



RULES OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CHAPTER 672-2 GOVERNING PERMITS FOR VEHICLES OR LOADS OF EXCESS WEIGHT OR DIMENSION

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672-2-.01 Definitions. Amended.

The following words when used in Chapter 672-2 shall have the following meanings:

(a) Non-divisible load or vehicle: Non-divisible loads or vehicles will have the same meaning, unless otherwise exempted, as listed in the current edition of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 23, Part 658.5 titled definitions or Georgia Code 32-6-28. No load or vehicle shall be issued a permit whose weight, width, length or height can be readily dismantled or separated.

(b) Continuous Movement: Allows a permitted load or vehicle of legal overall dimensions with a gross weight of less than 125,000 pounds to travel twenty four (24) hours per day, seven days per week. However, no oversize or overweight load movement is allowed during inclement weather and holidays as defined in Department. Rule 672-2-.03(c).

(c) Containerized Freight: A sealed container with an origin or destination being a port used for international trading. The driver must be prepared to show an international bill of lading. A 40' box container is allowed a gross vehicle weight of 100,000 pounds on a five (5) axle tractor/trailer combination. A 20' box container is allowed 80,000 pounds with a tandem weight of 44,000 pounds. A 20' box container transported on a 40' center mount or center-mount triaxle trailer is allowed a vehicle gross weight of 100,000 pounds on a five (5) or more axle tractor/trailer.

(d) Emergency Towing: When a tractor/trailer combination becomes disabled, an authorized permitted wrecker may transport the disabled tractor/trailer within a 50 miles radius to a repair facility or a safe location to dismantle the tractor/trailer. If the closest location is a weigh station or rest area, transporters are authorized to leave dismantled tractor-trailers, at

that location however, they must be moved within a twenty-four (24) hour period or be moved at the owners expense. No State Agency shall be responsible for any damages to tractor-trailers left on State property.

(d)(1) Incident Management: for companies certified and registered under the Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) to reduce the impact of major incidents in Metro Atlanta by clearing vehicle incidents in 90 minutes or less, if the dimensions and weights of towing vehicles exceed legal limits, they will be required to obtain a permit for specialized equipment but may exceed axle or gross weight while participating in clearing major incidents in the Metro area.

(e) House: A residential dwelling or building in excess of sixteen (16) feet wide designed to be built as one unit. Said unit also must be designed and constructed in such a way that it is not easily disassemble (23 CFR 658.5) nor intended for transport on its own chassis.

(f) Manufactured Home: A residential dwelling or building transportable in one or more sections which in the traveling mode has a box width of eight (8) feet or more and a box length of forty (40) feet or more with the total box width of all section(s) being no more than sixteen (16) feet and is designed to be transported on its own chassis.

(g) Modular Unit: A residential or commercial dwelling or building transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode has a box width of eight (8) feet or more and a box length of forty (40) feet or more with all sections being no more than sixteen (16) feet in width. On-frame modular units are designed to be transported on its own chassis. Off-frame modular units are designed to be transported on a commercial trailer and offloaded with a crane and placed on a foundation. When hauling more than one section as defined in O.C.G.A. 32-6-28(1)(B) the overall length cannot exceed 80 feet including the hitch.

(h) Modular Unit Transporter: must meet all Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and State safety requirements, rules, regulations and include proper vehicle registration and the proper vehicle tag; at a minimum it must be constructed of 12" I-beams doubled & fabricated together; all axles must have brakes; wood floor joist of each modular section must be securely attached to the beam with lag bolts & washers or lag bolts, washers and cable winches; overall length shall not exceed 80' including the hitch.

(i) Single Trip Permit: A single trip permit may only be used once for movement during the times specified by such permit and must provide: a description of the load being transported, name of the transporter, point of origin and final destination.

(j) Multi-trip permit: As defined in O.C.G.A. 32-6-28(b)(4), the commissioner may issue a multitrip permit to any vehicle or load allowed by federal law. A multitrip permit authorizes the permitted load to return to its original destination on the same permit, if done so within ten (10) days, with the same vehicle configuration, and following the same route, unless otherwise specified by the Department. A multitrip permit authorizes unlimited permitted loads on the same permit, if done so within the allowable ten days, with the same vehicle configuration, and following the same route.

