



A GUIDE TO THE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS

**in
VERMONT**

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT UNIT

PREFACE

This guide has been written based on Vermont laws and regulations. Since the Vermont legislature convenes every year in January, the information in this guide is subject to change. We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is correct and up-to-date.

This handbook is intended only as a guide and should not be taken as a strict interpretation of the laws and regulations within. Any comments or suggestions concerning this guide should be addressed to:

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-0001
(802) 828-2078

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS

- [Qualifications for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers](#)
- [Medical Qualifications](#)
- [Commercial Motor Vehicle Accidents](#)
- [Record of Driver Duty Status \(Logs\)](#)
- [On Duty/Driving Time](#)
- [Periodic Vehicle Inspections](#)

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- [Shipping Papers](#)
- [Placarding Requirements](#)
- [Hazardous Materials Incidents](#)
- [Hazardous or Solid Waste Permit](#)

TRANSPORTATION FOR HIRE

- [Common Carrier/Contract Carrier Definition](#)
- [Vehicle Requirements](#)

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL)

- [CDL Qualifications](#)
- [CDL Exemptions](#)
- [Farm Related Services Industries Restricted CDL](#)
- [CDL Tests](#)

LEGAL SIZE AND WEIGHT

- [Weight Limitations](#)
- [Size Limitations](#)

OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

- [Types of Permits](#)
- [Penalties for Violations](#)

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN (IRP)

- [Qualifying Vehicles](#)
- [Exempt Vehicles](#)
- [IRP Fees](#)
- [Registration Expiration](#)
- [Temporary Permits](#)

INTERNATIONAL FUEL TAX AGREEMENT (IFTA)

- [Qualifying Vehicles](#)
- [Exempt Vehicles](#)
- [IFTA Fees](#)
- [IFTA Permit Renewals](#)
- [Replacement Decals](#)
- [Quarterly Reports](#)
- [Quarterly Report Penalties](#)
- [Fuel Storage Tanks](#)

FEDERAL HEAVY VEHICLE USTE TAX (FHVUT)

- [Qualifying Vehicles](#)
- [Proof of Payment](#)
- [Exemptions](#)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

COPIES OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

MAXIMUM LEGAL LIMITS FOR WEIGHT AND DIMENSIONS

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS

Qualifications for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers

How do I know if the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to me?

The Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to all employer, employees and **qualifying commercial** motor vehicles which transport property or passengers in interstate or intrastate commerce.

What is a “qualifying” commercial motor vehicle?

A commercial motor vehicle is any self propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways for transporting property or passengers in interstate or intrastate commerce when:

- a.
 - (1) Interstate Operations – The vehicle, or combination of vehicles, has a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more, **or**
 - (2) Intrastate Operations – The vehicle, or combination of vehicles, has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, **or**
- b. The vehicle is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, driver included, or
- c. The vehicle is used to transport hazardous materials in amounts that must have placards.

Are there any qualifications for commercial vehicle drivers?

Yes, to be a commercial vehicle driver you must:

- be in good health;
- be at least 21 years of age to drive interstate commerce;
- have only one valid driver’s license;
- speak and read English well enough to do your job and respond to official questions;
- be able to drive the vehicle safely;
- be able to determine if the vehicle is safely loaded;
- know how to block, brace, and tie down cargo;
- pass Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) written and road tests to drive interstate or intrastate commerce or carry hazardous materials;
- not be disqualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle;
- pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical examination every 2 years and carry the medical examiner’s certificate at all times when driving a commercial motor vehicle;
- possess a CDL license.

Medical Qualifications

Must I carry proof that I am physically qualified to drive?

All interstate and intrastate carriers, who are subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCFR), are required to carry a medical examiner certificate as outlined in 49 CFR Part 391.41.

You get a medical examiner’s certificate from a physician after you have a medical examination. The medical examiner’s certificate is valid for 2 years from the month it is issued.

Are medical qualifications kept on file anywhere?

Yes, every motor carrier must have a qualification file of each regularly employed driver. If you want information on setting up driver qualification files you may call the Department of Motor Vehicles, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit at (802) 828-2078.

Am I required to carry any special equipment?

Yes, according to CFR 393.95, subpart H, concerning emergency equipment, every bus, truck, truck tractor, and every vehicle driven in a driveaway-towaway operation must be equipped with a fire extinguisher, spare fuses and warning devices for stopped vehicles or three bi-directional emergency reflective triangle that meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard requirement number 125. Lightweight trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less are exempt from this requirement; however, all trucks registered for more than 6,000 pounds must carry flares, flags, or emergency triangles to meet state inspection requirements.

Is there any equipment that must be checked before each trip?

Yes, you must complete a pre-trip inspection: you must verify that service brakes, including trailer brake connections; parking brake; steering mechanism; lighting devices and reflectors; ties, horn; windshield wipers; rear view mirror and coupling devices are in good working order before the vehicle can be driven.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Accidents

What is the criteria for reporting a commercial motor vehicle accident?

You must report an accident, in writing, to the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles with 72 hours of the accident if there are any injuries involved or the total property damage to all property is \$1,000 or more.

The investigating Officer must complete and submit a Supplemental Accident Report if the accident involves a “qualifying vehicle” and meets one or more of the accident severity criteria:

a. Qualifying Vehicle

- 1. A truck having a least 6 tires in contact with the road surface; **or**
- 2. A vehicle displaying a hazardous materials placard; **or**
- 3. A bus that seats 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

a. Accident Severity

- 1. One ore more fatalities are involved; **or**
- 2. One or more persons have been injured and removed from the accident scene for immediate medical attention; **or**
- 3. One or more vehicles involved in the accident required assistance from an emergency vehicle due to a disabling accident or had to be towed from the scene.

Am I required to keep a record of any accidents I have?

All motor carriers must report accidents and keep a record of accidents at their principal place of business for 3 years following an accident.

Record of Driver Duty Status (Logs)

Am I required to maintain a record of duty status?

