



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

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Fiscal Note
19A NCAC 02D.0607 Permits-Weight, Dimensions and Limitations

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Statutory Authority: G.S. 20-119; 136-18(5)

Impact Summary: State government: Yes
Local government: No
Substantial impact: Unclear

NCDOT is proposing amending NCAC 19A 02D .0607 Permits-Weight, Dimensions and Limitations. The proposed amended rule can be found in the Appendix. The Department has determined that the rule change will not have an impact on local government funds. In addition, the Department has determined that the rule change will not create a substantial economic impact.

There are about 15,000 trucking companies located in NC, and most of them are considered small businesses. The proposed changes to 19A NCAC 02D .0607 would reduce some of the requirements for oversized and overweight transporters. The rule changes would provide uniformity for length and weight for all commodities that qualify for oversize/overweight permits and afford these non-divisible commodities with more restrictive regulations the same options as other non-divisible commodities.

In addition, the requested rule amendment would bring NC requirements in line with surrounding states and this may impact shippers when deciding which port to use. The requested rule amendments will ensure that no one is at a disadvantage due to a port or commodity. The shipments are currently allowed to come into NC ports, and haulers can carry the material but they need a special use permit. By increasing the allowable gross weight for sealed ship containers, the container industry is provided with equal opportunity to obtain overweight permits as other non-divisible loads. The changes do not impact what may be shipped into NC ports or what may be carried on NC roads only increase the permissible weights for containers. The changes could cause, however, an increase in the number of containers shipped to NC ports, increasing port revenue. Currently, NC State Port Authority receives about \$10 million per year in container fees. Given all the unknowns, it is difficult for the Department to estimate how many more containers might be routed through NC ports and what their impact would be on the revenue of NC transporters.

The changes in the proposed rule would result in more than \$20,000 in savings to trucking companies, as well as some efficiency gains. The state government would save some staff time costs, however, these savings would mostly be offset by losses in permitting revenue. These impacts are described below:

- The increased length on annual permits would allow all commodities to obtain a permit for an overall length of 105 feet. This change would allow permittees to get a one-time annual permit for \$100 in lieu of obtaining multiple \$12 single permits throughout the year. The Department estimates that as a result of the rule change there would be about 200 less permit applications per year. Such a change would lead to almost \$1,000 in saved transporter staff time, assuming an average hourly wage rate of about \$13.89 (based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics mean hourly wage of persons working in the transportation industry other than those directly involved in transport). Also, depending on the number of times per year transporters between 75 and 105 feet need a permit under the current rule, this change could potentially result in permit fee savings of at most a couple of thousand dollars (The Department does not currently track information by company). The Department however, stands to potentially lose an equal amount in permitting fee revenue, but would also save staff time from processing about 200 less permits a year. Given a DOT staff wage rate of \$14.67/hour, the value of the save staff time would be about \$1,000 per year.
- The increase of weight for a steer axle and quad axle grouping would allow transporters to obtain permits with the increased weights without having to obtain a bridge engineering study prior to obtaining a single trip permit. This change would save the industry about \$20,000 per year given that it costs \$100 per bridge engineering study and the estimate of 200 less permits. Moreover, the industry might incur some time savings and efficiencies from not having to wait three to four days for the study to be completed. The Department does not anticipate substantial time savings to transporters since the latter generally request the study a few days in advance of needing the permit. While the Department would lose \$20,000 in revenue to perform these studies, it would also save an equal amount in staff time costs since the studies would not be required.
- The new rule would allow transporters to obtain an annual permit for unlimited movement of vehicles that carry non-divisible commodities and meet certain dimension and weigh criteria. While the department estimates there would be about 15,000 annual permits issued, no actual savings would be derived from this change as it codifying a process the agency has been following for some time.

All of the requested changes are to provide oversize/overweight permits that are advantageous in addressing the shipping needs of business and industry without jeopardizing the safety of the public or the integrity of the infrastructure.

NCAC 19A 02D .0607 Permits-Weight, Dimensions and Limitations, is authorized pursuant G.S. 20-119; 136-18(5); and the Board of Transportation Minutes for February 16, 1977 and November 10, 1978.

Certification of federal requirement is not applicable to this proposed rule change.

