

HARVEST SEASON EMERGENCY

FOR ILLINOIS FARMERS

HSE Permit



This legislation (HB2580), passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2017, is intended to provide an expedited means of hauling grain or livestock in the event of an autumn harvest emergency due to weather or crop conditions. The permit focuses on allowing heavier truck weights where permitted. The three common forms of weight restriction—gross, axle and registered—are all addressed.

1. Is the Harvest Season Emergency (HSE) permit available now?

No.

2. But isn't the law already in effect?

Yes, it was signed into law and became immediately effective on August 11, 2017. Keep in mind, however, that though the law is in effect its provisions lie dormant until a HSE is declared.

3. Who declares a HSE?

Only the Governor can do that. Permits may be issued by the highway jurisdictions only after the Governor has made that declaration. Illinois has had a HSE provision on the books since the Edgar Administration. We've had five governors since it was first established and not one of them has ever declared a HSE. In short, don't expect this permit to be made available anytime soon.

4. Will the whole state be declared to be in a HSE, or just certain areas?

It's likely the governor will have the flexibility to declare only certain regions of the State to be in a HSE, similar to his ability to make disaster declarations confined to certain regions.

5. Where do you go to get the HSE overweight permit?

Just as with any other overweight permit, you go to the highway jurisdiction on whose roads you intend to operate. Where your route crosses several road jurisdictions, you'll need several permits—one for each jurisdiction.

- State routes - IDOT
- County routes - county engineer
- Road district roads - highway commissioner
- Municipal streets - street department

This permit is not available for Interstate highways.

Local jurisdictions (not IDOT) have the option of waiving the requirement for a (written) permit. If locals choose to, they may simply allow truckers to run on the roads they designate, without the need for a written permit.

6. How many days is the HSE permit valid?

Each permit can specify the range of dates for which it is valid—determined by the highway jurisdiction issuing the permit. That range is confined by the limits specified in the Governor's declaration, which itself is confined by law to the range of September 1 through December 31.

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7. How much extra weight would be allowed?

All three common forms of weight restriction—gross, axle and registered—are addressed. In each case, the permit can allow up to a maximum of 10 percent over the standard weight restriction.

For example, a single axle is typically allowed up to 20,000 pounds. The HSE permit could allow up to 22,000 pounds on that axle. If the truck is registered (license plated) to carry 80,000 pounds, then the permit could allow it to be operated at up to 88,000 pounds.

The 10 percent limit is the maximum a jurisdiction may offer. Any jurisdiction could also issue a permit for an overweight less than 10 percent above the standard limit.

8. What's the cost for a permit issued under the HSE provision?

There is none. No fee may be charged for the HSE permit.

9. What paperwork will I need to carry?

You'll need to have three documents with you when operating under the HSE permit:

- The permit (printed or electronic);
- A copy of form OPER 993*; and
- A copy of the Governor's declaration.

(**Special Vehicle Movement Permit Provisions*)

10. What makes this permit so special?

The HSE permit has three provisions not normally applied to other overweight permits:

- It requires a declaration by the Governor to implement it;
- It allows gross weight overages for a divisible load; and,
- It allows the vehicle's weight to exceed its registered (license plate) weight.

10. Does the law allow for-hire carriers to use the HSE permit, too?

Yes.

OVERWEIGHT AXLE PERMIT for hauling farm commodities

Can a farmer still get an overweight axle permit as they've been doing?

Yes, but it's unrelated to the HSE permit.

This earlier provision (for a written overweight axle permit) is still available without the HSE declaration.

Unlike the HSE permit, this earlier form of permit does not allow extra gross weight, only excess axle weight. It's good for only up to 40 days and for distances not to exceed 50 miles.

This permit is limited to hauling farm-produced commodities (crops and livestock) not farm inputs or machinery.

There can be a fee associated with the overweight axle permit.

More Information

- Illinois Farm Bureau® 309-557-3274 www.iffb.org
- Illinois State Police 217-782-6267
<http://www.isp.state.il.us/>
- Illinois Dept. of Transportation 217-785-1477
(Permits Section)
<http://www.idot.illinois.gov/doing-business/permits/Oversize-and-Overweight-Permits/index>