

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 17-07

2017 Legislation – INCREASING MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LENGTH FOR SINGLE TRUCKS

DATE: June 23, 2017

FROM: Melissa Spiegel, Interim Director, MVD

TO: All Office of Vehicle and Motor Carrier Services (OVMCS) staff, and Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) staff.

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation enacted during the 2017 legislative session regarding an increase in the maximum allowable length for single trucks operated on the highways of this state.

SUMMARY

House File 218 increased the maximum allowable length for single trucks operated on the highways of this state to 45 feet. **The legislation became effective on July 1, 2017.**

LINK TO LEGISLATION

2017 Iowa Acts, House File 218:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF218.pdf>

CURRENT

Under previous Iowa Code chapter 321.457, the maximum length of a single truck, unladen or with load was 41 feet.

NEW

Under new Iowa Code chapter 321.457, the maximum length of a single truck, unladen or with load, is now 45 feet.

BUSINESS IMPACT

The legislation does not have a major impact on the way we currently issue oversize or overweight permits, as the legislation did not increase weight limits. However, a few more vehicles will now be eligible for “bridge exempt” permits that were previously excluded for being too long. This legislative amendment substantially benefits motor carriers from neighboring states that already have laws allowing 45 feet or longer single trucks.

RESULT

This legislation does not implicate substantial changes in process or procedure for OVMCS or MVE staff. However, there will be programming changes required to make the Iowa Automated Permitting System (IAPS) in order to effectuate the new length provision. MVE Officers will also need to be aware of the changes for roadside enforcement purposes.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information that will be helpful to you and to customers.

WHAT PERMIT TYPES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE?

Single trip and multi trip permits where the conveyance type is “self-propelled” or “self-propelled SME” will be affected as well as Bridge Exempt permits. Certain legal weight trucks in the 41’-45’ range will no longer need a single trip permit because they will now be considered legal where they previously needed a permit to account for their length. However, some of these vehicles may need a Bridge Exempt permit depending on their axle configuration because the Bridge Exempt now allows for up to 45’ in length. Therefore, a vehicle that is 45 feet or less in length will still need a Bridge Exempt permit if they exceed maximum weight for their axle spacing according to table 1 of the Maximum Gross Weight Table (found on page 22 of the Iowa Truck Information Guide).