State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Transportation

GUIDELINES FOR

OVERWEIGHT PERMIT MOVEMENTS AND DIVISIBILITY

Illinois Department of Transportation

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The Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police and the Illinois Truck Enforcement Association have worked together to help define divisibility of vehicles and loads operating on special permits in Illinois. It is recognized there are many different vehicles and configurations and the goal of the committee is to provide guidance when unique circumstances are encountered. The examples in this guide are for these unusual circumstances only.

Because guidelines are constantly changing, the carrier industry and law enforcement are encouraged to check the most current version of this document before making a move or obtaining a special permit.

The decisions made in this guide is applicable only to permits issued by IDOT on state routes they own and maintain. The ITEA encourages all local agencies with permit authority to harmonize with IDOT's rules, but there is no mandate to do so. Any interpretations made in this guide are not eligible for travel on Federal Highways, even if the permit is issued by IDOT.

Under Illinois statute, IDOT has authority to issue permits. Further, federal and state statutes similarly define a "non-divisible" load with a distinction in that the federal law only speaks to weight and length of vehicles, whereas the Illinois Vehicle Code is inclusive of weight, width, height and length.

(625 ILCS 5/15-301) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-301)

Sec. 15-301. Permits for excess size and weight.

The Department with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may, in their discretion, upon application and good cause being shown therefor, issue a special permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in this Act or otherwise not in conformity with this Act upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the party granting such permit and for the maintenance of which the party is responsible. Applications and permits other than those in written or printed form may only be accepted from and issued to the company or individual making the movement. Except for an application to move directly across a highway, it shall be the duty of the applicant to establish in the application that the load to be moved by such vehicle or combination cannot reasonably be dismantled or disassembled, the reasonableness of which shall be determined by the Secretary of the Department. For the purpose of over length movements, more than one object may be carried side by side as long as the height, width, and weight laws are not exceeded and the cause for the over length is not due to multiple objects. For the purpose of over height movements, more than one object may be carried as long as the cause for the over height is not due to multiple objects and the length, width, and weight laws are not exceeded. For the purpose of an over width movement, more than one object may be carried as long as the cause for the over width is not due to multiple objects and length, height, and weight laws are not exceeded.

Except for transporting fluid milk products, no State or local agency shall authorize the issuance of excess size or weight permits for vehicles and loads that are divisible and that can be carried, when divided, within the existing size or weight maximums specified in this Chapter. Any excess size or weight permit issued in violation of the provisions of this Section shall be void at issue and any movement made thereunder shall not be authorized under the terms of the void permit. In any prosecution for a violation of this Chapter when the authorization of an excess size or weight permit is at issue, it is the burden of the defendant to establish that the permit was valid because the load to be moved could not reasonably be dismantled or disassembled or was otherwise non-divisible.

(625 ILCS 5/1-148.8)

Sec. 1-148.8. Non-divisible load or vehicle. A load or vehicle that when separated into smaller loads or vehicles further dismantling would:

(1) Compromise the intended use of the load or vehicle or make it unable to perform the function for which it was intended.

(2) Destroy the value of the load or vehicle or make it unusable for its intended purpose.

(3) Require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment. The applicant for a non-divisible load has the burden of proof as to the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

23 CFR 658.5

Non-divisible means any load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits which, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

(i) Compromise the intended use of the vehicle, i.e., make it unable to perform the function for which it was intended;

(ii) Destroy the value of the load or vehicle, i.e., make it unusable for its intended purpose; or

(iii) Require more than 8 workhours to dismantle using appropriate equipment.

MOBILE (SELF-PROPELLED CRANES) AND CRANES LOADED FOR TRANSPORT

In the interest of uniformity and ensuring that all overweight movements are treated equally, the committee has decided the following rules for cranes operating under their own power or loaded on trailers for transport.

Cranes operating under their own power:

- May travel with the vehicle manufacturer's specified counterweights. **The counterweights shall only be transported according to the manufacturer's specifications and must be securely fastened to the vehicle, whether pinned to the deck or in their counterbalance position.** *The operator is required to carry a copy of the manufacturer's specifications with the permit for inspection, and present to any enforcement officer upon request. Electronic documents are acceptable. Failure to carry the manufacturer's specifications will not render the permit null and void but shall only be considered a "violation of permit" enforceable under 625 ILCS 5/15-301(j) of the Illinois Vehicle Code.*

- May carry a “hook” for each lifting mechanism the crane utilizes. The hook must be attached to a lifting mechanism (cable) and secured to the vehicle for safe transport. Hooks not attached to a lifting mechanism shall be considered a divisible load, rendering the permit null and void. EXCEPTION: Truck “Taxi” cranes, that weigh less than 40 tons, while operating under their own power, may have the overhaul ball connected to the winch and tied off to the manufacturer’s connection point on the front “bumper” of the crane while the hook block is seated in the manufacturer specified location and is secured in place. No additional hook blocks may be carried on the crane.
- May carry mats, outriggers, pads and other dunnage, such as chains and binders, provided they are for use with the crane on which they are operating.

