

**IONIA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
SEASONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MOVEMENT OF  
AGRICULTURAL, PUBLIC UTILITY AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND LOADS**

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General instructions, information and procedures governing the issuance of special permits for the movement of vehicles and loads on roads under the jurisdiction of the Ionia County Road Commission.

**GENERAL PROCEDURES**

The statutes of the state of Michigan authorize the Ionia County Road Commission to issue special permits for the movement over county roads of vehicles or loads that either exceed reduced weight limitations specified by law or of the overuse of roadways as a continual haul route during the seasonal weight restriction period.

It is the purpose of the Ionia County Road Commission to permit the movement of necessary agricultural, public utility and commercial vehicles or loads consistent with the following obligations.

- A. Protection of the motoring public from potential traffic hazards.
- B. Protection of road surfaces, structures and private property.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

- A. The maximum allowable axle weight under the Special Seasonal Agricultural/Public Utility Permit is 100% of normal legal axle weights. The maximum allowable axle weights under a Special Seasonal Commercial Permit hauling over 10 loads daily is a reduction of 25% on concrete pavements and a reduction of 35% for all other types of roads, except on Class A, All Season Roads. The Road Commission requires 48 hours advance notice and the applicant must provide a specific route. In no case shall a permit be issued for loads in excess of normal legal axle weights per classification of vehicle during the seasonal weight restriction period, unless considered a public emergency.

**CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

- B. Permits are only issued to business entities or to individuals actually doing the transporting. The transporting vehicles to be used must be owned by the applicant or operated under a bona fide lease or rental agreement.
- C. The issuance of Seasonal Agricultural or Public Utility Permits is limited to those vehicles and/or loads that are legal dimensions and weights as provided by law, except equipment or commodity that cannot be readily dismantled to conform to legal dimensions.

Permits may be issued for commercial vehicles that are hauling commodities more than 10 trips per day using the same route on county roadways and may require a sufficient security deposit for probable damages that may occur to road surfaces, structures, or private property. The issuance of Seasonal Commercial Permits is limited to those vehicles and/or loads that are legally reduced to conform with seasonal legal dimensions and/or weights as provided by law.

Loads shall be arranged to affect the minimum dimensions for height, length or width. Staggered loading is not permitted. Agricultural or public utility equipment being transported that cannot be reasonably reduced in overall legal dimensions may be transported provided the permit application so indicates and legal axle weights are not exceeded as provided by law.

- D. As a matter of general procedure, permits will not be issued for transportation of loads exceeding limitations specified on the permit. Efforts should be made to move vehicles or loads exceeding these limitations by some means other than by roadway or to dismantle the object being moved to comply with the limitations. However, issuance of permits may be considered for limited movement of special loads if all efforts to utilize other means of transportation have been exhausted and if the commodity/object being moved cannot feasibly be reduced to comply with the specifications. A complete written explanation is to be submitted with a properly completed application for further consideration.

