

Wide Loads of Farm Equipment

While the width of an implement of husbandry is generally not restricted when operated on its own wheels, once loaded onto a truck or trailer the load's width must conform with Illinois' wide load laws. Where the wide load is an implement of husbandry, all overwidth requirements must be met with the exception of having to obtain a permit. So long as the carrier ensures that the planned route can accommodate the wide load by checking it in advance, the requirement for a permit will be waived for state and federal routes. This applies to overwidth loads only, not overweight. Check with local officials for local road information.

When wide load restrictions apply Applicable Widths

(shaded area indicates that the stipulation applies)

Stipulations impacting trucks & trailers operating on Illinois' State & Federal routes while hauling overwidth loads of implements of husbandry	(See Notes)	Legal Truck Width or Less	Wider Than 8' 6"	Wider than 10'	Wider than 14' 6"	Wider than 16'
Overwidth permits are not required	(1)	X	X	X	X	X
Local jurisdictions might require permits	(2)		X	X	X	X
Operation prohibited after dark	(3)		X	X	X	X
Red flags required	(4)		X	X	X	X
"Wide Load" sign required	(5)			X	X	X
Flashing amber light(s) required	(6)		X	X	X	X
Escort (1) required	(7)				X	X
Escorts (3) required	(8)					X
Route must be checked in advance	(9)		X	X	X	X
Restricted within construction zones	(10)		X	X	X	X
Maximum speed 45 mph	(11)		X	X	X	X

- (1) This exemption from permits applies only to overwidth loads of implements of husbandry (farm equipment.) All other loads over the legal width of the truck or trailer may be required to have an over-dimensional permit. (Overweight loads also require a separate permit.) For more information on permits contact the Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Operations at 800-252-8636 Ext. 4 or 217-782-6271.
- (2) Some local jurisdictions (i.e.: county, township or city) may establish permit requirements for wide loads of farm equipment to travel their roads or streets.
Check with your local jurisdiction for information on local overwidth ordinances.
- (3) These overwidth loads are allowed on public roads except during those times when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons, and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet and then only during the period from a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset.
- (4) Flags shall be displayed so as to wave freely at the extremities of overwidth objects and at the extreme ends of all protrusions, projections, and overhangs. All flags must be clean, bright red flags with no advertising, wording, emblem or insignia inscribed upon them and at least 18 inches square
- (5) "OVERSIZE LOAD" signs are mandatory on the front and rear of all vehicles with loads over 10 feet wide. These signs must have 12-inch high black letters with a 2-inch stroke on a yellow background that is 7 feet wide by 18 inches high. Loads over 8' 6" wide must display sign to the rear.

- (6) A transport vehicle while under load of more than 8 feet 6 inches in width must be equipped with illuminated rotating, oscillating, or flashing amber lights or flashing amber strobe lights mounted on the top of the cab or on the load that are of sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. It should be visible both front and rear.
- (7) Loads over 14 feet 6 inches wide must be accompanied by one escort vehicle. (See section on escort vehicles for additional requirements.)
- (8) Loads over 16 feet wide must be accompanied by three escort vehicles. (See section on escort vehicles for additional requirements.)
- (9) The driver of any vehicle hauling an overwidth load of farm equipment is required to verify, in advance, that the route chosen for travel is capable of accommodating the load that is to be hauled. It may be well to utilize a rule of thumb incorporated by the Illinois Department of Transportation in approving permits for overwidth loads—the load should be at least 18 inches narrower in overall width than the narrowest barrier along the route. Overhang extending over guardrails or handrails may be allowed if there is ample vertical clearance between the railing and the object. If the vehicle is involved in a collision with a bridge, overpass, fixed structure, or properly placed traffic control device, or if the vehicle blocks traffic due to its inability to proceed because of one of those objects, that serves as “prima facie” evidence that you failed to check the roadway prior to making the movement and you may be issued a ticket on that basis.
- (10) Loads of implements of husbandry are restricted to widths less than those posted at construction zones or listed in the document Weekly Restriction List at: www.dot.il.gov/road/restrlst.rtf.
Loads greater than 16’ wide are prohibited from movement in all construction zones. Construction Zones are identified on the Road Construction Map at: www.gettingaroundillinois.com. For all loads greater than 16’ wide you must call the Permit Office prior to movement at (217) 782-6271.
- (11) All trucks with overwidth loads are restricted to a maximum of 45 miles per hour or 5 miles per hour over the minimum posted speed, whichever is greater, but shall not exceed the posted maximum limit.

Note: virtually all OS/OW permits issued by IDOT are handled through the Illinois Transportation Automated Permit (ITAP) System. Begin [here](#) to access that process. IDOT no longer issues paper permits for routing OS/OW loads



For additional information, contact IDOT’s Bureau of Traffic at 800-252-8636 or 217-782-6271 or visit the web at

<http://idot.illinois.gov/doing-business/permits/Oversize-and-Overweight-Permits/index>

Click here for State’s [2015 Oversize and Overweight permit manual](#).

Click here for the State’s farm equipment overview <http://idot.illinois.gov/Assets/uploads/files/IDOT-Forms/OPER/OPER%202279.pdf>

IDOT requirements for a civilian escort vehicle and driver

Loads of implements of husbandry (farm equipment) more than 14’ 6” in width are subject to escort vehicle requirements when operating on Illinois’ State or Federal routes. One escort vehicle is required for loads exceeding 14’ 6” in width and three for loads over 16’ in width. Requirements for overwidth loads other than implements of husbandry differ and could require a permit.

For specifics, refer to pages 18-21 of the State’s [Oversize and Overweight](#) permit manual.