

Overweight Permits  
on the Interstate

March 7, 1985

H. A. Willard  
Division Administrator, FHWA  
Ames, Iowa

HPR-IA

Mr. Gordon A. Sweitzer, Director  
Motor Vehicle Division, Iowa DOT  
Des Moines, Iowa

Your January 2, 1985, letter requested our approval of removing subrule 820--[07,F]2.1(15) of the Iowa Administrative Rules which provides for issuing special permits for operation and movement of oversize and overweight vehicles on the Interstate System.

The proposed amendment does not appear to conflict with applicable Federal laws and regulations. The following general comments are offered:

1. Special permits for the movement of nondivisible loads in excess of 80,000 pounds on the Interstate are allowed to be issued without strict adherence to the bridge formula. The Federal Highway Administration assumes the state will specifically approve the routing and will conduct appropriate bridge inspections to protect against potential pavement and bridge damage.
2. These permits should not be issued on a routine basis.
3. 23 U.S.C. 127 provides that divisible loads are limited to 80,000 pounds and must adhere to all constraints of the bridge formula and axle spacings, or to state laws and regulations that were in effect on July 1, 1956.
4. Iowa is not one of the enumerated states that have grandfather rights to issue special permits for divisible loads in excess of 80,000 pounds (Federal Register, September 14, 1983, page 41230).

Please consider these comments.