(k) Superload: A non-divisible load exceeding a width or height of 16' and/or a gross vehicle weight exceeding 150,001 pounds up to a gross vehicle weight of 180,000 pounds. Axle weights and spacing are not required for superloads with dimensions only. However, once the gross vehicle weight exceeds 150,000 pounds, axle weights and spacings are required.

(l) Superload Plus: A non-divisible load exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 180,000 pounds; requires axle weights and spacings for a complete bridge analysis. Axle weights shall not exceed those axle weight limitations specified on the permit. In addition, all axle spacings must be accurate or longer than the axle spacings specified on the permit. Axle spacings which are less than those specified on the permit shall cause the permit to become void. Should this permit become void the overweight citation shall be based on all excess weight greater than 150,000 GVW, not the legal weight of 80,000 GVW.

(m) Annual Permit: Standard Annual permits are for specific types of loads with a maximum width of 12', height up to 14'6", length of 100 feet, and GVW of 100,000 pounds on a five (5) axle tractor-trailer combination. Annual Plus Permits are for specific types of loads but the width may be a maximum of fourteen (14) feet wide from the base of the load to a point ten (10) feet above the pavement and a width of fourteen feet and eight inches (14'8") for the upper portion of the load, a height of 14'6" a length of 100 feet and a GVW of 100,000 pounds, on a five (5) axle tractor-trailer combination and can only be moved on the interstate and limited access routes.

(n) Transport Vehicle: A term used to define a vehicle which is designed specifically for the purpose of transporting manufactured homes, sectional houses, or portable buildings.

(o) Amber warning light: A flashing or revolving light at least eight (8) inches in diameter, with a minimum candlepower of 35,000 lumens or equivalent, four (4) inch strobe light and shall flash so as to be visible from a distance of not less than one quarter mile. In lieu of the amber warning light also acceptable is a light-emitting diode (LED) light equipped with a multidirectional type lens, and shall flash at a rate of at least 60 flashes per minute and shall be plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet from the rear and sides at a radius of 180 degrees any time day or night.

(p) Certified Pilot/Escort Vehicle Driver: A certified pilot/escort vehicle driver shall be appropriately certified as required in Code Section 32-6-28(a)(8), O.C.G.A, and in Rule 672-2-.06 when operating in the state of Georgia.

(q) Police Escort: A police escort vehicle shall be an automobile with markings identifying its law enforcement jurisdiction and shall be equipped with a flashing or revolving blue light as defined in Code Sections 40-8-91 and 40-8-92, O.C.G.A. Carrier is responsible for providing two-way communication, in good working order, so that the driver of the permitted load, the civilian escorts (when required) and the police escorts will all have constant contact while escorting the oversized load.

672-2-.02 General Restrictions on Issuance of Permits. Amended.

- (1) No Permit shall be issued if the issuance of the permit in any way jeopardizes federal funds appropriated to this State under the provisions of Title 23 of the U.S. Code.
- (2) No single trip permit shall be valid in excess of ten (10) allowable travel days unless extension is granted by the Department. The validity of a single trip permit shall expire ten (10) days after its issuance.
- (3) No permit shall be issued for off-the-road equipment which exceeds 25,000 pounds on any one axle. Off-the-road equipment with axle loads of not more than 25,000 pounds nor less than 20,340 pounds will be routed by the Oversize Permit Unit and limited to a ten (10) mile radius from the point where the trip originated.
- (4) No permit shall be valid for travel into or through the area bounded by Interstate 285 which is the bypass around the City of Atlanta unless the vehicle is making a pickup or delivery within the area. The driver must be prepared to show proof of such pickup or delivery. In addition, a permit issued for the movement of a vehicle or load shall not be valid within that area between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and ~~3~~ 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parking on the Interstate and Limited Access Highway Right-of-Way will not be permissible for permitted vehicles which are waiting for the authorized times of entry. The Department may at its discretion, limit travel in major cities as shown on the permit; or at the written request of local jurisdictions .
- (5) The Department may sell any type of annual permit on a prorated basis to create a stagger for the renewal date.