APPENDIX

19A NCAC 02D .0607 is proposed for amendment as follows:

19A NCAC 02D .0607 PERMITS-WEIGHT, DIMENSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

(a) ~~Vehicle/vehicle~~ The State Highway Administrator or his designee may issue a vehicle specific single trip permit for vehicle and vehicle combinations with non-divisible overwidth loads are limited to a maximum width of 15 feet under the conditions specified in this rule. After review of documentation of variances, the The State Highway Administrator or his designee may authorize the issuance of a permit for movement of loads in excess of 15 feet wide in accordance with 19A NCAC 02D .0600 after analysis of the proposed load and evaluation of the proposed route of travel. 19A NCAC 02D .0600 et seq. Exception: A ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular unit with maximum measurements of 16 feet wide unit and a 3 inch gutter edge may be issued a permit. ~~If blades of construction equipment or front end loader buckets cannot be angled to extend no more than 14 feet across the roadway, they shall be removed. A blade, bucket or other attachment that is an original part of the equipment as manufactured may be hauled with the equipment without being considered a divisible load. A 14 feet wide mobile/modular mobile or modular home unit with a roof overhang not to exceed exceeding a total of 12 inches may be transported with a bay window, room extension, or porch providing the protrusion does not extend beyond the maximum 12 inches of roof overhang or the total width of overhang on the appropriate side of the home. An extender shall be placed on the front and rear of the mobile home with a length to extend horizontally equal to but not beyond the extreme outermost edge of the home's extension. The extenders shall have retro reflective sheeting, a minimum of 4 inches, which shall be Type III high intensity (encapsulated lens) or Type IV high performance (prismatic) with alternating fluorescent yellow and black diagonal stripes sloping towards the outside of the home with a minimum area of 288 square inches. The bottom of the extenders shall be 6 feet to 8 feet above the road surface with a 5 inch amber flashing beacon mounted on the top of each extender. Authorization to move commodities wider than 15 feet in width shall be denied if considered by the issuing agent to be unsafe to the traveling public or if the highway cannot accommodate the move due to width.~~

~~(b) A single trip permit shall be issued vehicle specific not to exceed a width in excess of 15 feet for all movements unless authorized by the State Highway Administrator or his designee after analysis of the proposed load and evaluation of the proposed route of travel. Exception: A mobile/modular unit with maximum measurements of 16 feet wide unit and a 3 inch gutter edge may be issued a permit. Permits for house moves may be issued as specified in G.S. 20-356 through G.S. 20-372.~~

(c) ~~(b)~~ An annual oversize/overweight oversize and overweight permit may be issued as follows:

- (1) for unlimited movement without the requirement of an escort on all North Carolina highways, where permitted by the posted road and bridge limits, for ~~vehicle/vehicle~~ vehicle and vehicle combinations transporting a general non-divisible ~~commodities~~ commodity which has a minimum extreme wheelbase of 51 feet and ~~which~~ does not exceed:

(A) width of 12 feet;

(B) height of 13 feet, 6 inches;

(C) length of 105 feet;

(D) gross weight of 90,000 pounds; and

(E) axle weights of 20,000 pounds steer axle, 25,000 pounds single axle, 50,000 pounds tandem axle, 60,000 pounds tridem axle and 68,000 pounds for a four or more axle grouping.

~~width of 12 feet; height of 13 feet, 6 inches; length of 75 feet; gross weight of 90,000 pounds; and axle weights of 12,000 pounds steer axle, 25,000 pounds single axle, 50,000 pounds tandem axle, and 60,000 pounds for a three or more axle grouping.~~

- (2) for unlimited movement without the requirement of an escort on all North Carolina highways, where permitted by the posted road and bridge limits, for four or five axle self-propelled equipment or special mobile equipment, defined as a non-property hauling vehicle, which has permanently attached equipment, that is operated on the highway only for the purpose of traveling to and from a non-highway job and is licensed as special mobile equipment by the Division of Motor Vehicles, capable of traveling at a highway speed of 45 miles per hour which has a minimum wheel base of 30 feet and which does not exceed:

(A) width of 12 feet;

(B) height of 13 feet, 6 inches;

(C) length of 105 feet;

(D) gross weight of 90,000 pounds; and

(E) axle weights of 20,000 pounds steer axle, 25,000 pounds single axle, 50,000 pounds tandem axle, 60,000 pounds tridem axle and 68,000 pounds for a four or more axle grouping.

- (3) for unlimited movement with the requirement of an escort vehicle on all North Carolina highways, where permitted by the posted bridge and load limits, for ~~vehicles/vehicle~~ vehicles and vehicle combinations transporting farm equipment and which does not exceed:

(A) a width of 14 feet;

(B) a height of 13 feet 6 inches; and

(C) a weight as set forth in G.S. 20-118(b)(3), a width of 14 feet; a height of 13 feet 6 inches; and a weight as set forth in G.S. 20-118(b)(3).

