



Let's Keep It Legal – Do We Need Special Hauling Permits

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Special Hauling Permits are required to move vehicles and/or loads on public highways if the vehicle and/or loads exceed the legal dimensions or weights. A “Permit” authorizes the movement of an oversize and/or overweight vehicle for a specific time period on permissible hauling days authorized by your local jurisdictions. Most all states have a department specifically dedicated to issuing these permits. There are many different rules and regulations to adhere to once a permit has been issued. The local jurisdiction will specify on the permit any and all special routing instructions. The routing instructions are usually based on either the overall dimensions or weights of a single vehicle or combination of vehicles used in connection with the transport.

There are permit agencies which provide special hauling permits you need when traveling from one state to another. This service includes all the permits required from point A to point B. You can expect to pay a fee for each permit(s) plus a charge for the agency’s services. You will be required to submit the type of vehicle including the overall dimensions and weight. If you have a combination of vehicles you will be required to submit the overall dimensions and the weights of all vehicles used in the transport. You will be required to submit an application with the tire information, axle weights, and axle spacings in order to configure the permit.

The cost for a permit(s) will vary according to the size of the load and the total number of permits required to do the job. The total cost for all permits will always be less than the fines imposed for hauling without them. Most fines for hauling without the proper permits will cost you thousands of dollars.

Even if you do not require a special hauling permit you should still be aware of the legal hauling weights. A single unit rollback with a registered GVWR of 19,500 lbs. and with an unladen weight of 12,000 lbs. allows you to haul up to 7,500 lbs. legally. If you exceed the legal hauling weight you can expect to pay a fine. You cannot exceed your registered GVWR. There is a difference between traveling Intrastate and Interstate and it is important to know all the rules and regulations in order to keep your load legal.

We suggest that you consult with your local authorities when you’re not sure about legal hauling weights and over-dimensional loads. When traveling out of the state of Pennsylvania the Repair & Towing (RT) tags may not be recognized by the various agencies enforcing these laws.

Pennsylvania Towing Association – www.patowing.com