Yes, if you:

- a. Drive for common carriers, contract carriers, or private carriers of property and drive a vehicle with a gross or combined vehicle weight of 10,001 lbs or more;
- b. Transport 16 passengers or more, including the driver, for hire;
- c. Drive in intrastate or interstate commerce.

Are there exemptions from maintaining a record of duty status?

Yes, the following persons may be exempt from maintaining a record of duty status by the employer:

- a. Those who drive within a 100 air-mile radius of his/her normal reporting location; and
- b. Return to the work reporting location and are released from work within 12 hours and the driver does not exceed 10 hours maximum driving time; and
- c. Have at least 8 consecutive hours off duty separating each 12 hour period on duty; and
- d. Is employed by a motor carrier who maintains accurate time records on the driver's on duty-time each day for six months.

Am I legally responsible for maintaining a record of duty status if I am not exempt?

Yes, every driver must keep a record of his/her duty status, in duplicate, for each 24-hour period.

How current do the record of duty status entries have to be?

The record of duty status must show the time when the duty status last changed.

What do I do with the entries after they have been completed?

You must keep a copy of each record of duty status for the previous 7 consecutive days. These copies must be kept in your possession and available for inspection while you are on duty. Forward the originals to the employing motor carrier within 13 days.

On Duty/Driving Time

What is "on duty time" and "driving time"?

"On duty time" is all the time starting when driver begins work or must be ready to work, until the time when the driver leaves work, or is relieved from all work responsibilities. (Includes compensated work for a person not the motor carrier). "Driving time" is all of the time that the driver spends at driving controls in operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

What are the limits on driving time?

A driver must not drive:

- a. More than 10 hours after being off-duty for 8 consecutive hours;
- b. After being on duty 15 hours after being off duty for 8 consecutive hours;
- c. After being on duty more than 60 hours in any 7 consecutive-day period, or after 70 hours on duty in any 8 day period if the carrier operates every day of the week.

Periodic Vehicle Inspections

How often must a vehicle periodic inspection be performed?

A vehicle must be inspected, according to CFR subpart 396.17 and 23 VSA § 1222, at least once during a 12-month period.

How long do maintenance records have to be kept?

A motor carrier must keep maintenance records where the vehicle is lodged or maintained for 1 year and for 6 months **after** the vehicle leaves the motor carrier’s control.

As a driver, do I have to complete any inspection records?

Yes, every motor carrier must require its drivers to complete a vehicle inspection report by the end of each day. The motor carrier must keep your original vehicle inspection report for at least 3 months.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Why do I have to know about hazardous materials?

All drivers should know how to identify hazardous materials. If you can recognize hazardous materials cargo, then you can determine whether or not you can carry it without a hazardous materials endorsement on your CDL.

Shipping Papers

Why are shipping papers important when hazardous materials are being transported?

You may not be able to speak after an accident or a hazardous materials leak. Shipping papers can tell firefighters, police, and emergency medical personnel about the hazards involved so that more damage and injury can be prevented. For this reason, it is important that the shipping papers are kept where they can be found quickly.

Placarding Requirements

When is placarding of hazardous materials required?

If you transport any amount of a material listed on Table 1 or if you transport 1,000 pounds or more of materials listed on Table 2 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations 172.504, placarding of hazardous materials required.

Hazardous Materials Incidents

When do I have to report an incident involving hazardous materials?

You must report an incident involving hazardous materials, if you have an incident that results in the death or hospitalization of any person, property damage of \$50,000 or more, or the release of any radioactive material. You must report the incident to the Vermont Emergency Management Center at 1-800-641-5001. Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles at (802) 828-2078, or Vermont State Police at 1-800-525-5555 or (802) 244-8778.

Hazardous or Solid Waste Permit

If I want to transport hazardous waste or solid waste, do I need a special permit?

Yes. To obtain a permit you must contact the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) at (802) 241-3888 for hazardous waste or (802) 241-3444 for solid waste. ANR will provide you with the information necessary to obtain the permit you need.

TRANSPORTATION FOR HIRE

Common Carrier/Contract Carrier Definition

What is a “Common Carrier” and a “Contract Carrier”?

A Common Carrier is a person, partnership or corporation that provides motor vehicle transportation of passengers or property to the general public for compensation.

A Contract Carrier is a person, partnership or corporation that provides motor vehicle transportation of passengers or property for compensation or hire to a particular person, firm or corporation.

Vehicle Requirements

Are there any vehicle requirements if I want to operate for hire within Vermont?

No, other than that the vehicle must be properly registered according to Vermont law or according to the International Registration Plan (IRP). If the vehicle is base registered in a jurisdiction other than VT, a valid IFTA license is also required.

Do I need operating authority for interstate operation for hire?

No, Vermont does not issue operating authority and does not require proof of ICC authority to operate interstate.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL)

CDL Qualifications

What is the Commercial Driver License law?

Vermont’s Commercial Driver License Act was signed into law on June 5, 1990. This law created special testing and licensing standards, as well as new rigorous driver qualification standards, for commercial drivers for the first time in Vermont.

The law was passed to insure that all commercial drivers possess and use only one license and that drivers are properly trained for driving a large vehicle in a safe and responsible way.

Who must obtain a CDL?

Any person who operates a motor vehicle:

- a. Having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of at least 26,001 pounds;
- b. Designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver;
- c. Carrying hazardous materials, which require placards, regardless of the vehicle size.

How can I obtain a CDL?

At minimum, a written knowledge test and a basic skills test must be taken and passed. The written General Knowledge test measures your understanding of motor vehicle laws and safe driving practices. The Skills Test demonstrates your ability to control the vehicle you are driving.

CDL Exemptions

Is anyone exempt from having to get a CDL?

Yes: emergency vehicle, military vehicles, motor homes and trailer coaches used for recreational purposes are not considered commercial motor vehicles. Persons who drive these vehicles are not required to get a CDL.

