

**SEASONAL PERMIT POLICY**  
**NDHP Motor Carrier Division**  
**Ref: 9-16 (4/2022)**

**PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines when seasonal permits will be issued for commercial haystack and hay bale movers, overwidth and/or overweight self-propelled fertilizer spreaders, overwidth and/or overweight self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators, overwidth hay grinders, overwidth grain cleaners, and overwidth forage harvesters that are exempt from width limitations so they can be moved upon the highways of the state of North Dakota.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

As authorized by sections 39-12-04 and 39-12-05.3 NDCC, the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) will issue seasonal permits in lieu of single trip permits for overwidth movements of hay in the stack, hay bales, hay grinders, grain cleaners, forage harvesters, fertilizer spreaders and agricultural chemical applicators being transported by another vehicle, and for overwidth and overweight movements of self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators operating under their own power.

**PROCEDURE**

A. Travel Restrictions

1. Seasonal permits shall not authorize movements from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, except:
  - 1) For self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators operating under their own power; or
    - a. If ten feet or less in width (see lighting requirements for nighttime travel under Procedure G).
2. Movement is not authorized when inclement weather prevails, highways are slippery, or when visibility is ½ mile or less.
3. Haystacks and hay bales must be moved along the extreme right edge of roadway.
4. Seasonal permits do not authorize movement of haystacks and hay bales on I-29 and I-94 when using haystack moving equipment or a stack-mover. If no alternate routes are available, a \$20 single trip permit may be issued provided a pilot car follows the movement.

B. Size Limitations

1. The seasonal permits issued for stackmovers will show “EXEMPT” on the width. All other types of vehicles used for hauling hay bales will be restricted to 12 feet in overall width, except trailers designed specifically for hauling hay

bales shall not exceed 12 feet 10 inches wide including the loading arm (trailer extensions must be retracted when unladen).

2. The seasonal permits issued for haystack moving equipment or a stackmover will show 17 feet 6 inches in height. All other types of vehicles or vehicle combinations hauling hay will be restricted to 15 feet in overall height.
3. Legal length for truck-mounted haystack moving equipment is 56 feet.
4. Vehicle combinations exceeding 75 feet in overall length must travel on highways that are designated state and US highways, to include the interstate system.
5. Road construction may limit oversize movements on some highways. Visit the North Dakota Department of Transportation Construction Services website at <https://travel.dot.nd.gov>

C. Axle weight limitations on self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled chemical applicators operating under their own power.

1. The maximum permissible weight on a single axle shall not exceed 22,000 pounds gross weight, whether empty or loaded.
  - a. The weight per inch width of tire shall not exceed 550 pounds.
  - b. Travel is not allowed on the interstate system when the gross weight on a single axle exceeds 20,000 pounds.

D. Flagging requirements for self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators whether being operated under their own power or being transported by another vehicle, hay grinders, grain cleaners, forage harvesters, and vehicles or combinations of vehicles hauling hay bales if they do not exceed 14 feet 6 inches in overall width.

1. Red or bright orange flags shall be mounted on the most practical outside dimension on the traffic side of the overwidth vehicle or load, front and rear. If one flag is visible from both the front and rear, then only one flag is required. All flags shall be made of red or bright orange cloth or other suitable material and shall be at least 18 inches by 18 inches in size; or
2. The overwidth movement may be followed by a pilot car equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that is visible from the rear for a minimum 500 feet; or
3. The overwidth vehicle itself, or vehicle towing or hauling an overwidth load, may be equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that is visible from the rear for a minimum 500 feet.

E. Flagging requirements for haystack moving equipment or other vehicle or load exempt from width limitations that exceed 14 feet 6 inches in overall width.

1. Red or bright orange flag that is at least 18 inches by 18 inches in size shall be

mounted on a pole showing the extreme outside width and height on the traffic side of the load. If one flag is not clearly visible from the front and rear, then flags must be mounted on both the front and rear of the vehicle; or

2. The overwidth movement shall be preceded and followed by pilot cars equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) mounted on top of the highest part of the vehicle that is visible for a minimum 500 feet; or
3. The vehicle, or vehicle towing or hauling the load, shall be equipped with a lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that is visible from the front and rear for a minimum 500 feet.