- (4) for ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular homes with a maximum height of 13 feet 6 inches being transported from ~~the~~ a manufacturer to a North Carolina ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular home dealership with a unit width not to exceed a 14 feet ~~unit~~ with an allowable roof overhang not to exceed a total of 12 inches or a 16 feet wide unit with a 3 inch gutter edge. These ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular homes shall be authorized to travel on designated routes approved by the Department of Transportation considering construction

work zones, highway lane widths, origin and destination or other factors to ensure safe movement.

(5) to ~~the a~~ North Carolina licensed ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular home retail dealer and the transporter for delivery of ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular homes not to exceed a maximum width of a 14 feet unit with a total roof overhang not to exceed 12 inches and a height of 13 feet 6 inches. The annual permit shall be valid for delivery of ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular homes within a maximum 25-mile radius of the dealer location. Confirmation of destination for delivery shall be carried in the permitted towing unit readily available for law enforcement inspection.

(6) for unlimited movement without the requirement of an escort on all North Carolina highways, where permitted by the posted road and bridge limits, for vehicle and vehicle combinations transporting non-divisible commodities which does not exceed:

(A) width of 12 feet;

(B) length as set forth in G.S. 20-115.1(b) and G.S. 20-116(e) but not to exceed 105 feet;

(C) height of 13 feet 6 inches;

(D) gross weight and axle weights as set forth in G.S. 20-118(b)(1)(2)(3).

(c) A 14 feet wide mobile or modular home unit with a roof overhang not exceeding a total of 12 inches may be transported with a bay window, room extension, or porch providing the protrusion does not extend beyond the maximum 12 inches of roof overhang or the total width of overhang on the appropriate side of the home. An extender shall be placed on the front and rear of the mobile or modular home with a length to extend horizontally equal to but not beyond the extreme outermost edge of the home's extension. The extenders shall have retro-reflective sheeting, a minimum of 4 inches, which shall be Type III high intensity (encapsulated lens) or Type IV high performance (prismatic) with alternating fluorescent yellow and black diagonal stripes sloping towards the outside of the home with a minimum area of 288 square inches. The bottom of the extenders shall be 6 feet to 8 feet above the road surface with a 5 inch amber flashing beacon mounted on the top of each extender.

(d) The maximum weight permitted on a designated route is determined by the bridge capacity of bridges to be crossed during movement. The route traveled from a ~~a specific an~~ origin to a ~~specific~~ destination must be included within one permitted route of travel. Moves exceeding weight limits for highways or bridge structures shall be denied if considered by the issuing agent to be unsafe or if they may cause damage to ~~such the~~ highway or structure. A surety bond shall be required if the Department determines it is necessary to cover the cost of potential damage to pavement, bridges or other damages incurred during the permitted move.

~~(e) The standards for analysis, extreme wheelbase requirements, weight distribution and axle configuration requirements are based on a Department of Transportation engineering study with consideration of the infrastructure being crossed along the permitted route of travel.~~ The maximum permissible weights for non-divisible loads are as follows:

- (1) The maximum single trip and annual permit weight allowed for a ~~specific~~ vehicle or vehicle combination not including off highway construction equipment ~~without an engineering study~~ is:

Steer Axle 12,000 ~~pounds~~ 20,000 pounds;

Single axle 25,000 ~~pounds~~ pounds;

~~Tandem axle~~ 2 axle tandem 50,000 ~~pounds~~ pounds;

~~Tridem axle~~ 3 or more axle group axle tridem 60,000 ~~pounds~~ pounds;

Four or more axle group 68,000 ~~pounds;~~

Five or more axle group exceeding 68,000 pounds requires an engineering study;

~~3~~ Three axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 70,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~4~~ Four axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 90,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~5~~ Five axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 94,500 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~5~~ Five axle vehicle combination may have a maximum gross weight up to 112,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~6~~ Six axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 108,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~6~~ Six axle vehicle combination may have a maximum gross weight up to 120,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~7~~ Seven axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 122,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~7~~ Seven axle vehicle combination may have a maximum gross weight up to 132,000 pounds;
~~and pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~7~~ Seven or more axle vehicle combination with a gross weight exceeding 132,000 pounds requires ~~the~~ an engineering study.