- E. Weight A request for an overweight permit will not be approved during the seasonal weight restriction period under any class, and in no event, shall any wheel load exceed legal axle loading. For commercial vehicles the legal axle loading shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire width on concrete surfaces and 450 pounds per inch of tire width for all other surfaces, except in case of public emergency, unless otherwise stated on the permit
- F. Height Careful consideration must be given to any application requesting movement where the overall height exceeds 13 feet 6 inches because of possible overhead obstructions on proposed routes. All applications for permits in excess of 13 feet 6 inches shall certify that the proposed route has been traveled to assure vertical clearance. Under no circumstances shall there be an over height permit issued that exceeds seasonal axle loadings per class, except in case of public emergency.
- G. Width A permit shall be required for agricultural and public utility equipment that cannot be feasibly reduced to legal widths of 102 inches or under. The movement of vehicles and/or loads exceeding 102 inches up to 12 feet requires the display of clean, plain red or orange flags, of at least 18 inches square, with one flag displayed on each of the four outer corners of the vehicle or load. All overwidth loads shall state the total outside width on the permit. If applicant exceeds widths as stated on the permit “the permit” shall become null and void.
- H. Escort vehicles An escort vehicle must be a passenger car or pickup truck with at least one flashing or rotating amber light on top of the cab. Amber lights are to be visible for 360 degrees for a distance of 500 feet.
- I. Oversize permits are issued for daylight hours Monday thru Saturday, or as directly specified on the permit. No movement shall be allowed when air temperatures exceed 34 degrees Fahrenheit and rising without prior approval from the Road Commission, except in case of public emergency.
- J. A Single Move Permit shall be valid only for the date and time period specified on the permit. This permit shall be issued for agricultural commodities or public utilities hauling normal legal loads during seasonal restriction period. When a permit is issued, the applicant shall be restricted to the vehicle, time period, weight, width, route, and any and all other requirements as stated on the permit.
- K. Extended Seasonal Move Permits are only issued case by case, with final determination by the Engineering Department of the Ionia County Road Commission. A seasonal extended permit may be issued for an unlimited number of trips during the seasonal restriction period as determined by the Road Commission. When a permit is issued, the applicant shall be restricted to the vehicle, time period, weight, width, route, and any and all other requirements as stated on the permit.
- L. The applicant shall be restricted to all requirements as stated on the issued permit. ***The permit or a legible copy of the permit shall be carried in the cab at all times and be readily available to all law enforcement agencies.*** In most circumstances the daily haul time will be limited to specified morning hours, as stated on the permit, before air temperatures exceed 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The Road Commission reserves the right to inspect the haul route and charge a fee as necessary for the protection of road surfaces, structures, private property and the protection of the motoring public. The applicant may in certain circumstances be required to deposit security in the form of check or bank letter of credit naming the Ionia County Road Commission as payee to cover inspection fees and/or structural damages that may occur. The Road Commission reserves the right to suspend the permit either temporarily or permanently any portion or in its entirety for seasonal or for any other reason the Road Commission feels as necessary.

## SEASONAL PERMIT TYPES

### AGRICULTURAL

This type permit is limited to agricultural commodities or equipment only, as described by state law. Agricultural Commodities means those plants and animals useful to human beings produced by agriculture and includes, but is not limited to, forages and sod crops, grains and feed crops, field crops, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, cervidae, livestock, including breeding and grazing, equine, fish, and other aquacultural products, bees and bee products, berries, herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, mushrooms, fertilizer, livestock bedding, farming equipment, and fuel for agricultural use. The term "agricultural commodities" shall not include trees and lumber.

### PUBLIC UTILITY

**Definition:** A public utility vehicle includes: gas, electric, phone and cable companies and suppliers, well drilling companies (emergency only), and home fuel supply companies.

All public utility vehicles and/or commodities shall follow the same weight ratios as agricultural gross axle loading described below. It shall be the Road Commission's final determination what is considered a public utility vehicle.

### OVERSIZE

The Road Commission may consider the movement of oversize equipment or commodities on an individual basis. Implements of husbandry or utility commodities being transported that cannot be reasonably reduced may be allowed with explanation of reasonable cause. All other instances will be determined by individual circumstances.

### SINGLE MOVE PERMITS

#### **MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS AXLE LOADING**

#### **MAXIMUM OVERALL DIMENSIONS**

<u>SPACING BETWEEN AXLES</u>	<u>NORMAL</u>	<u>(LOADED OR UNLOADED)</u>	
9 feet and over	18,000 lb.	*Width	102 inches
Tandems	16,000 lb.	Height	13 feet 6 inches
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	13,000 lb	**Length of any combination	65 feet 0 inches
Less than 3 ½ feet	9,000 lb	**Length of 1 truck or, power unit	40 feet 0 inches

\*Exception: Implements of husbandry or utilities that may not be readily reduced.

\*\*Exception: Public Utilities transporting utility poles may request a permit for longer than 65 feet total combined length.

### EXTENDED MOVE PERMITS

This shall only be issued as determined by the Road Commission. The factors used are the consistency of using the same routes on a daily or weekly basis; an example would be milk haulers.

#### **MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS AXLE LOADING**

#### **MAXIMUM OVERALL DIMENSIONS**

<u>SPACING BETWEEN AXLES</u>	<u>NORMAL</u>	<u>LOADED OR UNLOADED</u>	
9 feet and over	18,000 lb.	*Width	102 inches
Tandems	16,000 lb.	Height	13 feet 6 inches
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	13,000 lb	**Length of any combination	65 feet 0 inches
Less than 3 ½ feet	9,000 lb	**Length of 1 truck or, power unit	40 feet 0 inches

\*Exception: Implements of husbandry or utilities that may not be readily reduced.