Farmers are also exempt if the farm vehicles are:

- a.** Controlled and operated by farmer; and
- b.** Used to carry agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from the farm; and
- c.** Not used in the operations of a common or contract carrier.
- d.** Used within 150 miles of the farmer’s farm (FMCSR 383.3(D))

Are there exceptions to taking the CDL written and skill tests?

There is one exception. A person who drives for farm-related services industries may be issued a restricted CDL for a period, or periods, that cannot exceed 180 days within a twelve-month period. The farm-related services industries (FRSI) CDLs authorize the operation of commercial vehicles for seasonal use only. The restricted CDL would apply to the following industries:

- Custom harvesters,
- Farm retail outlets and suppliers,
- Agri-chemicals businesses,
- Livestock feeders,
- Those industries, which normally serve most of the small agricultural businesses and farms.

A driver who holds a FRSI restricted CDL cannot:

- 1.** Operate beyond 150 miles from the place of business or the farm being serviced.
- 2.** Operate Class A vehicles,
- 3.** Carry any placarded hazardous materials, with the following exceptions:
 - a.** Diesel fuel in quantities of 1000 gallons or less
 - b.** Liquid fertilizers (such as plant nutrients) in vehicles or farm machinery with a total capacity of 3000 gallons or less,
 - c.** Solid fertilizers (such as a solid plant nutrients) that are not transported with any organic substance.

Farm Related Services Industries Restricted CDL

Are there any special qualifications for the FRSI restricted CDL?

Yes, persons applying for the FRSI restricted CDL must have a “good driving record” for at least two years. A good driving record is considered to be a record with:

- a.** No record of multiple license;
- b.** No driver license suspension, revocations or cancellations of any kind;
- c.** No conviction in any motor vehicle for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, leaving the scene of an accident or committing a felony involving a motor vehicle;
- d.** No convictions in any vehicle for serious traffic violations;
- e.** No convictions for accident-related traffic law violations and no record of at-fault accidents.

CDL Tests**What are the other knowledge tests that I may have to take?**

The other written tests that may be required depend upon the type of vehicle you intend to drive. These tests are:

- a. Air Brake test, if you are going to operate vehicles with air brakes.
- b. Combination Vehicle test, if you will drive combination vehicles.
- c. Passenger Transport Endorsement test, if you will drive a vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- d. Hazardous Materials Endorsement test, if you will drive a vehicle carrying hazardous materials or waste that must have placards.
- e. Tank Vehicle Endorsement test, if you intend to drive a vehicle a vehicle which carries liquid or gaseous materials in bulk.
- f. Double/Triple Trailer Endorsement test, if you will tow double or triple trailers. Double trailers are allowed on the interstate and reasonable access roads.

When do I take the Skills Test and what does it involve?

After the written tests are passed, you must take and pass a Skill Test. The Skill Test consists of three performance tests:

- a. Pre-Trip Safety Inspection test, which measures your ability to determine if the vehicle is safe to drive;
- b. Basic Control Skills test, which demonstrates your skill in controlling the vehicle through various maneuvers such as alley docks, backing, and measured turns;
- c. Road Skills test, which measures your ability to drive in all types of traffic and road situations.

What do I do if I have a reading problem?

All of the knowledge tests are on audiotape if you have a reading problem. You should ask for an “oral” test when you make an appointment.

How do I make an appointment for a CDL exam?

All tests may be scheduled by calling (802) 828-2085.

After I get my CDL, do I have to take the tests again?

Only the Hazardous Materials endorsement test must be taken and passed before each CDL renewal, if you want to keep the Hazardous Materials endorsement.

Whom do I contact for further information on CDL?

If you would like a Commercial Driver License Manual or have more questions about CDL, please call or write:

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-0001
(802) 828-2085

LEGAL SIZE AND WEIGHT

Weight Limitations

What are the legal weight limits for my vehicle in Vermont?

On Interstate highways the single axle weight limit is 20,000 pounds and the tandem axle limit is 34,000 pounds. The maximum allowable gross weight is 80,000 pounds. The gross weight allowed for a particular vehicle was determined by the Federal bridge Formula: $W - 500 [(LN/N - 1) + 12N + 36]$

Where W = Overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds.

L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles.

N = number of axles in the group under consideration.

On state highways, the single-axle weight limit is 22,400 pounds, the tandem-axle weight limit is 36,000 pounds and the gross weight limit is 80,000.

Size Limitations

What are the legal size limits for my vehicle in Vermont?

The maximum legal limits for weight and dimensions are shown at the end of this manual.

OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

Types of Permits

What can I do if my vehicle and load are over the limits for size and weight?

You may contact the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Commercial Vehicle Permit Unit, (802) 828-2064 for information on obtaining the proper oversize and/or excess weight permit for your vehicle.

What is a designated highway?

Designated highways in Vermont are U.S., State and Interstate numbered highways. Legal movements are allowed to travel these Vermont roads unless they are otherwise posted. Loads with properly issued permits are allowed to travel on designated highways.

Do I need an oversize or overweight permit to travel on designated highways?

Yes, you must obtain a permit if your vehicle exceeds the legal dimensions.

Penalties for Violations

Are there penalties for violating the legal load limits in Vermont?

Yes, if you operate a vehicle that exceeds the legal limits, without the proper permits, you will be guilty of a traffic offense and will be fined as follows according to 23 VSA Section 1391a. This also applies if you permit someone else to operate an oversize/overweight vehicle without permits.