- (2) The maximum permit weight allowed for self propelled off highway construction equipment with ~~low pressure/floatation~~ low pressure or low floatation tires is:

Single axle 37,000 ~~pounds~~ pounds;

Tandem axle 50,000 ~~pounds~~ pounds;

~~2~~ Two axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 70,000 pounds;
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~3~~ Three axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 80,000 pounds;
~~and pounds based on the engineering study.~~

~~4~~ Four axle single vehicle may have a maximum gross weight up to 90,000 pounds.
~~pounds based on the engineering study.~~

- (3) A vehicle combination consisting of a power unit and trailer hauling a sealed ship container may qualify for a specific route overweight permit ~~not to exceed 94,500 pounds~~ provided the vehicle:
- (A) Is going to or from a designated seaport (to include in state and out of state) and has been or shall be transported by marine shipment;
 - (B) Is licensed for the maximum allowable weight for a 51 feet extreme wheelbase measurement specified in G.S. 20-118;
 - (C) Does not exceed maximum dimensions of width, height and length specified in ~~Chapter 20 of the General Statutes;~~ G.S. 20-116;
 - (D) Is a vehicle combination with at least five axles; and
 - (E) Has proper documentation (shippers bill of lading or trucking bill of lading) of sealed commodity being transported available for law enforcement officer inspection.

(f) Overlength permits shall be limited as follows:

- (1) Single trip permits are limited to 105 feet inclusive of the towing vehicle. Approval may be given by the Central Permit Office for permitted loads in excess of 105 feet after review of geographic route of travel, consideration of local construction projects and other dimensions of the ~~load.~~ load;
- (2) ~~Mobile/modular~~ Mobile or modular home units shall not exceed a length of 76 feet and a total overall 80 feet inclusive of a 4 foot trailer tongue. ~~Total length inclusive of the towing vehicle is of 105 feet.~~ feet; and
- (2) (3) Annual (blanket) permits shall not be issued for lengths to exceed ~~75~~ 105 feet. ~~Mobile/modular home permits may be issued for a length not to exceed 105 feet.~~
- (3) ~~Front overhang may not exceed the length of 3 feet specified in Chapter 20 unless if transported otherwise would create a safety hazard. If the front overhang exceeds 3 feet, an overlength permit may be issued.~~

(g) An Overheight Permit Application for heights in excess of 14 feet must be submitted in writing to the Central Permit Office at least two working days prior to the anticipated date of movement. The issuance of the permit does not imply nor guarantee the clearance for the permitted load and all vertical clearances shall be checked by the permittee prior to movement underneath.

(h) Movement of all vehicles and vehicle combinations subject to this rule shall be made as follows:

- (1) Movement shall be made between sunrise and sunset Monday through Saturday. Sunday travel may be authorized from sunrise to sunset after consideration of the overall permitted dimensions. Exception: A 16 feet wide ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular home unit with a maximum 3 inch gutter edge is restricted to travel from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. A 16 feet wide unit is authorized to continue operation after 2:30 p.m., but not beyond sunset, when traveling on an approved route as determined by an engineering study and the unit is being exported out-of-state. Additional

time restrictions may be set by the issuing office if it is in the best interest for safety or to expedite flow of traffic.

- (2) No movement is permitted for a ~~vehicle/vehicle~~ vehicle and vehicle combination after noon on the weekday preceding the six holidays of New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day and no movement is permitted until noon on the weekday following a holiday. If the observed holiday falls on the weekend, travel is restricted from 12:00 noon on the preceding Friday through 12:00 noon on the following Monday.
- (3) Continuous travel ~~(24 hour/7 day/365 days a year)~~ (24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year) is authorized for any ~~vehicle/vehicle~~ vehicle and vehicle combination up to but not to exceed a permitted gross weight of 112,000 pounds provided the permitted vehicle has no other over legal dimension of width, height or length included in the permitted move. Exception: Self-propelled equipment may be authorized for continuous travel with overhang (front or rear or both) not to exceed a total of 10 feet provided overhang is marked with high intensity glass bead retro-reflective sheeting tape measuring 2 inches by 12 inches displayed on both sides and the end of the extension and on each side of the self-propelled vehicle 24 inches from the road surface at nearest feasible center point between the steer and drive axles. Any rear overhang must display a ~~temporarily~~ mounted brake light and a flashing amber light, 8 inches in diameter with a minimum candlepower of 800 watts.
- (4) Permitted vehicles owned or leased by the same company or permitted vehicles originating at the same location shall travel at a distance of not less than two miles apart. Convoy travel is not authorized except as directed by law enforcement escort.
- (5) If blades of construction equipment or front end loader buckets cannot be angled to extend no more than 14 feet across the roadway, they shall be removed. A blade, bucket or other attachment that is an original part of the equipment as manufactured may be hauled with the equipment without being considered a divisible load.
- (+) (6) The speed of permitted moves shall be that which is reasonable and prudent for the load, considering weight and bulk, under conditions existing at the time; however, the maximum speed shall not exceed the posted speed limit. A towing unit and ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular home combination shall not exceed a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour. The driver of the permitted vehicle shall avoid creating traffic congestion by periodically relinquishing the traffic way to allow the passage of following vehicles when a build up of traffic occurs.