\*\*Exception: Public Utilities transporting utility poles may request a permit for longer than 65 feet total combined length.

**Maximum speed limit shall be 35 miles per hour.**

**COMMERCIAL**

Permits may be required by the Road Commission for commercial vehicles when there are 10 or more loads traveling the same routes per day, to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Road Commission. Under no circumstances shall a load exceed the seasonal reduced axle loading and dimensions as stated below.

The Road Commission may allow legal loads early mornings, when temperatures are below freezing during the seasonal weight restriction period, requiring a single move permit, final determination to be made by the Road Commission. The Permit shall state for **normal legal loading** and shall state the gross weight of total combined.

<b>MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS AXLE LOADING</b>			<b>MAXIMUM OVERALL DIMENSIONS</b>	
<b><u>SPACING BETWEEN AXLES</u></b>	<b><u>CONCRETE</u></b>	<b><u>BIT/GRAVEL</u></b>	<b><u>(LOADED OR UNLOADED)</u></b>	
9 feet and over	13,500 lb.	11,700 lb.	* Width	102 inches
Tandem	12,000 lb.	10,400 lb.	Height	13 feet 6 inches
More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet	9,750 lb.	8,450 lb.	Length of any combination	65 feet 0 inches
Less than 3 ½ feet	6,750 lb.	5,850 lb.	Length of 1 truck, or power unit	40 feet 0 inches

\*Exception: The road Commission may consider the movement of overwidth equipment being transported on a trailer based on the particular necessity of the move.

**FEES**

Application may be submitted at the Ionia County Road Commission office by mail, in person or by facsimile (with prior approval). The Road Commission shall determine if the haul route is capable of hauling loads for the duration of the permit. For extended hauling in most cases a security deposit may be required and the applicant may be charged additional fees to cover Road Commission costs for inspections or other costs incurred.

**PERMIT FEES** (Per Unit)

Single Move Permit	\$25.00
*Extended transportation Permit	\$100.00
Inspection Fees	\$48.00 per hour

\* May require a security deposit.

**SECURITY DEPOSIT**

GRAVEL SURFACE	\$7,500	*PER MILE
BLACKTOP SURFACE	\$15,000	*PER MILE
CONCRETE SURFACE	\$20,000	*PER MILE

\*The Road Commission may require financial security in the form of **money order, certified check or bank letter of credit** payable to the Ionia County Road Commission to be retained for possible damages that may occur throughout the life of the permit by applicant. Per mile fees are determined by daily trips over the haul route and shall be increased based on total daily volumes. The Road Commission shall make the final determination for the required deposit based on the current condition of haul route, structures and possible damages that may occur. This Factor shall be increased per mile for every multiple of 10 loads hauled daily that are covered under the permit.

Multiplier: 1 for 10 trips per day; 2 for 20 trips per day; 3 for 30 trips per day; 4 for 40 trips per day, etc.

Fees per mile	Route Length	Sub Total	Multiplier	Security Total
_____	X _____	= _____		
			X _____	= _____

Total Deposit Required \_\_\_\_\_

***All permits will not be issued until insurance requirements and financial obligations are secured.***

**INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Insurance coverage as required by the laws of this state shall be in effect for moves operating with a seasonal permit. Permits are not valid if the insurance expires. Applicant shall present evidence that at least the following insurance coverage is in full force and effect on each vehicle while operating on the public highways under special permit:

Bodily Injury Liability-each person.....	\$500,000
Bodily injury Liability-each accident.....	\$1,000,000.00
Property Damage Liability-each accident.....	\$1,000,000.00
Single Limit Policy.....	\$1,000,000.00
Worker’s Compensation.....	Statutory Coverage

The applicant or contractor shall name the Ionia County Road Commission as additional insured and certificate holder, by name, on any general comprehensive liability insurance or commercial general liability insurance carried by the applicant or contractor worded as follows:

**The Board of Ionia County Road Commissioners, the Ionia County Road Commission, their officers, agents and employees, are named as additional insured parties.**