- (1) \$15.00 for each 1,000 lbs., or portion thereof overweight, for the first 5,000 lbs. overweight;

- (2) \$30.00 for each 1,000 lbs., or portion thereof overweight, when the gross overweight is more than 5,000 lbs. and less than 10,001 lbs.
- (3) \$45.00 for each 1,000 lbs., or portion thereof overweight, when the gross overweight is more than 10,000 lbs. and less than 15,001 lbs.;
- (4) \$60.00 for each 1,000 lbs., or portion thereof overweight, when the gross weight is more than 15,000 lbs. and less than 20,001 lbs.;
- (5) \$90.00 for each 1,000 lbs., or portion thereof overweight, when the gross overweight is more than 20,000 lbs. and less than 25,001 lbs.;
- (6) \$150.00 for each 1,000 lbs., or portion thereof overweight, when the gross overweight is more than 25,000 lbs.
- (7) When determining the fine for a gross overweight violation when the vehicle is operating with a 99,000 lb. permit, the fine for any portion of the first 10,000 lb. overweight will be the same as (1) or (2) above, and if the gross overweight is 10,001 lbs. or more in excess of the permitted weight the fine schedule will be doubled.
- (8) Any person who refuses to submit his/her vehicle and load to weighing or who refuses to remove any overload may be fined up to \$2,500.00, may have the vehicle and load impounded and may be liable for any expenses incurred.

Where do I get more information about oversize or overweight permits?

If you would like a copy of the Vermont Oversize/Overweight Permit Guide/Motor Carrier Safety Guide or have question that are not covered in this manual, you may call or write:

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Commercial Vehicle Permit Unit
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-0001
(802) 828-2064

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN

The International Registration Plan is a reciprocal agreement between the states and the provinces, which proved for the payment of license fees based on the number of fleet miles traveled in member jurisdictions. Although license fees are paid to member jurisdictions in which the fleet vehicles are operated, only one set of plates and one cab card are issued for each fleet vehicle registered under the plan.

Qualifying Vehicles

What types of vehicles should I register with the IRP?

Vehicles that meet the following description and travel in two or more IRP jurisdictions are required to be registered with the IRP:

- a. Power units with three or more axles, regardless of weight; or
- b. Vehicle with a gross weight of more than 26,000 pounds; or
- c. Combination vehicles when the combined gross weight is more than 26,000 pounds; or
- d. Vehicles used in point- to- point operation, regardless of weight or;
- e. Any vehicle belonging to an out-of-state business, which meets the criteria in **a-d** that is housed and maintained in Vermont.

NOTE: At the option of the owner, any vehicle in category d above may be proportionally registered. If, however, the vehicle is involved in a point-to-point operation in another state and is not apportioned, the driver may be ticketed for illegal operation.

Exempt Vehicles

Are there any types of vehicles, which are exempt from IRP registration?

Yes. The vehicles, which are exempt, are:

- a. Government-owned vehicles;
- b. City pick-up and delivery vehicles (such as wreckers and taxis);
- c. Buses used to transport chartered parties;
- d. Recreational vehicles (i.e. vehicles used for personal leisure or travel by an individual or family);
- e. Vehicle operating with a restricted plate that has a restriction relating to time (less than 1 year), geographic area, mileage or commodity.

What information do I have to give when I register under the IRP?

You must provide:

1. Completed Vermont Registration, Tax and Title Application;
2. Certificate of Title (for vehicles that are not presently registered in Vermont) or Manufacturer's Certificate (Statement) of Origin (for new vehicle that he never been previously registered);
3. Bill(s) of Sale;
4. Proof of Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax payment (Federal Form 2290) for all vehicles with a gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more, or a Bill of Sale indicating the vehicle was purchased within the preceding 60 days;
5. Proof of established place of business in Vermont. An established place of business is considered a physical structure owned, leased or rented by the fleet registrant, where the location is designated by street number or road location and is open during normal business hours and where the following are located:
 - a. a telephone publicly listed in the fleet registrant's name; and
 - b. persons conducting the fleet registrant's business; and
 - c. operational records of the fleet (or can be made available).
6. Registrant's Social Security Number or Federal Identification Number.
7. Odometer disclosure statement (Not needed if the vehicle weights greater than 16,000 pounds);
8. Payment of the Vermont Purchase & Use Tax, or exemption form, as well as a \$15.00 title fee and \$7.00 fee for each lien holder to be listed on the title.

IRP Fees

How are IRP registration fees calculated?

IRP registration fees are based on the proportion of miles traveled in each IRP jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction mileage figure is divided by the total miles driven to get a percentage figure. The percentage obtained is multiplied by the jurisdiction's full registration fee to determine the total fee due for that jurisdiction.

Example:

A carrier operates in 2 IRP jurisdictions Vermont and New Hampshire. The carrier operates a diesel-powered tractor-trailer registered at 80,000 lbs. A total of 50,000 miles are traveled: 25,000 miles within Vermont and 25,000 within New Hampshire.

For the purpose of this example, Vermont’s registration fee is \$1639.00 and New Hampshire’s is \$630.86.

VT	NH	TOTAL
25,000	25,000	50,000
miles	miles	miles
50%	50%	100%
\$1639.00	\$630.86	\$819.50
x.50	x.50	+315.43
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
\$819.50	\$315.43	\$1134.93
		Total fees due

Registration Expiration

When does an IRP registration expire?

The Department uses a staggered registration system for IRP registrations. IRP registrations will be given an expiration date based on the month they are issued.

Will my mileage records be audited?

Yes, all of your mileage records are subject to audit by the Vermont Department of Taxes. Mileage records must be kept for 5 years.

If I want to replace one vehicle for another in the middle of the registration year, do I get any credit?

Yes, you may transfer the registration from one vehicle to another, providing the new vehicle is within the same fleet. You should call (802) 828-2071 for information on transferring an apportioned late or (802) 828-2000 for information on transferring non-apportioned plates.

Temporary Permits

Are there any temporary permits that can be issued while I’m waiting for permanent IRP credentials?

Yes, a 45-day temporary permit can be issued. For additional information call (802) 828-2071.

Do I have an alternative to registering with the IRP?

Yes, you can purchase a base plate and then get an IRP trip permit for each trip through each IRP jurisdiction.

Whom do I contact for forms or information about IRP?

You may contact:

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Commercial Vehicle Operations Section – IRP
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603-0001
(802) 828-2071

INTERNATIONAL FUEL TAX AGREEMENT (IFTA)

What is the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)?

