

PERMITS

Each road jurisdiction issues its own permits – no jurisdiction may issue permits for another without prior intergovernmental agreement. Overweight permits for gross weights are generally available only for “non-divisible” loads, i.e., large equipment or construction components that cannot readily be disassembled. State law generally does not allow road officials to issue permits for “divisible” loads such as grain or livestock, except as listed throughout this document. Federal law does not allow overweight permits to be issued for divisible loads on interstates.

ILLINOIS HARVEST PERMIT (IHP) WHERE CAN I USE THIS PERMIT?

The permit shall be available to vehicles used in private or for-hire movement of agricultural commodities during the declared time period.

WHERE DO YOU GO TO GET THE IHP 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

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.

HOW MANY DAYS IS THE IHP PERMIT VALID?

Permits are available beginning September 1 and are available until December 31 every year.

The IHP permit issued by IDOT must be accompanied by a route authorization that is valid for only two weeks at a time. At the end of those 14 days, the carrier must obtain a new “14-day route authorization” for the permit. This periodic renewal is intended to account for any change in capacity of a road or bridge along the permitted route over that span of time.

Local jurisdictions’ permits might or might not require a periodic route reauthorization.

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.

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.

WHAT PAPERWORK WILL I NEED TO CARRY?

You will need to have two documents with you when operating under the IHP:

1. The permit (printed or electronic) along with its 14-day route authorization.
2. A copy of Form OPER 993.

The permit and bi-weekly route authorization may be carried electronically on a smart phone or tablet.

DO BRIDGE AND ROAD POSTINGS FOR LOWER WEIGHTS STILL APPLY?

Yes. Having this permit does not authorize you to exceed weight limit postings along roadways or on bridges.

The route specified by the permit could add extra miles to your trip to avoid restricted roads or bridges. Because of that, farmers might have to choose between taking a longer route at the higher, permitted weight versus a shorter route at a lower weight.

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PERMIT (40- DAY PERMIT)

Overweight axle permits are available to farmers operating trucks hauling grain, livestock, fruits and vegetables, or ensilage. This allows the axle(s) to exceed standard weight limits by:

- 2-axle truck = 35%
- 3-axle truck = 20%
- 4-axle truck = 20%
- 5-axle truck = 10%

It does not allow additional gross weight and it does not allow weights in excess of the registered (licensed) weight. This permit is not available for Interstate highways. [625 ILCS 5/15-301(e)].

The State’s permit form for hauling ag products is available at: <https://truckpermits.dot.illinois.gov/>. All oversize/overweight permits from IDOT must be applied for electronically.

Each local jurisdiction will supply its own form. A sample form for townships' Axle Overweight Permit is available on the Township Officials of Illinois website at: <http://www.toi.org/Resources/Download-Center.aspx>. Not all townships will use this form—check locally.

SPECIAL HAUL VEHICLE (SHV) PERMIT

Combinations of vehicles designated as special haul vehicles, which include a semitrailer manufactured prior to the model year 2004 and first registered in Illinois prior to January 1, 2005, having five axles with a distance of 42 feet or less between extremes may have a gross weight of 72,000 pounds provided the weight shall not exceed 18,000 pounds on a single axle or 32,000 pounds on a tandem.

For such combinations manufactured after September 9, 1986, the minimum distance between the first and last axles of the two sets of tandems must be 18 feet 6 inches or more.

WHERE DO I GET THE SHV PERMIT?

SHV permits are annually purchased from the Illinois Commercial and Farm Truck Division.

HOW MUCH DOES AN SHV PERMIT COST?

\$125

PERMITTING PROVISIONS

All permitted overweight loads are required to have a flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber light visible from 500 feet.

There are no additional marking requirements for overweight loads. (Over-dimension loads do have additional lighting and marking requirements and are generally limited to daylight hours.)

Please see Form OPER 993 to view detailed permit provisions.

