

WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND STANDARDS

Part I. Weights and Standards Chapter 21. Combination or Double Tandem Load Permit

§2101. General Information

A. Authority. DOTD has statutory authority to issue a special biannual permit for the operation of a combination of vehicles or tandem loads hauling divisible or non-divisible container imports or exports to and from any port facility in the state.

B. Definitions. Terms as defined in R.S. 32:1 shall retain their definitions, unless the term is specifically defined in this Subsection. As used in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

Axle Group—a combination of two or more consecutive axles considered together in determining their combined load effect on a highway (as tandem, tridem, or quadrum axle groups).

Department—refers to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Destination Point—the location where the packer's seal is broken.

Divisible Container Import/Export—a load consisting of two non-divisible containers, hauled in tandem, rendering the load divisible.

Gross Weight—the weight of a vehicle and/or combination of vehicles plus the weight of any load thereon.

Hazardous Material—per CFR 49:385.402(b), a substance or material that the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has determined is capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce that has been designated as hazardous in 49 U.S.C. §5103 (Revised October 2015). The term includes hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, marine pollutants, elevated temperature materials, materials designated as hazardous in the Hazardous Materials Table detailed in 49 CFR §172.101 (Revised December 2022) and materials that meet the criteria for hazard classes and divisions detailed in 49 CFR §173.1 (Revised September 2005).

Individual Axle—any of the two, three, or four axles which make up the tandem, tridem, or quadrum axle groups. Interstate Highway—a fully controlled access highway which is a part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

Length—the total longitudinal dimension of a single vehicle, a trailer, or a semi-trailer. Length of a trailer or semi-trailer is measured from the front of the cargo-carrying unit to its rear and includes load-holding devices thereon.

Non-divisible Container Import/Export—a freight container, as defined by 49 U.S.C. §5901(4), that retains the original unbroken official seal throughout transit from the point of origin until reaching the destination point. Point of Origin—the location where the packer's seal is affixed.

Quadrum Axle—any four consecutive axles whose centers are more than 40 inches but not more than 96 inches apart. A quadrum axle shall be designed to equalize the load between axles.

Sealed Containerized Load—sealed containers being used in international transport in conjunction with a maritime shipment. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §5901(4), containers used in providing transportation in interstate commerce.

Tandem Axle—any two consecutive axles whose centers are 40 or more inches but not more than 96 inches apart. A tandem axle shall be designed to equalize the load between the axles.

Trailer—an unpowered vehicle towed by a powered vehicle, commonly used for the transport of goods and materials.

Tridem Axle—any three consecutive axles whose centers are 40 or more inches but not more than 96 inches apart. A tridem axle shall be designed to equalize the load between axles.

Truck Tractor—a non-cargo carrying power unit used in combination with a semitrailer.

Vehicle—any device by which a person or things may be transported upon a public highway or bridge. A trailer or semi-trailer shall be a separate vehicle.

Width—the total outside transverse dimension of a vehicle including any load or load holding devices thereon, but, excluding approved safety devices and tire bulge due to load.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 32:1, R.S. 32:2, R.S. 32:387 and R.S. 32:387.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Operations, Weights and Enforcement Section, LR 49:1445 (August 2023).

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§2103. Obtaining the Combination or Double Tandem Load Permit

A. General. The permit shall be obtained prior to the movement of the vehicle begins or the vehicle enters Louisiana.

B. Location. The permit shall be issued by the truck permit office at DOTD in Baton Rouge.

C. Application Procedure

1. The permit may be obtained by appearing in person at the permit office in Baton Rouge, by calling the permit office and providing the requisite information, or by completing the form electronically through the online permitting system.

2. All information required on a permit form shall be furnished at the time the permit is requested.

3. The applicant shall have the exact amount for payment.

4. The permit will be issued to the truck tractor, either physically or electronically. It shall be available for inspection at all times by the proper authorities.

D. Routes

1. All routes shall be approved by DOTD.

2. Only one route will be approved per application, and the permit is only valid for the approved route.

3. Each additional route requires an additional permit application, subsequent approval, and payment of the permit fee.

E. Fees. The permit fee is \$3,000 biannually.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 32:2, R.S. 32:387 and R.S. 32:387.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Operations, Weights and Enforcement Section, LR 49:1446 (August 2023).

§2105. Regulations

A. The permit authorizes a driver to operate on state maintained roads only (excluding the interstate) provided the vehicle has the required number of axles and does not exceed the maximum gross weight or axle limit (See §107 for Limitations).