(j) ~~Additional safety measures are as follows:~~

- (1) ~~A yellow banner measuring a total length of 7 feet x 18 inches high bearing the legend "Oversize Load" in 10 inches black letters 1.5 inches wide brush stroke shall be displayed in one or two pieces totaling the required length on the front and rear bumpers of a permitted vehicle/vehicle combination with a width greater than 10 feet. A towing unit~~

~~mobile/modular home combination shall display banners of the size specified bearing the legend "Oversize — feet Load" identifying the nominal width of the unit in transport. Escort vehicles shall display banners as previously specified in this Subparagraph with the exception of length to extend the entire width of the bumpers;~~

~~(2) — Red or orange flags measuring 18 inches square shall be displayed on all sides at the widest point of load for all loads in excess of 8 feet 6 inches wide but the flags shall be so mounted as to not increase the overall width of the load;~~

~~(3) — All permitted vehicles/vehicle combinations shall be equipped with tires of the size specified and the required number of axles equipped with operable brakes in good working condition as provided in North Carolina Statutes and Motor Carrier and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations;~~

~~(4) — Rear view mirrors and other safety devices on towing units attached for movement of overwidth loads shall be removed or retracted to conform with legal width when unit is not towing/hauling such vehicle or load; and~~

~~(5) — Flashing amber lights shall be used as determined by the issuing permit office.~~

~~(k)(7)~~ The object to be transported shall not be loaded or parked, day or night, on the highway right of way without specific permission from the office issuing the permit after confirmation of an emergency condition.

~~(4)(8)~~ No move shall be made when weather conditions render visibility less than 500 feet for a person or vehicle. Moves shall not be made when ~~highway is covered with snow or ice or at any time~~ travel conditions are considered unsafe by the Division of Highways, State Highway Patrol or other Law Enforcement Officers having jurisdiction. Movement of a ~~mobile/modular~~ mobile or modular unit exceeding a width of 10 feet is prohibited when wind velocities exceed 25 miles per hour in gusts.

~~(m)(9)~~ All obstructions, including traffic signals, signs and utility lines shall be removed ~~immediately~~ prior to and replaced ~~immediately~~ after the move at the expense of the mover, provided arrangements for and approval from the owner is obtained. ~~In no event are trees, Trees, shrubs, or official signs to shall not~~ be cut, trimmed or removed without ~~personal~~ approval from the Division of Highways District Engineer having jurisdiction over the area involved. In determining whether to grant approval, the district engineer shall consider the species, age and appearance of the tree or shrub in question and its contribution to the aesthetics of the ~~immediate~~ area.

~~(n)(10)~~ The Department of Transportation may require escort vehicles to accompany oversize or overweight loads. The weight, width of load, width of pavement, height, length of combination, length of overhang, maximum speed of vehicle, geographical route of travel, weather conditions and restricted time of travel shall be considered to determine escort requirements.

~~(j)~~ (i) Additional safety measures are as follows:

- (1) A yellow banner measuring a total length of 7 feet x 18 inches high bearing the legend "Oversize Load" in 10 inch black letters 1.5 inch wide brush stroke shall be displayed in one or two pieces totaling the required length on the front and rear bumpers of a permitted vehicle and vehicle combination with a width greater than 10 feet. A towing unit mobile or modular home combination shall display banners of the size specified bearing the legend "Oversize ----- feet Load" identifying the nominal width of the unit in transport. Escort vehicles shall display banners as specified in this Subparagraph with the exception of length to extend the entire width of the bumpers;
- (2) Red or orange flags measuring 18 inches square shall be displayed on all sides at the widest point of load for all loads in excess of 8 feet 6 inches wide but the flags shall be so mounted as to not increase the overall width of the load;
- (3) All permitted vehicles and vehicle combinations shall be equipped with tires of the size specified and the required number of axles equipped with operable brakes in good working condition as provided in North Carolina Statutes and Motor Carrier and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations;
- (4) Rear view mirrors and other safety devices on towing units attached for movement of overwidth loads shall be removed or retracted to conform with legal width when unit is not towing or hauling such vehicle or load; and
- (5) Flashing amber lights shall be used as determined by the issuing permit office.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 20-116, 20-118, 20-119; 136-18(5); Board of Transportation Minutes for February 16, 1977 and November 10, 1978;
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