
Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 25-26

2025 Legislation - Oversize/Overweight Single-Trip Permit Changes

DATE: 6/24/2025

FROM: Customer Services Bureau

TO: All Motor Carrier Customer Services staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers' staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1st, 2025

SUBJECT

This memo explains House File 979, enacted during the 2025 legislative session, which allows overweight vehicles operating under a permit to increase their required registration weight in conjunction with a single trip permit, increases the All Systems Overweight permit maximum weight to 12.5% over existing legal weight, makes changes to the All Systems Permit route restrictions and appeal process, and strikes the requirement that overweight sealed ocean containers contain exclusively "raw forest products" as defined by Iowa Code.

SUMMARY

Single Trip Permit Changes

- Amends Iowa Code section 321E.12 to allow a vehicle traveling under a single trip permit to meet the statutory requirement to be registered for the gross weight of the vehicle and load by collecting the required tonnage fees along with the permit application.
- Strikes the language in 321E.12 prohibiting vehicles operating under an IRP trip permit to haul over 80,000 pounds.
- The new fee for a single trip registration is \$4 per ton exceeding forty tons.
- Strikes a provision of 321E.9 requiring that overweight sealed ocean containers contain exclusively raw forest products.

All Systems Overweight Permit Changes

- Amends Iowa Code section 321E.8 to increase the weight allowance under the permit to 12.5% from 12%.
- Amends Iowa Code section 321E.3 to change which local roads can be designated for the permit, to include paved and non-paved secondary roads and designated truck routes.
- Defaults all qualifying roads to be included, and secondary roads agencies now only have to communicate any restricted routes.
- Adds language that states all roads designated as not valid are subject to review by Iowa DOT and requires the department to adopt rules to resolve disputes.
- Strikes the language which allowed trucks to travel along the most direct route between point of loading and unloading regardless of a local authority's route designation, and replaces it with language requiring a local authority to work with the department to find the shortest alternate

route in situations where all roads leading to a point of origin or destination are restricted by a local authority and requires the department to adopt rules to administer this process.

House File 979 will become effective July 1st, 2025.

LINK TO LEGISLATION

[Iowa Legislature - BillBook](#)

CURRENT (Prior to July 1, 2025)

Currently, carriers are required to have their county or International Registration Plan (IRP) registration weight equal to, or greater than their permitted weight. Carriers must submit their credentials with the permit application. All overweight sealed ocean containers moved under permit are only allowed to contain raw forest products. Vehicles operating under an IRP trip permit are not authorized to haul overweight loads on a single trip permit.

The current All Systems Overweight Permit only includes paved highways or streets. The default is that all roads are considered to be excluded, and the local authority has to list the valid routes. The permit has a weight allowance of 12% above legal weight. The permit includes a clause allowing carriers to operate along the most direct route between the point of loading and unloading, notwithstanding a local authority's route designation.

NEW

Beginning July 1st, 2025 (or pending system implementation), carriers will be allowed to add the tonnage fees to their permit application on a single trip basis, eliminating the need to make a separate trip to their county or state to raise the registration weight for the whole year. Overweight sealed ocean containers moved under permit can contain anything. Vehicles operating under an IRP trip permit can haul overweight if they purchase tonnage on a single trip permit.

The permit has a weight allowance of 12.5% above legal weight. Secondary roads authorities will now consider all primary and secondary (to include gravel) roads to be included in the permit and will only communicate restrictions to Iowa DOT. If all roads leading to and from a loading or unloading location are designated as not valid, the local authority will cooperate with the Iowa DOT to find an alternate route for a permitted vehicle over the shortest possible distance.

BUSINESS IMPACT

- Carriers will no longer need to raise their registered weight for an entire year if they only plan to move overweight loads occasionally. They can raise their weight temporarily, on a per-permit basis and save a trip to the county or state IRP office.

