



OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT LOAD PERMITS

Motor carriers transporting a vehicle and/or load exceeding Texas legal size and weight limits must obtain an oversize/overweight permit from TxDOT. Texas legal size limits are 8 feet 6 inches wide, 14 feet high, and 65 feet in length.* Texas legal gross weight is 80,000 pounds and includes specific limits on axle group weights (single axle - 20,000 pounds, tandem - 34,000 pounds, triple - 42,000 pounds, etc.)

For additional information on permit requirements, to download forms, or to submit an online permit application, visit www.txdot.gov (search "Oversize") or call TxDOT at 1-800-299-1700 (option 1).

*Legal lengths:

- Truck and trailer combination - 65 feet
- Truck-tractor - unlimited
- Truck-tractor combination - overall length unlimited but trailer is limited to 59 feet
- Semi-trailer (single unit) - 59 feet
- (double trl) - 28 1/2 feet

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORT AND HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMITS

Motor carriers hauling hazardous materials must obtain operating authority from TxDMV (see **MOTOR CARRIER REGISTRATION** section).



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires registration for transportation of certain hazardous waste. Contact TCEQ-Registration and Reporting at 512-239-6413; by email: wastval@tceq.texas.gov; or visit www.tceq.texas.gov (search "Waste Registration").

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration requires registration for transporting certain hazardous materials. For information call 1-800-467-4922 or visit their website at: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/registration>.

To obtain information on hazardous cargo routing, visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website at: www.fmcsa.dot.gov (search "HM Route") or TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov (search "NRHM Route").

For general (non-routing) questions regarding hazardous materials, contact DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Service at 512-424-2051.



Dial 1-800-299-1700 and press the menu option for desired topic.

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Oversize/Overweight Load Permits or Temporary Registration	1
Size/weight Compliance and Enforcement Inquiries and Complaint Management System (CMS) Information	3
Driver License Information	6
Motor Carrier Safety Regulations	7



Dial 1-888-368-4689 and press the menu option for desired topic.

Topic	Option
Vehicle Titles and Registration	2
Motor Carrier, Unified Carrier Registration, Household Goods Movers and Consumer Protection	3

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

T RUCK I P S

A Guide for Operating Commercial Trucks in Texas



January 2011

Prepared by the
TxDOT Motor Carrier Division

Commercial Truck Operation in Texas

MOTOR CARRIER RESPONSIBILITIES

Motor carriers traveling in Texas must comply with federal and state operating requirements. A number of agencies are involved in the motor carrier program and regulations. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) provides this brochure as a guide.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

Motor carriers are required to follow specific safety regulations. A *Texas Motor Carrier's Guide to Highway Safety* is available on the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) website at:

www.txdps.state.tx.us/cve/publications.htm

(Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Publications).

DPS is responsible for safety enforcement in Texas.

For federal safety information and enforcement, visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website at: www.fmcsa.dot.gov.

COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE

Most commercial vehicle operators are required to have a Commercial Driver License (CDL). To determine if a driver is required to have a CDL, contact DPS, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Service, at 1-800-299-1700 (option 6) or visit the DPS website at: www.txdps.state.tx.us/cve/cdlmain.htm.

The Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook is available at: <https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/documents/DL-7C.pdf>.



Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

MOTOR CARRIER REGISTRATION

Operators of commercial vehicles and those transporting household goods for-hire must register with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) for operating authority. Vehicles exceeding 26,000 pounds and all household goods carriers/movers must file proof of insurance when registering. To register online or for additional information on Motor Carrier Registration, visit www.txdmv.gov or call 1-888-368-4689.

For Unified Carrier Registration information, visit www.txdmv.gov (search "interstate motor carrier").

VEHICLE REGISTRATION (LICENSE PLATES)

All commercial vehicles must be registered. When registering for intrastate movement (traveling only in Texas), visit your county tax office to obtain Combination license plates.

Interstate operators (traveling across state lines) may participate in the International Registration Plan (IRP) and apply for Apportioned registration. Apply online at www.txdmv.gov (search "Apportioned") or visit one of the 16 regional offices of the TxDMV.

For additional vehicle registration information or regional office location information, contact TxDMV at 1-888-368-4689 or visit www.txdmv.gov.

TEMPORARY VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Vehicles not authorized to operate on Texas highways due to lack of registration or registration reciprocity, may be issued 72-hour or 144-hour temporary registrations. Contact your county tax assessor-collector or call the TxDOT Motor Carrier Division at 1-800-299-1700 (option 1).

For additional information, visit www.txdot.gov (search "Temporary Registration").

TOW TRUCK & VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY REGISTRATION

For tow truck or vehicle storage facilities registration and information, contact the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) at 1-800-803-9202 or 512-463-6599; by email: towing@license.state.tx.us; or visit the TDLR website at: www.license.state.tx.us.



STATE FUEL USE TAX (IFTA)

All interstate motor carriers are required to pay state fuel use tax and have the option to obtain an International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) license that provides for the consolidated reporting of fuel taxes. For details, contact:

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
111 East 17th Street
Austin, TX 78774
Toll-free: 1-800-252-1383
Website: www.cpa.state.tx.us



PROOF OF HEAVY VEHICLE USE TAX (HVUT) PAYMENT

TxDMV requires proof of HVUT payment to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) when licensing vehicles with a gross weight or combined gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more. For specifics regarding this requirement, call 512-374-5271.

Heavy Vehicle Use Tax is filed with the IRS on IRS Form 2290. To file Form 2290, you must have an Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Questions regarding HVUT Form 2290 or to obtain an EIN, tax forms and instructions, contact the IRS at 1-866-699-4096 or visit www.irs.gov.

