

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Q. What are the costs of Montana permits for Motor Carrier Services

- Term Over-Dimensional Permit Fees:
 - 95 feet long, 15 feet wide, 14'6" high: \$75.00
 - 100 feet long (interstate only permit): \$125.00
 - 120 feet long: non-divisible length \$125.00
(Width and height are NOT included)
 - Triples Permit: \$200.00

- Single Trip Over-Dimensional Permits Fees:
 - Trip Oversize \$ 10.00
 - 100 feet long (interstate) single trip permit: \$ 10.00
 - Triples Permit: \$ 20.00

- Overweight Permit - \$3.50 for every 5,000 lbs. of EXCESS axle weight (see the Federal Bridge Chart for legal weight calculations) multiplied by the number of 25 mile increments in the proposed route of travel.

Q. What are the Payment Options for your Montana permit

- MT only accepts MasterCard and VISA Credit card Payment types when a carrier self-issues their own permits online.

Q. What are the maximum dimensions of a load before an override is required on the MT permitting system for a trip permit.

- Width: 18'0"
- Height: 17'0"
- Length: 135'0"

Q. What are the maximum dimensions for weekend travel on a trip permit

- Width: 18'0"
- Height: 17'0"
- Length: 120'0"
 - If this is exceeded, no weekend travel is allowed.

Q. What are the maximum dimensions before a 32J application is required

- Width: 18'0"
- Height: 17'0"
- Length: 150'0"
 - If exceeded, no weekend travel is allowed.

Q. What are the maximum dimensions of a load before an override is required on the MT permitting system for a term permit.

- Width: 15'0"
- Height: 14'6"
- Length: 95'0"

Q. What are the legal dimensions of a transport for which permits are not required

- Width: 8'6" (102")
- Height: 14'0"
- Length: 75'0"
 - Single Power Unit: 55 feet (this includes an articulated bus & Dromedary Truck-Tractor) without trailers.
 - Tractor/Trailer: 53-foot trailer; or an extendable trailer that, when contracted does not exceed 53 feet may be extended to accommodate a long, non-divisible load without an overhang. No over length permits are required for operation of tractors pulling a 53' (or less) trailer combination regardless of overall length.
 - A 53 foot trailer that has extensions that are used for carrying a portion of the load and exceeds 53 feet, (Moving vans, hay trailers) will require permits.
 - Vehicles with loads' extending beyond the carrying portion of trailer are limited to overall length of 75 feet without permit required.
- Tractor/Doubles:
 - "A" Train - No length limit, providing neither trailer exceeds 28'6" in length or 61' of combined trailer length. An "A" train is a truck-tractor with a trailer, and a full trailer joined with a tongue hitch.
 - "B" Train - No length limit providing neither trailer exceeds 28'6" in length or 61' of combined trailer length. A "B" train is a truck-tractor with a trailer and a second trailer attached with a 5th wheel assembly supporting the back of the lead trailer and the front of the rear trailer.
 - "C" Train - No length limit providing either trailer exceeds 28'6" in length or 61' of combined

trailer length. A "C" train is a truck-tractor with a trailer and a second trailer attached with a 5th wheel assembly. The difference between a "C" train and "A" train is the dual hitch converter dolly on the "C" train.

Q. Does Montana require a special permit for over 80,000 lbs.?

- You may not be required to have a special permit, but you would be required to be licensed for what you can legally haul. If hauling a reducible load you will need to comply with the federal bridge formula (be legal on your axles and also legal on your bridge). If this is a non-reducible load and it is either exceeding axle weight or the bridge formula a permit would be required and also be licensed to the maximum weight.

Q. What is an RPO?

- RPO stands for Registration Purposes Only and is for an out of state carrier who has been in the state longer than 72 hours on a Montana permit and is gainfully employed. You get it through the county you are currently working in.

Q. What weights will put my unit into DW-21 conditions?

- The conditions for travel are based on weight and axle configurations. It would be recommended that you apply for a vehicle analysis and that will tell you the weight and condition you would be travelling under based on the axle configuration.

Q. At what width do I need flag cars on two lane highways?

- One flag vehicle is required at the front when the vehicle or load exceeds 12 1/2 feet wide.
- Vehicles or loads not exceeding 16 1/2 feet wide are not required to have a rear flag vehicle provided they are equipped with "Oversize Load" signs, displayed front and rear, and two flashing lights or one revolving or strobe light is mounted on the power unit.
- One flag vehicle is required front and rear if the vehicle or load exceeds 16 1/2 feet wide. One flag vehicle is required rear if the length exceeds 110 feet.
- Flag vehicles are required front and rear if a load exceeding 10 feet wide is not equipped with light/signs as required in 18.8.510B ARM.
- Implements of Husbandry and vehicles hauling hay may be moved on a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner without using flag vehicles regardless of width.
- Flag vehicles must conform to all other applicable traffic and licensing laws, rules and regulations.

Q. What are light and sign requirements?

- Towing vehicles must be equipped with two-way radio communications if flag vehicles are required.
- If a load exceeds 10 feet wide, "Oversize Load" signs must be visible front and rear. The sign must be light in color with 8-inch dark letters. A sign can be mounted on the front of the power unit, placed as high as possible or any visible height.

