LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ENACTED IN 2008 WITHIN THE POLICY ESTABLISHED BY THE MINNESOTA TRUCK SIZE AND WEIGHT PROJECT (June, 2006)

LAWS 2008 Ch 287, ART 1

1) Sec 51 Vehicle Length

Changes the single-unit vehicle maximum vehicle length from 40 to 45 feet. Based on truck study findings, this length matches that for buses and motor homes.

2) Sec 54 Truck Weight Limits – Gross Vehicle Weight

Allows 80,000 GVW on paved nine-ton routes. Provides a weight allowance of up to 400 pounds above maximum weights in Mn. Statute 169.824 and 169.85 for idle reduction technology. Removes reasonable access language. Removes old exemption for ready-mix concrete trucks equipped with a fifth axle prior to June, 1981.

3) Sec 55 Forest Products Weight Limits

Adds finished forest products to the section that allows a permit to haul up to 90,000 GVW (99,000 during seasonal increases – up from 98,000). Permit was previously limited to raw or unprocessed forest products.

4) Sec 62 Special Agricultural Products Permit

New section establishes permits and provisions for new agriculture truck configurations.

Subd. 1. Allows road authorities to issue an annual permit for a vehicle carrying raw or unprocessed agricultural products up to 90,000 pounds (99,000 during seasonal weight increases) on 6 axles
   • Not allowed on interstate highways unless carrying sealed intermodal containers in international commerce (see FHWA interpretation letter)
   • $300 fee
Subd. 2. Allows road authorities to issue an annual permit for a vehicle carrying raw or unprocessed agricultural products up to 97,000 pounds (99,000 during seasonal weight increases) on 7 axles
   • Not allowed on interstate highways
   • Drivers must comply with driver qualification requirements in Minn. Stat. § 221.0314, subds. 2 – 5 and 49 CFR parts 40 and 382.
   • $500 fee
Subd. 3. Includes requirements and restrictions that apply to both types of permits under the section:
   • Subject to axle weight limits under Minn. Stat. § 169.824;
   • Subject to seasonal load restrictions under Minn. Stat. § 169.87;
   • Subject to bridge load limits posted under Minn. Stat. § 169.84;
• May be operated on trunk highways other than interstates and on certain local roads under Minn. Stat. § 169.832, subd. 11;
• May not be operated with loads that exceed the manufacturer’s GVW rating as affixed to the vehicle or other certification of GVW rating complying with 49 CFR §§ 567.4 – 567.7;
• Must have a permit from each road authority with jurisdiction over a road on which the vehicle is operated, if required;
• Must comply with relevant evidence requirements in Minn. Stat. § 169.851;
• Must have brakes on all wheels (see also Minn. Stat. § 169.67); and
• First-haul percentage allowances under Minn. Stat. § 168.013 are not applicable to a vehicle permitted under this section

Subd. 4. Specifies that through FY2011, revenues from permits under this section will be used for inspecting and posting local bridges. In later years, revenues go to the trunk highway fund. (See Laws 2008, Ch. 370, Art. 1, Sec. 9 for attempt to amend Minn. Stat. § 169.865 to allow for weights permitted under the section in accordance with the federal bridge formula.)

LAWS 2008 Ch 350

5) Sec 50 Special Canola Hauling Vehicle Permit

Provides for a three-unit permit for a vehicle combination that meets the following:
• Is a combination of vehicles in which no semitrailer used in the combination is longer than 28½ feet;
• Has a maximum GVW of 105,500 pounds;
• Complies with axle weight limits in Minn. Stat. § 169.824 or with the federal bridge formula for axle groups that are not described in Minn. Stat. § 169.824;
• Complies with the tire weight limits in Minn. Stat. § 169.823, or the tire manufacturer’s recommended load, whichever is less;
• Is operated only on TH 175 from Hallock to the North Dakota border, on U.S. Hwy 75 from Hallock to Donaldson, and on marked TH 11 from Donaldson to the North Dakota border; and
• The seasonal weight increases under Minn. Stat. § 169.826 don’t apply.

The permit carries the following restrictions:
• Vehicle must be operated in compliance with seasonal load restrictions under Minn. Stat. § 169.87;
• Vehicle may not be operated on the interstate or national network highways; and
• Vehicle may be operated on streets or highways under the control of local authorities only with approval of the local authority — but vehicles may have one-mile reasonable access to terminals and facilities for food, fuel, repairs, rest, and for continuity of route

Permit is annual, with a fee of $850.