Cranes loaded on a trailer:

- May carry a “hook” for each lifting mechanism the crane utilizes. The hook must be attached to a lifting mechanism (cable) and secured to the vehicle for safe transport. Hooks not attached to a lifting mechanism shall be considered a divisible load, rendering the permit null and void.
- May carry mats, outriggers, pads and other dunnage, such as chains and binders, provided they are for use with the crane on which they are transporting.

THESE IMAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR TRANSPORT

MAY CARRY A “HOOK” FOR EACH LIFTING MECHANISM

THE COUNTERWEIGHTS SHALL ONLY BE TRANSPORTED ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURERS SPECIFICATIONS

MAY CARRY A “HOOK” FOR EACH LIFTING MECHANISM

THIS IS CONSIDERED A DIVISIBLE LOAD

NO OTHER BALLS, HOOKS MAY BE ON CRANE

EXCEPTION: Truck “Taxi” cranes, that weigh less than 40 tons, while operating under their own power, may have the overhaul ball connected to the winch and tied off to the manufacturer’s connection point on the front “bumper” of the crane while the hook block is secured to the deck of the crane behind the saddle that the boom rests on in the transport position.

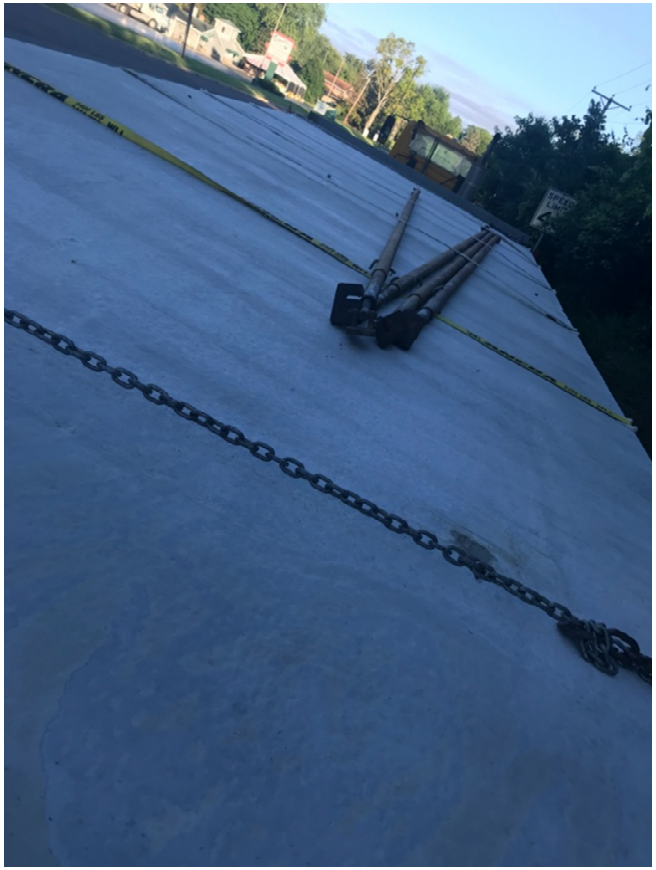
STRUCTURAL LOADS FOR TRANSPORT

Structural loads must abide by the following two rules.

The permit issued must contain a serial number or identifying number which should match an identifying number on the load. In the event the identifying numbers do not match a violation of permit has occurred. The citation will be issued under 625 ILCS 5.0/15-301(j). The permit is no longer valid and a new permit with the correct serial number must be obtained.

The following rules apply only to overweight permit moves involving structural loads. In the event the vehicle is within legal weights regardless of the type of permit issued, this rule does not apply.

When an overweight permit is issued for the movement of structural loads, no support poles or other items may be carried on the load. In the event support poles, or other objects are carried on the load, the permit shall be deemed void and the vehicle will be given legal weights.



THESE ARE CONSIDERED A DIVISIBLE LOAD

MOBILE RAILROAD WELDER

Mobile railroad welders consist of a box truck typically operating on four axles with an approximately 26-foot wheelbase and a total weight of approximately 65,000 pounds. Inside the cargo area is a mounted crane with a welding head attached. No supplies other than a toolbox to maintain the crane will be brought with the truck.

Provided this vehicle is within the practical maximums established by IDOT, will be eligible for a limited continuous operation. Travel on Federal Highways is not permitted.