- Two flashing amber lights, a minimum of 5 inches in diameter, mounted at each end of the wide load sign. One revolving light or strobe light may be substituted for two flashing lights. Lights shall be operating at all times when moving an oversize load.

Q. When do I need chains?

- The Department of Transportation has areas that are signed and designated as “chain up” areas. Montana law requires chains be used when “chains are required” signs are posted. Chains are required on the drive wheels of one axle of a vehicle.

Q. Who has to stop at weigh stations?

- All vehicles or combinations with an actual Gross Vehicle Weight of more than 26,000 pounds are required to stop, regardless of the registered weight or GVWR. The only exception to this is recreational vehicles that are not new or used vehicles traveling into or through Montana for delivery to a distributor or a dealer. This does not eliminate any permit requirements that may be required for vehicles less than 26,000 pounds. Although they may not have to stop at the weigh stations they are still required to obtain necessary permits.

Q. Why can I not drive to the truck stop after being placed Out of Service at a scale?

- A driver placed out of service for exceeding the requirements of the hours of service regulations may not drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) to any location to obtain rest. (49 CFR 395.8, interpretations question 26)

Q. What is needed as a Commercial Motor Carrier to travel out of state?

- You will need to contact the states or provinces you will be traveling through, due to variations in requirements from state-to-state. Please visit any of the links below where you can find this information.
 - Idaho, <http://itd.idaho.gov/>
 - North Dakota, <http://www.dot.nd.gov/>
 - South Dakota, <http://www.sddot.com/>
 - Wyoming, <http://www.dot.state.wy.us/wydot/>
- Canada
 - Alberta, <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/>
 - British Columbia, <http://www.gov.bc.ca/tran/>
 - Saskatchewan, <http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/>

For additional questions, call Dan Kiely (406) 444-7629.

Q. Where can I get my annual inspections completed on my commercial vehicles?

- The annual inspection must be completed by a certified mechanic. Most dealers and many diesel repair facilities in the State of MT offer this service. It is the responsibility of the motor carrier to inspect or have inspected all motor vehicles subject to its control.
- Please review CFR, Regulations 396.17 (d) and (e) for Periodic Inspection information and review CFR 396.19 for Inspector qualifications at the following site.
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/rules-regulations.htm>

Q. When do I need a CDL (commercial driver's license)?

- A Commercial Driver's License, (CDL) is required when a person will be driving commercial vehicle on an interstate or intrastate in excess of 26,000 lbs. Gross Combination Weight Rating, (GCWR) or pulling a trailer in excess of 10,000 lbs. of Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, (GVWR). In addition, a driver would need a CDL if the vehicle is transporting a hazardous material requiring the vehicle to be placarded or if it is a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more persons. A CDL Class B license is also required to operate motor coaches. (CFR 383.91(a)(1)).

Q. Questions regarding IRP and IFTA accounts?

- **The International Registration Plan (IRP)** is a method of registering fleets of vehicles that travel in two or more member jurisdictions. All states (except Alaska and Hawaii), Washington D.C., and all Canadian provinces (except Northwestern Territories, Nunavut and Yukon) are members of the plan.
- Motor carriers that qualify for IRP must register fleets of vehicles in their home or "base" jurisdiction. A fleet, for IRP purposes, is comprised of one or more vehicles that pay registration fees in multiple states. The base jurisdiction collects the appropriate registration fees and distributes them to the other jurisdictions in which the carrier requested IRP registration. IRP registration fees are determined by the type of operation requested (private, for-hire, or rental) and by the:
 - Percentage of miles traveled in each member jurisdiction
 - Registered gross weight of each vehicle
 - Number of vehicles in the carrier's fleet
- IRP distributes the registration revenue among the member jurisdictions. Each member jurisdiction receives its proportional share of registration fees for each vehicle registered under the IRP fleet.
- Carriers are issued one registration cab card and one license plate for each vehicle in their fleet. Vehicles registered under IRP are considered registered, for vehicle registration purposes only, and does not exempt carriers from any jurisdiction's requirements including:
 - Operating authority requirements
 - Vehicle size and weight requirements
 - Motor fuel or road tax licensing and reporting
 - Insurance filing requirements
- The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) is an agreement between 48 US States and 10 Canadian Provinces to standardize the reporting of fuel use taxes by Interstate Motor Carriers.
 - If you have a commercial trucking business based in Montana and you travel to at least one other state or Canadian province, you may be eligible to license under the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA).
 - To Qualify for IFTA:
 - You may license your vehicles through Montana IFTA if you are a Montana based interstate motor carrier; and
 - You keep the operational control and records for your vehicles in Montana or can make your records available; and
 - Some travel is accrued by your qualified motor vehicles on Montana's highways.
 - ❖ NOTE: Trip permitting through states is the only alternative to licensing under IFTA

- **Do I need an IRP if I have an IFTA?**
 - No. You can have IFTA and trip permit in other states or get a dual registration with the other state.

- **Can I add a state and increase my weights at the same time?**
 - No. We have to do separate supplements for each change that it is done to your IRP account.