vehicle for an overdimension load or hauling vehicle, except as follows:

- (1) No escort shall be required for overall widths less than 12 feet 0 inches;
- (2) No escort vehicle shall be required for overlength of less than 80 feet 0 inches; and
- (3) No escort vehicle shall be required if the front or rear overhang is less than 15 feet 0 inches with proper flags displayed.

B. The applicant shall furnish a second escort vehicle for an overdimension load or hauling vehicle presenting a combination of overhang of 15 feet 0 inches or more to the rear and overwidth of 12 feet 0 inches or more.

C. Unless exempted by The Chief of Police when weather conditions, visibility, traffic flow, or other conditions do not compromise safe movement, a police escort shall be required for the following loads and vehicles:

- (1) The load, including hauling vehicle, is 18 feet 0 inches or more in width; or
- (2) The load, including hauling vehicle, is 100 feet 0 inches or more in length.

D. Escort vehicles shall be a vehicle the size of a compact car or larger, properly registered and inspected, with the following equipment installed:

- (1) An operating top-mounted, flashing or rotating amber light;
- (2) A 2-way radio allowing contact with the permitted vehicle at all times; and
- (3) A warning sign with legend reading, "OVERSIZE LOAD" meeting the following standards:

- a. Black letters not less than 10 inch high of a 1.4-inch stroke on a yellow background;
- b. Made of durable material unaffected by moisture; and
- c. The shape of the warning sign shall be varied to fit the escort vehicle but shall not be less than 5 feet 0 inches wide and 12 inches high.

E. Escort vehicles preceding oversize loads shall display the warning sign affixed to the front of the vehicle, while escort vehicles following oversize loads shall display the warning sign affixed to the rear of the vehicle.

F. When escorting a permitted vehicle, the drivers of escort vehicles shall:

- (1) Maintain visual and two-way radio contact with the permitted vehicle at all times;
- (2) Operate the escort vehicle with headlights turned on in the low beam position at all times;
- (3) When one escort is required, position the vehicle to precede a load;
- (4) When traffic following a permit move has accumulated to 7 or more vehicles, yield the right-of-way for these vehicles to pass at the nearest, accessible, safe location.
- (5) When crossing bridges on 2-way highways where bridge width is 24 feet 0 inches or less, stop all traffic while the load is on the bridge.

VIII. Movement Prohibited.

A. Movement of over-dimension loads shall be restricted by the terms of the permit as follows:

- (1) To the specific routes designated on the permit;
- (2) To daylight hours, which means the period from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset;
- (3) On specific routes, as warranted by high traffic volumes caused by holidays, special scheduled events, or conflict with other moves; and
- (4) On specific routes by unsafe highway conditions caused by insufficiency, construction activities, maintenance activities, or when loads exceed posted capacities imposed due to emergence of frost, winter thaws, or excessive rainy periods.

B. Requests shall be denied and permits shall not be valid during specific periods on specific roads as a result of slippery pavement conditions or inclement weather, such as fog, haze, heavy rain, freezing rain, or snow.

C. Permits shall not be valid during the following holidays and times:

- (1) New Year's Day;
- (2) Martin Luther King Civil Rights Day;
- (3) Washington's Birthday;
- (4) Memorial Day;
- (5) Independence Day;
- (6) Labor Day;
- (7) Columbus Day;
- (8) Veterans Day;
- (9) Thanksgiving Day;
- (10) Christmas Day;
- (11) Any Monday or Friday designated when a holiday falls on a weekend.
- (12) All weekend days.

D. Vehicles which are overweight only and which are operated at normal traffic speeds shall not be restricted to time of movement.