#### F. Sign Requirements

1. When the overall length of a vehicle combination exceeds 75 feet in length and/or 8 feet 6 inches in width, there must be a minimum 12" X 60" OVERSIZE LOAD sign on the front and rear. The lettering must be black on yellow background. Letters must be at least 8 inches high with 1- inch brush stroke. (NOTE: The trailer and load length cannot exceed 53 feet.)

#### G. Lighting Requirements for Nighttime Travel

1. Vehicle or load movements ten feet in width or less must be properly lighted.
  - a. Require clearance lights visible from the front, rear, and side marking the outermost portion of the vehicle or load that extends beyond 8 feet 6 inches.
  - b. Require one rotating or two flashing amber light(s) mounted above the cab visible at a distance not less than 500 feet.
    - 1) When lights on the cab are not visible to the rear, additional flashing amber lights are required at the rear.
  - c. Lights shall be SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) approved Class 1 lights and reflectors.
  - d. Vehicle must be capable of traveling at the posted highway speed.
    - 1) Self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators.
  - e. Vehicular hazard warning signal lamps used to display warning to the front must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and must display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display warning to the rear must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and must show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights must be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet in normal sunlight. (NDCC 39-21-19.1)

#### H. Insurance Requirements

1. Proof of liability and property damage coverage not less than \$300,000 is required.
- I. Commercial haystack movers who have a seasonal permit in possession may also haul hay bales.
- J. A North Dakota farmer or rancher moving their own hay (bales or haystacks) is not required to have a seasonal permit or single trip permit, regardless of what type of equipment is used, unless the overall height exceeds 14 feet and travel is on the interstate system. A farm truck with mounted haystack moving equipment is considered an implement of husbandry and exempt from registration.
- K. Towing vehicle must have two mirrors to reflect a rear view of 200 feet to the driver.
- L. Trailer extensions must be retracted (folded) when empty.
- M. All commercial oversize vehicles must be equipped in accordance with the requirements and specifications of Parts 393 and 396 of 49CFR.
- N. A seasonal permit shall be in lieu of registration requirements during the period covered by such permit. This exemption does not include trucks pulling trailers or truck-tractor semitrailer combinations. It does not exempt a nonresident commercial mover from trip permits. A seasonal permit does not exempt trucks pulling trailers or truck-tractor semitrailer combinations from the interstate permit when exceeding 80,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight and traveling on I-29 or I-94.
- O. Application Procedure
  1. Seasonal permits can be purchased online at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp), click on E-Permits.
  2. Information required to obtain a seasonal permit:
    - a. Applicant or company name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, and e-mail address (optional).
    - b. Description of power unit: unit number, year, make, license number and state (when applicable), and serial number (VIN – minimum last 8 digits).
    - c. Overall dimensions of vehicle or vehicle combination.
    - d. Number of axles, number of tires per axle, tire width (from tire sidewall), and axle spacings (when applicable).
    - e. Amounts of coverage for liability and property damage, insurance company, policy number, and expiration date.
  3. Seasonal permit applications can also be made at the NDHP permit office or with a motor carrier inspector or trooper.
    - a. Applications to the permit office may be made in person, by mail, by e-mail, or through a permit service company.

- b. Applications made with a trooper or motor carrier inspector may be made in person.
  - c. In lieu of an insurance certificate, the customer shall acknowledge on the permit application the insurance information provided is true and correct.
- 4. The vertical clearance list, weight limitations chart, and weight limitations map shall be attached to a seasonal permit that authorizes the movement of hay.
  - a. These documents are available on the NDHP website at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp), click on Motor Carrier, and then click on Permit Policies.
  - b. Failure to attach these documents voids this permit. Any violation of the permit and the attached documents will result in revocation of this permit.
- 5. Seasonal permits for hauling hay can be issued to truck-mounted stack movers, towed stack movers, towed bale handlers, trucks, or other legal vehicle combinations.
- 6. Seasonal permits will be valid for a twelve-month period from date of issuance.
- 7. A legible electronic or paper copy of the permit must be in possession prior to entering North Dakota or starting movement.
  - a. The applicant /driver is responsible for complying with the travel restrictions and safety requirements listed on the permit.
- 8. Violating provisions and conditions on a single trip permit may result in invalidating the permit.
- 9. The permit fee for each seasonal permit is \$50.
- 10. Seasonal permits are available to purchase online at [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp), click on E-Permits. Application forms can be obtained from the North Dakota Highway Patrol, Permit Office, 600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept. 504, Bismarck, ND 58505-0240. The telephone number is 701-328-2621.