The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) is an agreement among jurisdictions in the United States and Canada that simplifies fuel tax reporting for interjurisdictional carriers with vehicle fleets fueled by diesel fuel, gasoline, gasohol, propane, and natural gas. Jurisdictions continue to set their own tax rates according to local and state highway construction and maintenance needs, and are only required to notify other base jurisdictions to the proper tax rate to collect.

The universal adoption of IFTA by all jurisdictions will mean savings of hundreds of millions of dollars in complying with different fuel tax reporting requirements for truckers. The motor carrier will only need to deal with a single jurisdiction for fuel use tax licensing and reporting.

Who must apply for IFTA Permits and cab cards?

Any carrier that has qualifying vehicles that travel in Vermont and at least one other IFTA member jurisdiction.

Qualifying Vehicles

What type of vehicles qualify for IFTA?

A motor vehicle used, designed, or maintained for transportation of persons or property and:

- a. Having two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms; or
- b. A power unit having three or more axles regardless of weight; or
- c. Is used in combination when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms gross vehicle or registered gross vehicle weight.

NOTE!: “Qualified motor vehicle” does not include recreational vehicles.

Exempt Vehicles

Are there any vehicles, which are exempt from IFTA qualification?

The State of Vermont currently exempts the following motor vehicle types from the display of fuel user tax decals and fuel tax reporting:

- a. Vehicles with municipal registration including school buses;
- b. Vermont registered agricultural vehicles;
- c. Vehicle registered to the federal government or any other governmental entity; and
- d. Vermont registered motorbuses.

However, these exemptions may not apply in other jurisdictions in which you may operate. If you have a Vermont registered vehicle that meets the IFTA qualified vehicle requirements, and are planning to travel

outside Vermont, you are advised to contact each jurisdiction in which you will be operating. You should check to see if your vehicle would be exempt from displaying IFTA decals.

IFTA Fees

What is the cost for an IFTA permit?

There is no fee for an IFTA permit.

How many IFTA permits/cab cards and decals do I need?

You will need two (2) decals for each qualified motor vehicle in your fleet and a single (one per carrier) IFTA License. You must photocopy the IFTA License and place one photocopy of the license document in each qualified motor vehicle. Decals must be affixed (one each) to the driver's side door and the passenger's side door of each qualifying vehicle in the fleet. Decals are numbered and both decals of a pair must be on the same vehicle.

IFTA Permit Renewals

When does the permit expire?

The IFTA License and decals are valid from January 1 to December 31 for each calendar year. Your IFTA license and decals must be renewed prior to midnight December 31.

How do I renew my IFTA permit?

You will receive one renewal application for all of your IFTA permits in the mail sometime after the first week in October. The renewal application should be returned to the Department of Motor Vehicles by December 1 of each year to ensure that you will receive the permit before December 31st. You may renew your permits by mail, or in person at the Montpelier Office of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Are the permit/cab card and decals transferable to the new owner if the vehicle is sold or traded?

No, the IFTA permit/cab card and decals are issued to you, the carrier, and can be used only by you. The IFTA permit/cab card and emblems cannot be used by the new owner of the vehicle. The new owner must apply for an IFTA permit/cab card and decals if the vehicle meets IFTA qualifications. An application would have to be made for any new or additional vehicles.

Replacement Decals

Can I get replacement decals?

Yes. If the decals have been lost or destroyed, you can request replacements by completing and submitting an IFTA License Application to the Department either in person or by mail. You will receive a pair of replacement decals because they are required to be affixed, one to the drivers door and one to the passengers door.

Quarterly Reports

As a carrier, am I required to file any reports?

Yes. Vermont base state licensed IFTA carriers are required to file quarterly fuel use tax reports only with Vermont for operations in all IFTA member jurisdictions. The IFTA quarterly tax report will consist of fuel tax reporting for diesel fuel, gasoline, gasohol, propane, and natural gas.

The IFTA quarterly tax report will allow calculation of tax due or credit amount by a net balance of a motor fuel tax overpayment in one jurisdiction against a liability in another jurisdiction. If the net result is an underpayment, the reporter will send one check to the State of Vermont. If the net result is an overpayment, you will receive one refund check from the State of Vermont.

When are these reports due?

Quarterly fuel tax reports must be federally postmarked (not machine stamped) or hand delivered by the due date. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or any legal holiday, proof of mailing on the next business day will be accepted. The reporting quarters and due dates are:

Quarter	Period	Report Due
1 st	January 1 – March 31	April 30
2 nd	April 1 – June 30	July 31
3 rd	July 1 – September 30	October 31
4 th	October 1 – December 31	January 31

How do I get the quarterly report forms?

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles will send an IFTA Quarterly Fuel User Tax Report to the reporting address of each Vermont based IFTA licensee at least 30 days prior to each filing due date. A reporter should notify the department if a fuel tax report is not received within 30 days of a due date.

A tax report must be completed and submitted by the due date even if there are no miles to report in any IFTA jurisdiction or no taxable fuel has been purchased in the quarter.

If I find an error on my quarterly report after I file, how can I make a correction?

You can file an amended report. You should make a copy of the original report, with the corrections indicated on the copy, and send it to the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, Commercial Vehicle Operations. You should keep a copy of the amended report for your files.

Quarterly Report Penalties

Are there any penalties for filing the quarterly reports late or not filing at all?

Yes, reports not federally postmarked by the due date will be considered late and any taxes due will be considered to be delinquent. The State of Vermont will assess the licensee a late charge or penalty of \$50.00 or 10% of the delinquent tax liability due, whichever is greater, for failure to file a report, or for filing a late report

The State of Vermont may revoke your IFTA license for failure to comply with IFTA requirements such as:

- a. Failure to file quarterly tax reports on time.
- b. Failure to pay taxes due in full.
- c. Failure to follow record keeping requirements.