672-2-.03 Conditions Attached to Issuance of Permits. Amended.

In addition to compliance with any other conditions imposed on the issuance of a particular permit, any person receiving a permit from the Department thereby certifies that said person will comply or has complied (as applicable herein) with the following conditions governing the operation of permitted vehicles or loads. When intentional or due to gross negligence a violation of any of the following conditions is unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor and may be considered as evidence supporting action to suspend or revoke or deny a permit;

- (a) Federal and state laws and regulations. Said person will comply or has complied with the applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the State of Georgia, including but not limited to those of the Georgia Department of Revenue, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission, Georgia Department of Public Safety, and Title 32, Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
- (b) A drivers signature signifies acknowledgement of understanding of all requirements listed on the permit. The signed permit must be in the cab of the vehicle transporting the load.
- (c) Unless otherwise shown on the permit or further limited by specific rules hereinafter provided, said person will insure that the movement of a permitted vehicle or load will take place only on Monday through Saturday, from thirty (30) minutes after sunrise to thirty (30)

minutes before sunset Eastern Standard Time or Eastern Daylight Savings Time, whichever is in effect for the period of the year during which the movement occurs. Permitted loads for weight up to 125,000 pounds without any dimensions exceeding legal limits, may have continuous movement, except that no permitted vehicle or load will be moved during foggy weather, or during snow or icy conditions, or during the following legal holidays: New Year's Day; Memorial Day; July 4th; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and December 25th. Permitted loads in excess of twelve (12) feet wide shall not travel when visibility is less than six hundred (600) feet or when the ground wind exceeds twenty-five (25) miles per hour. When such conditions exist, the driver shall proceed to the first area where the load can be safely removed from the roadway.

(d) Route of Travel. Said person will not operate the permitted load or vehicle over any public road in the State other than those described or allowed on the permit or as allowed on the Department's Approved NHS Network. However, all permitted loads must comply with the load limitations posted at any bridge on any public road in the State. Single trip permit movements must follow the specific routing instructions listed on the permit. Unless there is a detour, then the load must comply with the routes identified for that detour.

(e) Persons/Companies obtaining permits are required to maintain the following liability coverage for the duration of the permit as required in Code Section 32-6-28(a)(9), O.C.G.A. For permitted loads whose GVW is less than or equal to 10,000 pounds: Bodily Injury Liability in the amount of \$50,000 limit for injury or death per person as a result of any one occurrence, Property Damage Liability in the amount of \$50,000 limit for damage to property of others in any one occurrence. Insurance requirements for Commercial Motor Carriers whose GVW is greater than or equal to 10,001 pounds shall maintain the following coverage \$1,000,000.00 minimum Property Damage to others in any one occurrence, \$300,000.00 minimum for Bodily Injury for each person and \$1,000,000.00 Multiple Persons injured per occurrence. Prior to receiving a permit, the person/company receiving a permit shall furnish the Department a copy of their insurance certificate. Nothing contained herein shall be construed so as to make the Department liable for any damage to public roads or bridges or to persons or private property caused by a permitted load or vehicle, or its escort vehicle. The person/company receiving the permit thereby promises to hold the Department harmless for such claims and to recompense the Department or a political subdivision for any expenditures made by the Department or political subdivision to repair damage caused by the permitted vehicle or load to a public road of the State Highway System or of a county road system or of a municipal street system, as applicable.

(g) Leased vehicles. The operator of a leased vehicle must carry on their person written proof of the identity of the lessee. Any owner/operator who the department has placed under suspension from ordering permits may not lease their vehicles to other companies with the purpose of transporting oversized loads in order to circumvent the suspension until the suspension period has expired, and all damages and claims have been paid to the State.

(h) Single trip permit. Said person will not allow the single trip permit to be used other than for the movement by the particular vehicle which is indicated on the permit.