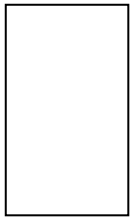
TRAILERS HAULING “JEEPS” AND “JO DOGS”

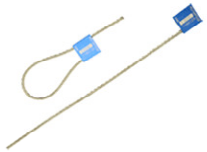
Overweight vehicles and combinations of vehicles, designed to deliver long and large items such as windfarm components, typically utilize extra removable, load dispersing axles commonly known as “jeeps” and “jo dogs”. After a load has been delivered using these components, the hauling vehicle, if overweight and operating under the authority of an overweight permit, may only carry one component on the deck of the trailer. All other load dispersing components must be inline and coupled to the power unit or trailer as it was while loaded.

INTERMODAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Intermodal shipping containers with an original seal and international destination or international point of origin qualify for an overweight permit. The container cannot make any stops to load or unload while enroute to its destination.

The contents of the container have no bearing on whether the container should be considered non-divisible. Only the origin, destination and seal may be used to qualify the container as a non-divisible load.

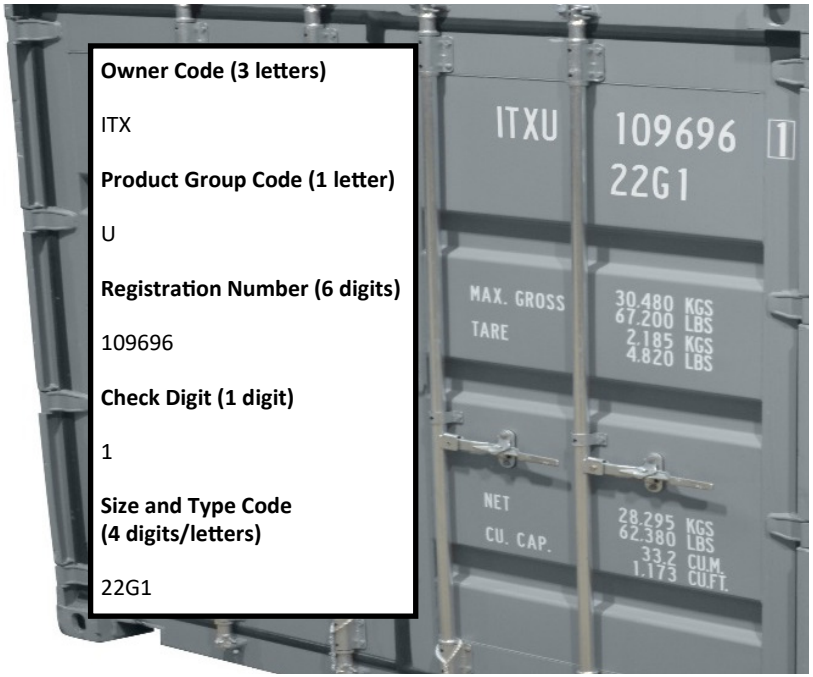




EXAMPLES OF SHIPPING CONTAINER SEALS

OPER 993

CONTAINERS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING: To be considered a non-divisible load and eligible to be hauled under an IDOT OS/OW permit, a shipping container must be sealed for international shipment and in route for import or export to/from a foreign country. Upon request from law enforcement, the driver must present documentation, in written or electronic form, such as a bill of lading or manifest that specifically ties the container being moved to the container listed in the documentation through the unique container number (consists of 4 letters and 7 numbers). The documentation must also clearly state the foreign country destination or origin of that container. Failure to produce such documentation may result in the load being considered a divisible load and ineligible to be permitted by IDOT. As a result, the load may be considered to be running without a permit and subject to be fined back to legal weight.



Owner Code (3 letters)

ITX

Product Group Code (1 letter)

U

Registration Number (6 digits)

109696

Check Digit (1 digit)

1

Size and Type Code (4 digits/letters)

22G1

MULTIPLE OBJECTS

OPER 993

NON-DIVISIBLE LOADS: Permits are only valid for non-divisible loads or vehicles, as defined in the Code. Multiple objects shall not be loaded in such a way that causes the legal weight, height, width, and length laws to be exceeded.

OVERWEIGHT MOVEMENTS: An overweight permit authorizes the movement of a vehicle or a reasonably disassembled single object loaded on a vehicle combination. The object may include an attachment; however, it must be securely mounted on the object being moved. The attachment may not be hauled as a separate object on the vehicle combination.

More than one attachment or object on an overweight movement renders the permit void. After enforcement action is taken, if the extra object or attachment is removed, the permit will be considered valid.

ATTACHMENTS NOT SECURELY MOUNTED ON OBJECT MOVED