As a result of legislation effective July 1, 2000, the diesel tax rate at the pump has been increased to \$.26 per gallon. Distributors will be required to tax all sales of clear, undyed diesel at the \$.25 tax, plus the \$.01 underground storage fee, for a total of \$.26 per gallon. The only tax free sales allowed will be with a valid exemption certificate for state, municipal, school district, fire district or other governmentally-owned vehicles, or fuel delivered for farm use to a farm bulk fuel storage tank.

The exemption certificates will be provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles, will be numbered, and will be valid unless revoked; no annual renewal will be required.

Vermont users who previously filed a Vermont Quarterly Diesel Fuel User Report will no longer be required to file the report, beginning with the third quarter of 2000. All diesel tax is included in the price at the pump. Records of fuel put into diesel vehicles must still be retained if you wish to apply for a refund for off-highway use of diesel fuel.

You are now required to report on only the miles and fuel used in the IFTA qualified vehicles; you are not allowed tax paid credit for non-IFTA vehicles.

Fuel Storage Tanks

What do I have to do if I have my own fuel storage tanks and I fuel my own motor vehicles but do not sell any fuel?

The distributor must deliver all bulk fuel with the \$.26 state tax included. An IFTA Quarterly Report must be filed on all qualifying vehicles and credit will be allowed for tax paid gallons used in the propulsion tank of IFTA qualified motor vehicles only.


Tax paid credit for fuel used by non-IFTA vehicles, OFF road equipment. PTO allowances must be taken on the VT Diesel Fuel refund application, which can be obtained through Commercial Vehicle Operations at (802) 828-2071.

What do I have to do if I have my own fuel storage tanks, fuel my own motor vehicles and sell fuel?

You must apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a fuel dealer distributor’s license. There is no fee for this license.

Whom do I contact for more information about IFTA?

You may contact:

Vermont Department of Motor vehicles
Commercial Vehicle Operations – IFTA
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05603-0001
 (802) 828-2070

FEDERAL HEAVY VEHICLE USE TAX (FHVUT)

What is the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (FHVUT)?

The Federal Government assessed an annual Heavy Vehicle Use Tax on all highway vehicles with a gross or combined gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more.

Qualifying Vehicles

Do I need to pay the FHVUT on all my vehicles?

The FVHUT must be paid on any of your vehicles, which have a gross or combined gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more. Payments may be made quarterly.

Proof of Payment

Do I have to notify the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles when I pay the FHVUT?

Yes, you must submit proof of FHVUT payment to the Department of Motor Vehicles for:

- a. New registration for vehicles previously registered;
- b. Registration renewals;
- c. Weight changes to 55,000 lbs or more on vehicles presently registered;
- d. Transfers the FHVUT paid on the old vehicles does not apply toward the tax on the new vehicle;
- e. Applications for base plates or IRP plates.

What is acceptable proof of payment for FHVUT?

The Department of Motor Vehicles will accept:

- a. Receipted IRS form 2290, Schedule 1;
- b. Photocopy of receipted IRS form 2290, Schedule 1;
- c. Photocopy of non-receipted IRS form 2290 with Schedule 1 attached, along with a copy of the front and back of the canceled check showing payment of the tax;
- d. Photocopy of non-receipted IRS form 2290 with Schedule 1 attached, along with original or copy of IRS Tax Statement from 4428 or 8488, which shows an installment payment has been made.

Exemptions

Are there any exemptions from the FHVUT?

Some vehicles have been given an exemption from the FHVUT. They are:

- a. Vehicles used exclusively by:
 1. State or local government;
 2. Non-profit organizations, volunteer fire depts., ambulance associations, and rescue squads;
 3. Certain transit-type buses.
 4. Vehicles purchased 60 days or less prior to registration are only exempt from having to show proof paid at the time of registration but are not exempt from the FHVUT.
- b. Special purpose trucks, with the exception of wrecker/tow trucks. Wrecker/tow trucks must pay the FHVUT.

Whom can I contact if I have questions concerning heavy vehicle use tax and compliance?

You can contact your local IRS office or call the IRS, toll free, at 1-800-829-1040.

Where can I get the FHVUT Form 2290?

You can get the form 2290 from the local IRS Office or through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

How long must I keep my FHVUT records?

You must keep FHVUT records for at least 5 years.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

If you have questions or need technical assistance with the laws or regulations, you may contact:

Department of Motor Vehicles

120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05603-0001

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (802) 828-2078

Sergeant Bob McNeil (802) 674-2807

Sergeant John Bliss (802) 334-4420

Department of Public Safety

103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team (802) 244-8778

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Department of Motor Vehicles

General Information (802) 828-2000

Commercial Driver License (802) 828-2085

Commercial Vehicle Operations

Fuel Tax Reporting (802) 828-2070

International Registration Plan (802) 828-2071

International Fuel Tax Agreement (802) 828-2070

Commercial Vehicle Permit Unit
(Overweight & Overdimension) (802) 828-2064

Department of Public Safety

General Information (Headquarters) 1-800-525-5555

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team (802) 244-8778

Emergency Management 1-800-641-5005
(for response to Hazardous Materials Incident)

Federal Highway Administration

Office of Motor Carrier Safety (802) 828-4423

COPIES OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

A complete copy of the Weight and Size Laws is contained in Title 23, V.S.A.

(Motor Vehicle Laws). You may purchase a copy from the Department of Motor Vehicles, 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05603-0001.