(i) Any person or company that receives an annual permit from the Department agrees not to allow the permit to be used by any vehicle which is not owned by such person or company. Code Section 32-6-28(a)(2), O.C.G.A., which provides that annual permits may be interchanged from vehicle to vehicle shall only apply between those vehicles that are owned by the same person, firm, or corporation. For the purposes of this provision, a vehicle leased to a person or company shall be considered as owned by the person or company leasing said vehicle; but the operator of the vehicle must show proof of the lease agreement before the permit can be considered as valid by the enforcement personnel. Code Section 32-6-28(a)(3), O.C.G.A., further provides that every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers. This shall mean that a photostatic copy of the permit will not be acceptable. The purpose of this requirement is to prevent the use of a permit by more than one vehicle at the same time.

(j) In addition to complying with all applicable Federal and State Laws and regulations, the person/company receiving the permit shall also comply with applicable County and Municipal ordinances when traveling off the State Highway System.

(k) In addition, a person/company by accepting a permit for the movement of a permitted load with a width in excess of fourteen feet eight (14'8") inches agrees that they have complied with the following conditions:

1. Movement will not be made on routes with bridges of less than 28' lateral clearance without a vehicle front escort.
2. During the movement of all permitted loads, it is required that all warning lights on the truck, transport vehicle, any required vehicle/police escorts, and unit shall be operating.
3. Movement will comply with all other laws, rules and regulations in reference to such moves.

(l) If a Superload plus permit becomes invalid, the overweight citation assessment shall be assessed at 125% as identified in O.C.G.A. 32-6-27(2) for all excess weight greater than 150,000 pounds, and the company/driver must obtain a new permit prior to travel.

672-2-.04 Special Conditions Attached to Permits for Houses.

(1) Houses. In addition to the conditions set forth in Rule 672-2-.03, "Conditions Attached to the Issuance of Permits," a person receiving a permit for the movement of a house certifies that said person will or has complied, as applicable, with the following conditions:

(a) Said person will use the following minimum equipment for moving the house: a tandem truck, capable of jacking the house up for a vertical clearance of no less than four (4) feet; one set of tandem dollies in good condition; a wench truck to remove signs & mail boxes; and one extra skidder or wrecker in good condition and capable of moving the whole load in case of a breakdown;

(b) Said person has measured the house and has, prior to applying for the permit, checked the route stated in the application for permit to insure obstacle clearance and necessary places periodically to pull off the road for the purpose of preventing unnecessary traffic congestion;

(c) All internal and external masonry must be removed before moving a house.

(d) All mail boxes, highway signs, and other movable obstacles shall be removed as the house approaches such an obstacle and shall be re-erected immediately in equal or better condition after the house passes such obstacle;

(e) The movement of the house will be confined to the route stated on the permit, and will not exceed any straight line distance of one hundred and fifty miles (150) miles between origin and destination;

(f) A house may be moved Monday through Saturday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., except in counties which require moves to be made after 12:00 midnight and before 5:00 a.m. and unless otherwise designated on the permit. Application for the movement of a house shall be made at least 72 hours prior to the time of movement with the prior approval of the local utilities affected. Exceptions to the times for house movements will be considered if the hauler provides a written request from all local governments or police/sheriff offices along the proposed route(s);

(g) A National Joint Utility Notification System (NJUNS) approval is required on all loads with a height of 18' or higher prior to the issuance of the permit.

672-2-.05 Special Conditions attached to Permits for Manufactured Homes, Modular Units, & Portable Buildings

(1) Manufactured Homes, Modular Units, or Portable Buildings in excess of ten (10) feet wide. In addition to the conditions set forth in Rule 672-2-.03, Conditions Attached to the Issuance of Permits, a person by accepting a permit for the movement of a manufactured home, modular units, sectional house, or portable building in excess of ten (10) feet wide up to a maximum of sixteen (16) feet wide, agrees that the person will or has complied or understands as applicable, the following conditions:

(a) Manufactured Homes, Modular Units, or Portable Buildings shall be limited to a length of eighty (80) feet, including the hitch.

