



Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 23-22

HARVEST PROCLAMATION EXTENSION 2023- Motor Carrier Services

DATE: February 13, 2024

FROM: Melissa Gillett, Director
Motor Vehicle Division

TO: Iowa Motor Carriers
Iowa Motor Truck Association
Agribusiness Association of Iowa
All Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services staff
Iowa State Patrol – Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit

SUBJECT

This informational memo is to inform motor carriers, law enforcement, and staff about the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued September 11, 2023, has been extended and now expires on **February 23rd, 2024**. This proclamation was issued to provide relief from regulatory provisions for motor carriers transporting soybeans, corn, hay, straw, silage, stover, fertilizer (dry, liquid, and gas) and manure (dry and liquid).

SUMMARY

Due to concerns over a timely harvest and large amounts of agricultural truck traffic moving throughout the state, the Governor has issued a proclamation that provides relief for the following:

- Allows a vehicle to move overweight loads up to 90,000 pounds without needing to obtain a permit on non-interstate highways (Iowa Code § 321E and Iowa Administrative Code 761-511).

This regulatory relief applies to movement of loads of soybeans, corn, hay, straw, silage, stover, fertilizer (dry, liquid, and gas) and manure (dry and liquid).

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers will provide additional clarification for staff and customers.

WHICH DIVISIBLE LOADS ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WITHOUT PERMIT UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION?

Certain divisible loads may travel without permits on state highways if:

- The load is soybeans, corn, hay, straw, silage, stover, fertilizer (dry, liquid and gas) and manure (dry and liquid).
- The load does not exceed 90,000 pounds gross weight.
- The load does not exceed the maximum axle weight limit determined under the non-primary highway maximum gross weight table by more than 12.5%.
- The load does not exceed the legal maximum axle weight limit of 20,000 pounds.
- The load otherwise complies with posted limits on roads and bridges.

Under these conditions, the divisible load is authorized to travel on Iowa and US highways, excluding the interstate system, without a permit.

UNDER THIS PROCLAMATION CAN OVERWEIGHT DIVISIBLE LOADS TRAVEL ON THE INTERSTATE WITHOUT A PERMIT?

No, the Governor's proclamation is limited to Iowa highways, excluding the interstate system.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR THE SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM UNDER THIS PROCLAMATION?

Vehicles transporting loads under this proclamation are required to comply with posted limits on roads and bridges. We encourage drivers to contact their counties for the most up-to-date information on construction and embargoed roads for ease of travel and to protect county infrastructure.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FOR A CUSTOMER TO CONTACT THEIR LOCAL COUNTY ENGINEER ABOUT SPECIFIC CONSTRUCTION OR EMBARGOED ROADS FOR EASE OF TRAVEL?

The below link provides contact information for all county engineers in the state of Iowa, as well as a link to each county's website for more information:

<https://www.iowacountyroads.org/find-your-county-engineer>

Motor carriers may also check this link for a map of information about road restrictions:

<https://www.iowacountyroads.org/connections#county-511-map>

WHEN DOES THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION EXPIRE?

February 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. unless sooner terminated or extended by the Governor.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT DOT REGARDING QUESTIONS?

omcs@iowadot.us

515-237-3264