A complete copy of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and Hazardous Materials Regulations may be purchased from:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington D.C. 20402
Telephone: (202) 783-3238

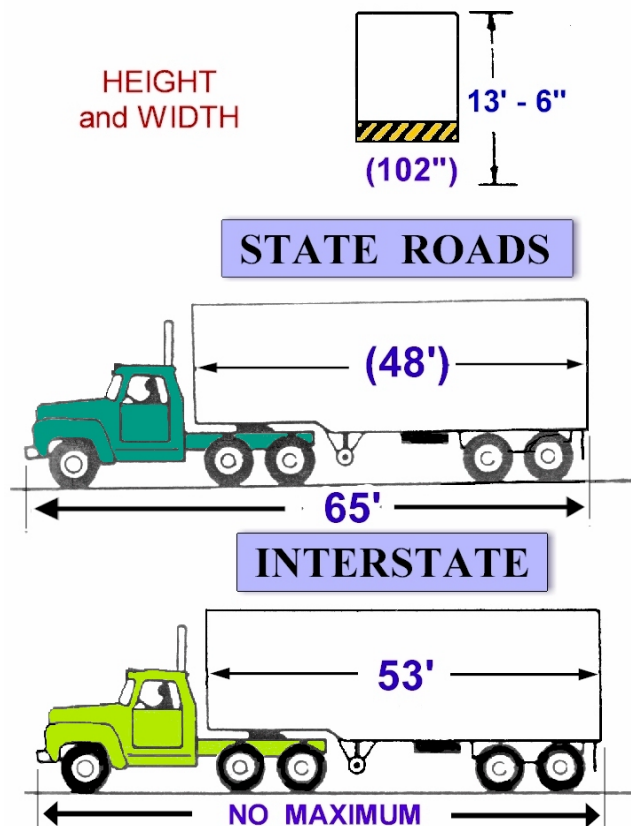
These regulations can also be purchased from some publishing companies or some of the transportation-related associations.

MAXIMUM LEGAL LIMITS FOR WEIGHT AND DIMENSIONS

SIZE AND WEIGHT LIMITS FOR MOTOR TRUCKS, TRUCK-TRACTORS AND COMBINATIONS SIZE LIMITS

- a. Maximum width – 8 feet and 6 inches (102 inches)
- b. Maximum height – 13 feet and 6 inches
- c. Maximum length – 68 feet on State Roads. There is no maximum length on the interstate system.
- d. Trailer/semi-trailer length – cannot exceed 53 feet. Distance between kingpin and center of last axle cannot exceed 43 feet.
- e. Doubles – Tractor and semi-trailer, trailer combination allowed on “National Network” (Interstate and some designated highways). No semi-trailer or trailer may exceed 28 feet.
- f. NOTE: Vehicles exceeding these limits should contact the VT DMV Commercial Vehicle Permit Unit for information regarding permits and routing.

STATE ROADS & INTERSTATE



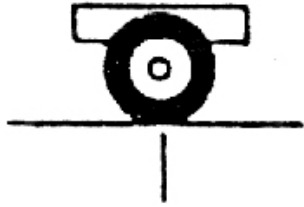
DETERMINING MAXIMUM GROSS, ROAD, TIRE, AXLE, AND REGISTERED WEIGHT LIMITS

In determining the maximum gross weight of any truck or truck-tractor with a trailer or semi-trailer, the following factors must be considered:

1. Axle limits
2. Tire size
3. Statutory road limits
4. Registered weight
5. Bridge formula

FACTOR #1 – AXLE LIMITS

SINGLE AXLE



22,400 pounds on state roads
20,000 pounds on the interstate

TANDEM AXLE



36,000 pounds on state roads
34,000 pounds on the interstate

TRIDEM AXLE



54,000 pounds on state roads
or as specified by permit. Some
special excess weight permits
specify other limits

Axles with only single tires on each end are generally limited by the tire size of steering axles.

FACTOR #2 – TIRE SIZE

The maximum load on any vehicle axle shall not exceed a gross weight of more than 600 pounds per inch of tire width in conformity with the manufacturer’s designated width. This applies to all trucks including those issued excess weight permits.

**TIRE LOAD
TIRE LOAD**



TIRE SIZE	PER TIRE	2 TIRES	4 TIRES
8:25	4,950	9,900	19,800
9:00	5,400	10,800	21,600
10:00	6,000	10:00	6,000
11:00	6,600	11:00	6,600
Metric Tire Size 25.4 MM = 1 Inch			

FACTOR #3 – STATUTORY ROAD LIMITS

The weight of the truck or combination is restricted to the maximum allowed for the vehicles as shown in the diagrams that follow the bridge formula table.

FACTOR #4 – REGISTERED WEIGHT

A motor truck or truck-tractor, semi-trailer, trailer or any combination may not be operated upon the public highways with a gross weight, including the vehicle and load, greater than the total registered weight.

FACTOR #5 – BRIDGE FORMULA

The bridge formula is the distance in feet between the first and last axle of the vehicle or combination of axle spacing measured to the nearest foot as set forth in the following table.

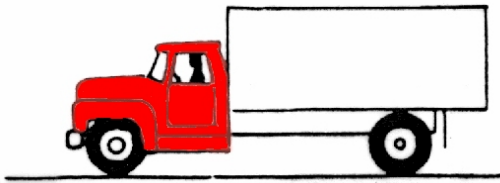
“Bridge Formula” is taken from Title 23 § 1392(4) which is derived from the Federal Bridge formula but does not match it exactly.

BRIDGE FORMULA	
Distance between the center of the first and last axle of any group of two or more axles.	Maximum load in pounds carried in any group of two or more axles to the nearest 500 lbs.

FEET	2 AXLES	3 AXLES	4 AXLES	5 AXLES	6 AXLES	7 AXLES
8 or less	34,000	34,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,000				
12		45,000	50,000			
13		45,500	50,500			
14		46,500	51,500			
15		47,000	52,000			
16		48,000	52,500			
17		48,500	53,500			
18		49,500	54,000			
19		50,000	54,500			
20		51,000	55,500		66,000	
21		51,500	56,000		66,500	
22		52,500	56,500		67,000	
23		53,000	57,500		68,000	
24		54,000	58,000		68,500	74,000
25		54,500	58,500		69,000	74,500
26		55,500	59,500		69,500	75,000
27		56,000	60,000		70,000	74,500
28		57,000	60,500		71,000	76,500
29		57,500	61,500		71,500	77,000
30		58,500	62,000		72,000	77,500
31		59,000	62,500		72,500	78,000
32		60,000	63,500		73,000	78,500
33			64,000		74,000	79,000
34			64,500		74,500	80,000
35			65,500		75,000	80,000
36			66,000	70,500	75,500	80,000
37			66,500	71,000	76,000	80,000
38			67,500	72,000	77,000	80,000
39			68,000	72,500	77,500	80,000
40			68,500	73,000	78,000	80,000
41			69,500	73,500	78,500	80,000
42			70,000	74,000	79,000	80,000
43				75,000	80,000	80,000
44				75,500	80,000	80,000
45				76,000	80,000	80,000
46				76,500	80,000	80,000
47				77,500	80,000	80,000
48				78,000	80,000	80,000
49				78,500	80,000	80,000
50				79,000	80,000	80,000
51				80,000	80,000	80,000