(b) Manufactured Homes, Modular Homes, or Portable Buildings in excess of twelve (12) feet wide, must be towed using a towing vehicle no smaller than a fifteen (15) foot transport vehicle and must be equipped with operating brakes on at least one-half of the axles. If unit has three (3) axles, at least two (2) axles must be equipped with functioning brakes.

(c) All necessary safety precautions shall be employed in crossing narrow bridges, including flagging other traffic to permit safe crossing.

672-2-.06 Pilot/Escort Vehicle Certification. Escorts of Permitted Vehicles or Loads. Amended.

Person's or Companies being used as certified pilot/vehicle escorts shall meet the minimum requirements in O.C.G.A. 32-6-28(a)(8).

Any driver operating a vehicle escorting an oversize/overweight load shall meet the training requirements and the certification program by the Department. This certification may provide for reciprocity with other states having a similar pre-approved vehicle escort certification program. Certification credentials for the driver of an escort vehicle shall be carried in the vehicle and be readily available for inspection by law enforcement personnel or an authorized employee of the Department.

(1) Equipment: An escort vehicle shall be an automobile or pickup truck and shall be equipped with a revolving or flashing amber warning light located on top of the vehicle. The operator shall have obtained a permit from the appropriate state agency for the use of the light as required by the provisions of Code Sections 40-8-92, 40-8-93 and 40-8-95, O.C.G.A. Escort vehicles and the vehicle transporting the permitted load will also be equipped with two-way communication, in good working order, so that the drivers will have constant communication with each other as well as communication with GDOT TMC Operators and enforcement personnel, if required, and any other escorts of the same load. The rear escort vehicle driver will advise the driver of the load and the front escort, when applicable, as to the traffic conditions behind the movement. When there are four or more vehicles behind the permitted load, the escort vehicles and the permitted load shall pull over and allow the traffic to pass.

(2) Signs:

(a) On all loads over legal width, or height, or length, a sign containing the wording "OVERSIZED LOAD" shall be mounted on the front of the escort vehicle (for a front escort) and to the rear of the escort vehicle (for a rear escort). The letters shall be black on an orange or yellow backboard and shall be at least eight (8) inches high and four (4) inches wide. The backboard shall be at least one (1) foot high and six (6) feet wide.

(3) When Required:

(a) As a condition of the issuance of a permit, the Department when it deems necessary in the interest of public safety in any case, may require the use of a front or rear escort, or both.

(b) It shall be an unlawful act punishable as a misdemeanor for any person to operate upon a public road of the State any equipment exempted from permit requirements by the provisions of Code Section 32-6-25, O.C.G.A., when such exempted equipment is wider than one lane

of such public road and the operator of such exempted equipment has not provided both front and rear escorts thereof.

(c) Otherwise the following escort requirements shall apply:

1. LENGTH

(i) For any permitted load whose length exceeds 75' but is less than or equal to 100', a Rear Escort/Amber Light is required.

(ii) For any permitted load whose length exceeds 100' but is less than or equal to 125', a Vehicle Rear Escort is required.

(iii) For any permitted load whose length is greater than 125', a Vehicle Front and Vehicle Rear Escort is required.

2. HEIGHT

(i) For any permitted load whose height is fifteen feet six inches (15' 6") or greater, a Vehicle Front Escort with a Height Sensor is required unless the hauler has a valid trip approval ticket from NJUNS (National Joint Utilities Notification Service).

3. WIDTH

(i) For any permitted load whose width exceeds twelve feet (12') but is less than or equal to fourteen feet eight inches (14'8"), a Vehicle Front Escort and a Rear Escort/Amber Lights is required for travel on a two (2) lane road. A Vehicle Rear Escort only is required for the same permitted load to travel on a four (4) lane road. For travel upon a Limited Access Highway, a Rear Escort/Amber Lights only are required.

(ii) For any permitted load whose width exceeds fourteen feet eight inches (14'8") up to and including sixteen feet (16'), a Vehicle Front Escort and a Vehicle Rear Escort is required for movement upon a two (2) lane highway. A Vehicle Rear Escort only is required for movement of the same permitted load on a four (4) or more lane road or a Limited Access Highway.