B. Either the truck tractor or one of the trailers shall contain a tridem axle.

C. The permittee shall have a copy of the international bill of lading, present in the vehicle and available for inspection, at all times.

D. Containers shall be transferred to or from a ship, vessel, or a rail system designated for international travel.

E. Containers shall remain sealed from the point of origin to the point of destination.

F. Routes. The routes shall be completed via state and federal roadways, excluding the interstate system. Routes shall originate or terminate at one of the following port facilities which are recognized by the Ports Association of Louisiana.

1. Central Louisiana Regional Port (CLRP);
2. Avoyelles;
3. Port of Greater Baton Rouge;
4. The Port of Caddo—Bossier;
5. Columbia;
6. Port Fourchon;
7. Grand Isle Port;
8. Greater Ouachita Port;
9. Port of Iberia;
10. Port of Krotz Springs;
11. Port of Lake Charles;
12. Lake Providence Port;
13. Louisiana International Deep Water Gulf Transfer Terminal Authority (LIGTT);
14. Madison Parish Port;
15. Manchac;
16. Mermentau;
17. Port of Morgan City;
18. Natchitoches Parish Port;
19. Port of New Orleans;
20. Plaquemines Port;
21. Port of Pointe Coupee;
22. Red River;
23. Port of South Louisiana;
24. St. Bernard Port;
25. The Port of Terrebonne;
26. Port of Delcambre (Twin Parish Port District);
27. Port of Vermillion;
28. Port of Vidalia;
29. Port of Vinton;
30. West Calcasieu Port;
31. Cameron Parish Port; and
32. Port of West St. Mary.

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G. Safety.

1. The primary concern of the department is the safety of the motoring public and protecting the state's highway infrastructure system.

2. The registration certificate issued to a vehicle shall be carried at all times in the vehicle and be available for inspection.

3. All traffic and safety laws and regulations shall be obeyed.

4. It shall be the responsibility of each permittee to review the DOTD online route planner to determine if there are any limitations to their approved route(s), prior to traveling.

5. Permittee shall adhere to any and all signage limitations posted in construction zones.

6. The vehicles are not allowed to operate on a load posted bridge.

7. The permit does not authorize the transport of hazardous material or any substances or materials that may pose an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce.

a. DOTD reserves the right to decline to issue a permit that would result in the transportation of materials deemed hazardous or that would impose an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 32:2, R.S. 32:387 and R.S. 32:387.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Operations, Weights and Enforcement Section, LR 49:1446 (August 2023).

§2107. Limitations

A. All combination vehicles or tandem loads shall meet each of the following requirements.

1. It cannot exceed 140,000 pounds (gross weight).

2. It cannot exceed 40,000 pounds per tandem axle spread and 60,000 pounds per tridem axle spread.

3. It cannot exceed 83 feet in length.

4. It shall be equipped with a dual-axle dolly and a dolly safety system with tilt sensors attached to the dolly that provide feedback on tilt information to the driver of the vehicle to ensure safe operations.

5. The truck tractor shall be licensed for 88,000 pounds.

B. The permits issued are not valid on local roads. An applicant requesting a permit shall contact local authorities and provide to DOTD written proof of approval to travel on local roads by the appropriate parish or municipal governing authority, prior to issuance of the permit.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 32:2, R.S. 32:387 and R.S. 32:387.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Operations, Weights and Enforcement Section, LR 49:1447 (August 2023).

§2109. Liability for Damages

A. Every special permit is issued on the condition that the permittee accepts and uses it at their own risk, even though all instructions, directions, and requirements of the department have been followed. Neither the State of Louisiana nor the Department of Transportation and Development or its employees shall incur any liability of any nature from the use of the permit.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 32:2, R.S. 32:387, and R.S. 32:387.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Operations, Weights and Enforcement Section, LR 49:1447 (August 2023).

§2111. Permit Restrictions

A. Permits are issued on the condition that all requirements and restrictions will be complied with by the permittee. Any additional cost(s) necessitated to comply with these restrictions is to be borne by the permittee.

B. Penalties for any violation of the permit will be assessed in accordance with R.S. 32:388 and R.S. 32:388.1, as well as any other applicable federal or state regulations.

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C. If a permittee travels outside of their approved route, DOTD reserves the right to revoke and/or rescind their permit, resulting in the permit being null and void.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 32:2, R.S. 32:387, R.S. 32:387.2, R.S. 32:388, and R.S. 32:388.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Operations, Weights and Enforcement Section, LR 49:1447 (August 2023).

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