

RIDOT OSOW FAQs

Q: When is a permit required?

A: A permit is required anytime a vehicle exceeds any one or more legal limits from [RIGL 31-25](#). Examples include but are not limited to:

- Width greater than 8 ft 6 in
- Height greater than 13 ft 6 in
- Single vehicle length over 40 ft
- Semi-trailer length greater than 48.5 ft or 53 ft depending on route
- Front overhang over 3ft
- Rear overhang over 6 ft
- Single axle over 22,400 lbs
- Tandem axles over 36,000 lbs
- Gross weight over [Federal Formula B weight](#)

Q: What types of permits do you offer?

A: There are 3 permit types.

1. Annual Divisible Load Permit. Annual permit for divisible loads only (load can be easily broken down in size & weight such as gravel, liquids, refuse, logs). Active from April 1 to March 31. Not prorated. Not for oversize in any dimension. Limits apply.
2. Annual Blanket Permit. Annual permit for non-divisible construction equipment only (excavators, dozers, backhoes, etc.). Does not cover construction materials. Good for 1 year from purchase. Size and weight limits apply.
3. Single Trip Permit. Good for 1 trip. Any size, weight, and load can be submitted but subject to engineering review for approval.

Q: What information do I need to apply for a permit?

A: The exact information required to apply for a permit depends on the type of permit you are applying for. Typically, you need all information about the company the vehicle(s) are registered to, registration information for the vehicle(s), dimensions of vehicles individually and as a gross vehicle/load combination, route information for single trips, etc. For Annual Divisible Load permits only, a certification of the GVWR from a manufacturer or designated rep is required. [MGVWR Cert.](#)

Q: How do I check the status of my permit?

A: Permit status can only be checked by logging into your account and checking the permit.

Q: Where are my window stickers for my ADL permit?

A: Window stickers are no longer required.

Q: When are escorts required?

A: Escort(s) are required when a load is:

- 12 ft wide or more
- 80 ft long or more
- over 13 ft 6 in high
- overhang of 15 ft or more
- 30,000 lbs or more on any axle
- Whenever a permit reviewer determines it is necessary due to the specific circumstances.

Additional questions with permitting can be directed to DOT.OSOW@dot.ri.gov or (401) 563-4582.

Additional questions with the online service, payments, fees, subscriptions, logins, please email rihelp@egov.com or (401) 831-8099.

Q: When is a route survey required?

A: A route survey may be required for any permit over legal height. Permits over 13 ft 6 in on non-interstate routes typically require a survey. Any permit of 14 ft or higher will require a survey. A survey is required anytime RIDOT deems it necessary due to the specific circumstances.

Q: When is a superload analysis required?

A: Permit vehicles weighing 200,000 lbs or more, depending on route as determined by RIDOT, will require an independent 3rd party analysis of all structures on the requested route.

Q: How do I format a route for a single trip permit?

A: Routes must include directions of travel on numbered routes, directions of turns/travel on other roads and all exit numbers. Example: I-295(S) -> Exit 3A -> RI-37(E) -> Exit 2b -> I-95(N) -> Exit 18 -> R on Thurbers Ave(E) -> R on Allens Ave/US-1A(S) -> L on Ernest St -> R on Shipyard St(S).

Q: What are the holiday restrictions?

A: No Saturday, Sunday, or Monday travel on:

- Memorial Day, Victory Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, MLK Jr Day

No day of travel or previous night:

- Independence Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day

No Wednesday through Sunday travel the week of Thanksgiving

No Saturday or Sunday travel Easter.

Q: Are there any restricted routes?

A: Semi-trailers over 48.5 ft up to 53 ft can only travel on their [designated routes](#).

Restricted routes for annual permits are determined by the [bridge restrictions lists](#) which apply to your particular permit. These lists are required to be carried in all annual permit vehicles. Construction zones are continuously updated on the RIDOT [website](#). All other route restrictions will depend on the details of the permit.

Q: Where can I find height clearances?

A: RIDOT's height clearance assistance maps are located here: [RIDOT Bridge Height Restrictions Application \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Q: What forms of payment do you accept?

A: Credit card, electronic check, subscription with monthly billing (additional fees apply).

Q: What do I need to do if transporting watercraft to the western states?

A: The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission developed a program called Call Before You Haul (<https://www.westernais.org/callbeforeyouhaul> [[westernais.org](https://www.westernais.org)]) that provides a toll-free number for companies and individuals transporting watercraft to the western states. By calling this phone number and providing some basic information about the watercraft and your travel plans, arrangements can be made for your watercraft to be inspected, which will expedite travel through the network of watercraft inspection stations in states throughout the West.

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