

General Information

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) - Motor Carrier Division (MCD) is a one-stop shop for Texas farmers and dealers of implements of husbandry. MCD offers the required oversize/overweight permits and motor carrier registration, if necessary. This guide shows farmers and dealers what motor carrier registration may be required and the oversize/overweight permit options for load types.

Motor Carrier Registration

The Texas motor carrier registration requirements as they apply to farmers and farm equipment dealers, are:

1. Operators of commercial motor vehicles that meet the following criteria must register with TxDMV as motor carriers:
 - A vehicle (or combination of vehicles) with a gross weight, registered weight, or gross weight rating exceeding 26,000 pounds, that is designed or used for transportation of cargo in furtherance of any commercial enterprise;
 - A commercial motor vehicle owned or controlled by someone who is not a U.S. citizen or does not live in the U.S.
2. Operators of the following types of vehicles are **not required to register** with TxDMV:
 - A farm vehicle with a gross weight, registered weight, and gross weight rating of less than 48,000 pounds;
 - A cotton vehicle registered with Texas cotton vehicle specialty license plate.

To register online or obtain more information on motor carrier registration, visit the TxDMV website at www.TxDmv.gov.

Oversize/Overweight Permits

All vehicles and loads exceeding Texas legal size and weight limits must obtain an oversize/overweight permit from the TxDMV.

- Legal Width -8 feet, 6 inches
- Legal Height -14 feet
- Legal Length - Varies based on vehicles and combinations*
- Legal Gross Weight -80,000 pounds *

*Visit the TxDMV website for more information on legal length and weight limits.

Width and Length Exceptions

Texas Transportation Code includes two exceptions for farm tractors and implements of husbandry (as defined by Texas Transportation Code, Section 541.201); a width exception and a length exception. A permit is not required if the vehicle used to haul the tractor or implement is being moved by the owner of the item, an agent, or owner's employee, and:

- The implement is a harvest machine and the overall vehicle/vehicle combination transporting it does not exceed 75 feet long if traveling on Interstate highways, or not longer than 81 feet-6 inches, excluding the truck-tractor, if traveling in county with population less than 300,000 and not traveling on Interstate highways, or;
- Vehicle is overwidth only and is delivering to a new owner, moving to/from a mechanic for repair/maintenance, or moving in the course of agricultural operations. Travel may not exceed 50 miles on Interstate highways.

Implement of Husbandry Permits (Annual) - \$270 +

- Issued for the transport of implements of husbandry - vehicles designed and adapted for use as a farm implement, machinery, or tool for tilling the soil. Also includes feed trucks, in-tow fertilizer/chemical spreaders, self-propelled machinery designed or adapted to apply plant food materials or agricultural chemicals but not "designed or adapted for the sole purpose of transporting the materials or chemicals."
- Size Limits - 16 feet wide, 16 feet high, 110 feet overall length
- Weight Limit - 254,300 pounds (May not exceed max. permissible weights.)
- Operating Authority - Texas Motor Carrier Registration, if applicable.
- Fees - \$270 permit fee plus the Highway Maintenance Fee (HMF) determined by the gross weight. (HMFs range from \$150 - \$375.)
- Route Restrictions - Travel is allowed on all state-maintained roadways. May not travel on load restricted roads/bridges when exceeding posted capacity.

General Permit (Single-Trip) - \$60 +

- Issued for the transport of loads that cannot be reasonably dismantled.
- Width, Height, Length, and Weight Limits - Unlimited*
- Operating Authority - Texas Motor Carrier Registration, if applicable.
- Fees - \$60 permit fee. If exceeding legal gross weight, an additional Highway Maintenance Fee (HMF) will be charged. (HMFs range from \$150 - \$375.)
- Route Restrictions - Travel is allowed on all state-maintained roadways (may not exceed 16 feet wide on Interstate highways). May not travel on load restricted roads/bridges when exceeding posted capacity.

*Vehicles/loads exceeding 20 feet wide, 18 feet-11 inches high, 125 feet long, or 200,000 pounds must comply with Route Inspection guidelines. Visit the TxDMV website for more information, www.TxDmv.gov.

Cylindrical Bales of Hay Permit (Annual) - \$10

- Issued to transport round bales of hay only.
- Size Limits - 12 feet wide (Up to two bales may be loaded side by side, overall width may not exceed 12 feet), 14 feet high, legal length
- Weight Limit - Legal
- Operating Authority - Texas Motor Carrier Registration, if applicable.
- Route Restrictions - Travel is allowed on all state-maintained roadways. May not travel on load restricted roads/bridges when exceeding posted capacity.

Over Axle/Over Gross Weight Tolerance Permit (Annual) - Fees Vary

- Issued to transport commodities that reasonably can be dismantled.
- Size Limits - All dimensions must be legal.
- Weight Limits - Axle weight tolerances are based on the commodity hauled. Tolerances may not exceed 5 percent of the allowable gross weight based upon the federal Bridge Gross Weight Formula.
 - Vehicles hauling agricultural commodities to the first point of processing may exceed allowable axle weight by a tolerance of 12 percent. (Wood chips originating at forest location qualify as agricultural.)
 - Vehicles hauling non-agricultural commodities may exceed allowable axle weight by a tolerance of 10 percent.
- Operating Authority
 - Agricultural Commodities - Texas Motor Carrier Registration, if applicable.
 - Non-agricultural Commodities - Texas Motor Carrier Registration AND must have a \$15,000 bond (Over Axle/Over Gross Weight Tolerance Permit Bond) or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit on file with the TxDMV.
- Fees
 - Base fee -\$90, and
 - Administrative fee -\$5, and
 - County fee - based on the number of counties applied for: 1-5, \$175; 6-20, \$250; 21-40, \$450; 41-60, \$625; 61-80, \$800; 81-100, \$900; and 101-254, \$1000.
- Route Restrictions - Travel is allowed on county roads and state-maintained roadways, excluding Interstate highways, in counties listed on permit. May not travel on a load restricted bridge when exceeding posted capacity unless it provides the only public vehicular access to origin or destination.

Timber Permit (Annual) - \$900

- Issued to transport unrefined timber, wood chips or woody biomass.
- Size Limits - All dimensions must be legal.
- Weight Limits - Tandem axle group weights may be up to 44,000 pounds provided the gross weight does not exceed 84,000 pounds.
- Operating Authority - Texas Motor Carrier Registration AND must have a \$15,000 bond (Timber Permit Bond) or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit on file with the TxDMV.
- Route Restrictions - Travel is allowed on county roads and state-maintained roadways, excluding Interstate highways, in the timber counties listed on the permit. Permit may only be issued for travel in the timber counties listed in the most recent edition of Texas A&M Forest Service's Harvest Trend Report.

For more information on oversize/overweight permits, visit the TxDMV website or call 1-800-299-1700 and select the menu option for the desired topic.



A Guide to Moving Farm Equipment and Agricultural Products in Texas

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