Table of Contents

The legal gross weight allowed is determined by statute, depending on vehicle configuration and roads and highways operated on. In practice the gross weight can be limited by a combination of tire and axle weight limits. The combined tire and axle limits may not total what the gross limit might otherwise be. Conversely if the axle limits totaled exceed the statutory gross weight limits the gross weight limits apply.

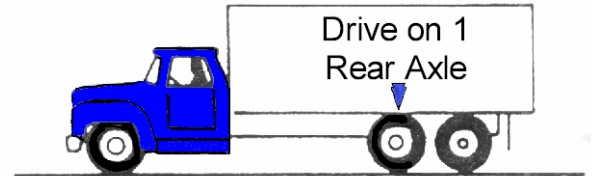


TWO AXLE STRAIGHT TRUCK

- Steering axle plus 22,400 state roads or 20,000 on interstate.
- Bridge Formula

THREE AXLE STRAIGHT TRUCK

- (one drive axle) steering axle plus 36,000 state roads or 34,000 on interstate.
- Bridge Formula State and Interstate



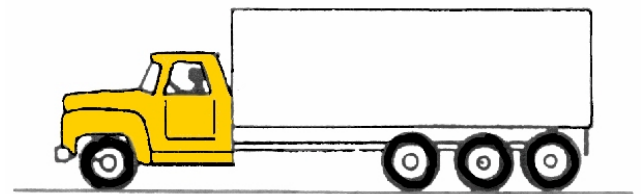
THREE AXLE STRAIGHT TRUCK

- (two drive axles) 55,000 state roads
- steering axle plus 34,000 on interstate
- Bridge Formula on Interstate.



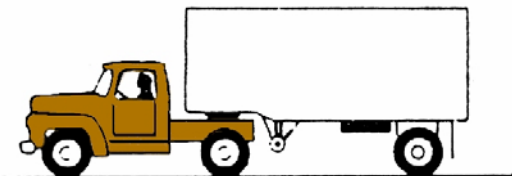
FOUR AXLE STRAIGHT TRUCK

- 60,000 state roads
- steering axle plus Bridge Formula for tridem on Interstate.
- Bridge Formula on Interstate



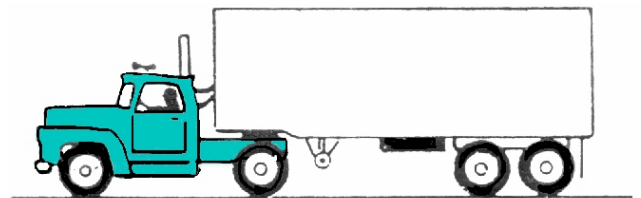
THREE AXLE TRACTOR TRAILER

- Bridge Formula



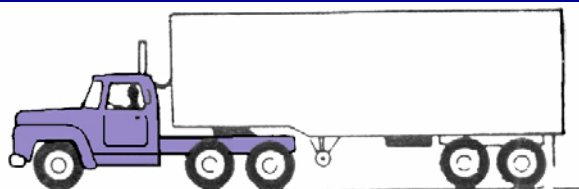
FOUR AXLE TRACTOR TRAILER

- Steering axle plus
- 22,400 single axle on state
 - 20,000 on interstate plus
 - 36,000 for the tandem axle on state roads or
 - 34,000 on interstate
- Bridge Formula



FIVE AXLE TRACTOR TRAILER

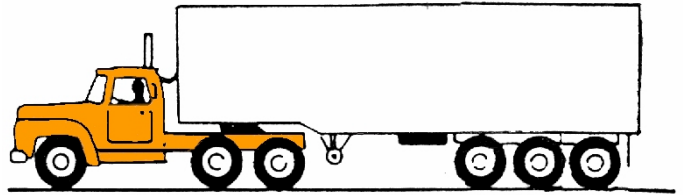
- Steering axle plus
- 36,000 for tandem on state roads
 - 34,000 for tandem on interstate
 - Bridge Formula for State and Interstate



SIX OR MORE AXLE TRACTOR TRAILER

Steering axle plus

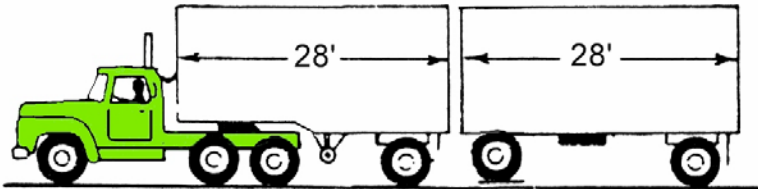
- 36,000 tandem axles on state roads
- bridge formula for tridem on state Rd
- 34,000 tandem axle on interstate
- Bridge Formula for Tridem on Interstate
- Bridge Formula



TRACTOR SEMI-TRAILER, TRAILER

Steering axle plus

- 36,000 tandem state or
- 34,000 tandem on interstate
- 22,400 on state roads or
- 20,000 on interstate
- Bridge Formula



IN NO INSTANCE MAY YOU EXCEED 80,000 POUNDS UNLESS AN EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED.

IN NO INSTANCE MAY YOU EXCEED THE BRIDGE FORMULA LIMIT EVEN IF THE TOTAL OF THE AXLE LIMITS IS MORE.

NOTE:

[CLICK HERE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT VERMONT OVERSIZE PERMIT FEES.](#)