- Cab card fraud will be greatly reduced because tonnage fees for out of state vehicles will be automatically added to permits and carriers will no longer need to submit cab cards with their applications.
- Non-IRP vehicles operating on a temporary IRP trip permit will now be eligible to haul overweight loads with a single trip permit.
- All Systems Overweight permit max weight increasing by .5% and will now match the harvest proclamation weight on 5 axles.
- Carriers will be able to use the all-systems overweight permit on more secondary roads than today.
- Roadside enforcement of the all-systems overweight permit will be easier because the “loading and unloading” clause has been removed.
- Central office MVD staff will work with our vendor, Bentley Systems, to update the system to calculate the new fees and update the permit application templates. Programming work may extend past the statutory effective date of July 1, 2025.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOW MUCH WILL SINGLE TRIP REGISTRATION COST?

The cost will be \$4 per ton (2,000 pounds) for each ton exceeding 40 tons (80,000 pounds) in addition to the statutory permit fee of \$35. Example: a truck registered for 80,000 pounds wants to move an excavator that will weigh 100,000 pounds combined. They will pay \$75 for their permit (\$35 base fee + \$40 in tonnage fees [\$4 x 10 tons]).

HOW LONG IS A SINGLE TRIP PERMIT VALID FOR?

Permits are valid for 5 consecutive days.

WHAT IF I AM ALREADY REGISTERED FOR MORE THAN 80,000 POUNDS?

Our permit system will cross reference Iowa registrations and only calculate additional fees above your registered weight to prevent Iowa-based carriers from being charged twice. We are unable to reliably access out-of-state registration systems so the tonnage fees will automatically be applied to all out of state vehicles as if they were registered for 80,000 pounds.

DOES THE SINGLE-TRIP TONNAGE FEE PREVENT ME FROM NEEDING A PROPERLY LICENSED VEHICLE?

No. The tonnage fees being added to permits are IN ADDITION to your properly licensed vehicle and are meant to assist customers with complying with Iowa’s statutory requirement to be registered for the weight being carried under permit. These are supplemental fees only.

CAN I NOW HAUL OVERWEIGHT LOADS ON AN IRP TRIP PERMIT?

Yes. Previously, IRP trip permits were for legal weight loads only because they do not carry any state-

specific weights on the temporary permit. HF979 removes this restriction because the additional weight required will be purchased with the single trip permit and satisfies the Iowa requirement to be registered for the weight being moved under permit.

WHAT NEW ROADS ARE BEING ADDED TO THE ALL SYSTEMS OVERWEIGHT PERMIT?

The legislation now includes all paved and non-paved farm-to-market and secondary roads that are not otherwise restricted by the local authority. Iowa DOT will be working with the local authorities to update the maps on our website to reflect the most current restrictions. Prior to travel, customers should go to the map at the following link to view the most current version of the maps and to see what county and city roads are included: <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/Maps>

MY LOCAL COUNTY HAS RESTRICTED A ROAD THAT I WANT TO USE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

All roads designated as not valid are subject to review by Iowa DOT. Local authorities must provide justification as to why a road is restricted. If DOT disagrees with the determination of the local authority, the dispute will be resolved in accordance with rules adopted by the department. The department will be working to adopt rules to establish the dispute resolution parameters and alternate route designation procedures. If the not valid determination for all routes leading to a loading or unloading destination have been approved by the Iowa DOT, the hauler should contact the Iowa DOT. Iowa DOT will work with the local authority to find an alternate route.

WHAT ARE THE NEW HIGHER MAXIMUM WEIGHTS ON THE ALL SYSTEMS OVERWEIGHT PERMIT?

5-axle maximum: 90,000 pounds
6-axle maximum: 101,250 pounds
7-axle maximum: 108,000 pounds

IF I TRAVEL UNDER THIS PERMIT, HOW HEAVY CAN I HAUL ON THE PRIMARY HIGHWAYS FOR 3-AXLE, 4-AXLE, AND 5-AXLE TRUCKS?

The below chart shows the maximum gross weight under the permit (maximum gross weight increased by 12.5%) for primary highways for 3-axle, 4-axle, and 5-axle trucks.

MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT TABLE FOR ALL SYSTEMS OVERWEIGHT PERMIT – PRIMARY HIGHWAYS			
distance in feet	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles
4	38250		
5	38250		
6	38250		
7	38250		
8	38250		
8'1"	47250		
9	47813		
10	48938	54563	

11	49500	55688	
12	50625	56250	
13	51188	56813	63,000
14	52313	57938	64,125
15	52875	58500	64,688
16	54000	59063	65,250
17	54563	60188	65,813
18	55688	60750	66,375
19	56250	61313	67,500
20	57375	62438	68,063
21	57938	63000	68,625
22	59063	63563	69,188
23	59625	64688	70,313
24	60,000*	65250	70,875
25	60,000*	65813	71,438
26	60,000*	66938	72,000
27	60,000*	67500	73,125
28	60,000*	68063	73,688
29	60,000*	69188	74,250
30	60,000*	69750	74,813
31	60,000*	70313	75,938
32	60,000*	71438	76,500
33	60,000*	72000	77,063
34	60,000*	72563	78,188
35	60,000*	73688	78,750
36	60,000*	76500	79,313
37	60,000*	76500	79,875
38	60,000*	76500	81,000
39	60,000*	76500	81,563
40	60,000*	77063	82,125
41	60,000*	78188	82,688
42	60,000*	78750	83,250
43	60,000*	79313	84,375
44	60,000*	80,000*	84,938
45	60,000*	80,000*	85,500
46	60,000*	80,000*	86,063
47	60,000*	80,000*	87,188
48	60,000*	80,000*	87,750
49	60,000*	80,000*	88,313
50	60,000*	80,000*	88,875
51	60,000*	80,000*	90,000

52	60,000*	80,000*	
53	60,000*	80,000*	
54	60,000*	80,000*	
55	60,000*	80,000*	
56	60,000*	80,000*	
57	60,000*	80,000*	
*will exceed legal axle weights if given full 12.5% increase			

IF I TRAVEL UNDER THIS PERMIT, HOW HEAVY CAN I HAUL ON THE NONPRIMARY HIGHWAYS FOR 3-AXLE, 4-AXLE, AND 5-AXLE TRUCKS?

The below chart shows the maximum gross weight under the permit (maximum gross weight increased by 12%) for nonprimary highways for 3-axle, 4-axle, and 5-axle trucks:

MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT TABLE FOR ALL SYSTEMS OVERWEIGHT PERMIT – NONPRIMARY HIGHWAYS			
distance in feet	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles
4			
5			
6			
7	38250		
8	38250		
8'1"	47250		
9	47813		
10	48938	50625	
11	49500	51750	
12	50625	52875	
13	51188	54000	54,563
14	52313	55125	55,688
15	52875	56250	56,813
16	54000	57375	57,938
17	54563	58500	59,063
18	55688	59625	60,188
19	56250	61313	61,313
20	57375	62438	62,438
21	57938	63000	63,563
22	59063	63563	64,688
23	59625	64688	65,813
24	60,000*	65250	66,938
25	60,000*	65813	68,063

26	60,000*	66938	69,188
27	60,000*	67500	70,313
28	60,000*	68063	71,438
29	60,000*	69188	72,563
30	60,000*	69750	73,688
31	60,000*	70313	74,813
32	60,000*	71438	75,938
33		72000	77,063
34		72563	78,188
35		73688	78,750
36		76500	79,313
37		76500	79,875
38		76500	81,000
39		76500	81,563
40		77063	82,125
41		78188	82,688
42		78750	83,250
43		79313	84,375
44		80,000*	84,938
45		80,000*	85,500
46		80,000*	86,063
47		80,000*	87,188
48		80,000*	87,750
49		80,000*	88,313
50		80,000*	88,875
51		80,000*	90,000
52		80,000*	
53		80,000*	
54		80,000*	
55		80,000*	
56		80,000*	
57		80,000*	
*will exceed legal axle weights if given full 12.5% increase			

IF I HAVE A CDL AND TRAVEL UNDER THIS PERMIT, HOW HEAVY CAN I HAUL FOR 6 AXLE AND 7 AXLE TRUCKS ON NONINTERSTATE HIGHWAYS?

distance in feet	6 axles	7 axles
44	90563	90563
45	91125	91688
46	91688	92813

47	92250	93938
48	93375	94500
49	93938	95625
50	94500	96750
51	95063	97875
52	95625	99000
53	96750	99563
54	97313	100688
55	97875	101813
56	98438	102938
57	99000	103500
58	100125	104625
59	100688	105750
60	101250	106875
61		107438
62		108000