(iii) For permitted loads whose width exceeds sixteen feet (16') wide or for loads not defined above, the Department shall determine escort requirements on a case by case basis and may require a vehicle Police Escort with operating blue lights displaying their jurisdiction.

672-2-.07 Marking of Oversize Vehicles or Loads. Amended.

A sign of the same type required for an escort vehicle under the provisions of Rule 672-2-.06(2) shall be mounted on both the front of the vehicle and rear of the vehicle or load over eight feet

six inches (8'6") wide, thirteen feet six inches (13'6") high and one hundred (100) feet in length. Such signs shall be removed when an oversize load is no longer being transported by a vehicle that exceeds the legal dimensions. In addition, a square red flag, eighteen inches (18") on a side, shall be displayed at the corners of both sides of such overwidth vehicle or load, at both the front and rear thereof. Loads exempt from obtaining permits as defined in Code Section 32-6-25 and 32-6-25.1 are required to be marked as described in this section.

672-2-.08 Application for Permits. Amended.

(1) Requested through GDOT's Oversize Permit Unit.

(2) Procedure:

(a) An application for a single trip permit may be made by telephone, by letter, by email, by facsimile transmission, electronically through our web based program or in person, giving the applicable information required. The permit fee shall be transmitted to the Oversize Permit Unit, State Department of Transportation, prior to the issuance of the permit. Such payment may be made by credit card, company check, money order, or by a certified or cashier's check. A personal check will not be accepted. Checks and money orders shall be made payable to the Oversize Permit Unit, State Department of Transportation.

(b) The Oversize may use any of the following methods to transmit a single trip permit to an applicant: internet, e-mail, self-issue, facsimile transmission, mail, permit sending company, presentation in person.

(c) Annual Permit. An application for an annual permit shall be made on the prescribed application form. Upon approval of the application and payment of the required fee, the Oversize Permit Unit shall issue the permit by mail or present it to the applicant, as requested by the applicant. The manner of payment for annual permit fees shall be as prescribed for single trip permit fees.

672-2-.09 Revocation, Suspension of, Denial for Application or Renewal of Permits. Amended.

(1) Authority to revoke, suspend, or deny permits. The Oversize Permit Unit, State Department of Transportation, is hereby designated by the Commissioner of said Department as the official authorized to refuse, cancel, suspend or revoke the permit requested by an applicant or issued to a person/company.

(2) Reasons for justifying revocation, suspension, or denial of permit. Permits may be revoked, suspended, or denied for just cause, including but not limited to any one of the following reasons:

(a) Repeated past violations by the person/company or applicant, of a relatively minor nature;

(b) A single, but aggravated violation including, but not limited to, damage to public or private property, violations of safety requirements for police escorts, escort vehicles and

lights, hours and days of operation, insurance requirements, reduced visibility, snow or ice conditions, braking axles, oversize load signs and willful deviation from the routes specified on a permit or allowed by a permit.

(c) A material misrepresentation made by the applicant for the intent of alteration of any original permit produced by the Department, by adding, deleting or changing any character, word, number, field or entry. Items added by routine fax transmission, such as company name, date and time shall not be considered as alterations.

(d) Failure to make payment in full for any fee assessments or taxes owed to the State of Georgia; or

(e) Any actions by the applicant or company that displays a total disregard for the safety of the traveling public or damages caused to state and or private property including but not limited to public roads, bridges, signs & traffic signals.

(3) Penalties for violations of this subsection are: (1) first offense within a two-year period, 90 days suspension; (2) second offense within a two-year period, 180 days suspension; (3) third offense within a two-year period, 1 year suspension. Before the suspension for permits becomes final, the person who requested the permit shall have the right to an administrative hearing under the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act and Rule 672-1-.05 of the Rules of the State Department of Transportation. In the event of a hearing request, the suspension of the permit shall become effective as of the date of the order which finally disposes of the administrative review.

(4) Appeal from revocation, suspension, denial of application, or renewal of permit. The procedure for appealing an adverse action by the Oversize Permit Unit is governed by Chapter 672-1, Rules of the State Department of Transportation.