

Motor Vehicle Division Information Memo # 19-07

Tandem Axle Administrative Rule Updates

DATE: April 16, 2019

FROM: Sara Siedsma, Compliance Officer, MVD

TO: All Office of Vehicle and Motor Carrier Services staff

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains an update to administrative rule chapter 761—511, Special Permits for Operation and Movement of Vehicles and Loads of Excess Size and Weight. In 2016, Iowa Code section 321E.7 was amended to address weight limitations on tandem axles when the vehicle is operating under a special permit.

SUMMARY

The legislation provided that a vehicle operating under a special permit may have a gross weight not to exceed 46,000 pounds on a single-tandem axle of the truck tractor and gross weight not to exceed 46,000 pounds on a sing-tandem axle of the trailer or semitrailer if each axle of each tandem group has at least four tires. This legislative change brought Iowa closer in line with surrounding states' permit issuing processes.

The rules also provide that no single axle of a tandem group may exceed 24,000 pounds, which is necessary to prevent lopsided weight configurations, and will prevent undue damage to roads and bridges. The rules further clarify that a permitted tandem axle cannot be part of a larger group of axles whose centers are greater than 96 inches apart, which was necessary to prevent someone from selecting two axles from within a larger group axles and designating them as tandem axels, thereby potentially exceeding the allowable weight limitations.

The administrative rule amendments are effective April 17, 2019.

LINK TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/arc/4345C.pdf>

CURRENT

Based on the 2016 legislative changes, we have already changed our processes to adhere to the new requirements related to weight limitations on tandem axles under the special permit process.

NEW

As of April 17, 2019, the rules will align with the 2016 legislative changes and our current processes for weight limitations on tandem axles under the special permit process.

BUSINESS IMPACT

This directive does not impact the way that OVMCS operates as we have already updated our processes to conform to the 2016 legislative changes, rather this directive is just informing you that the administrative rules have now been updated.