

Commercial Vehicle Permits

General Information

Listed below is general information concerning vehicles with a gross weight in excess of 26,000 lbs. If more information is needed, please feel free to call the noted department or agency or contact the Office of Law Enforcement.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation Office of Law Enforcement is responsible for enforcing Mississippi's size, weight and load laws, fuel tax laws, privilege license laws, and the collection of these taxes.

- Vehicles licensed in a state of which Mississippi and that state have a reciprocal agreement, and vehicles with apportioned license from an International Registration Plan (IRP) state properly registered with Mississippi, satisfy privilege license tax requirements.
- Vehicles not licensed in a reciprocating state or licensed in an IRP member state but bearing a non-apportioned plate, must obtain a temporary permit before entering the state or may obtain a permit from an officer on duty at any inspection station upon entering the state. To obtain such permit in advance or for more information, please contact the MDOT Permit Division, at (601) 359-1717 or at the port of entry. Restricted license plates, farm, gravel, natural resources are recognized for interstate movement.
- Obtaining temporary permits does not eliminate requirements for IFTA decals, fuel purchase or use tax liabilities.
- Common and contract carriers of passengers and property are required to qualify with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and pay all fees due MDOT even though exempted from motor vehicle licenses and tag fees by reciprocity. For more information contact MDOT at (601) 359-9740.
- Common and contract carriers of passengers base plated in an IRP jurisdiction are entitled to full reciprocity on charter trips.
- Common and contract carriers of passengers not covered by reciprocity must obtain a permit in advance by calling the MDOT Permit Division at (601) 359-1717 or at the port of entry.

Apportioned License Plates

For Apportioned license plates contact: State Tax Commission Prorate Division (601) 923-7103.

An APPORTIONABLE VEHICLE is any vehicle used for the transportation of persons or property and (1) has a power unit which has a gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds or (2) a power unit which has three (3) or more axles regardless of weight or (3) a power unit which is used in combination with a trailer when the weight of the combination exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

Oversize/Overweight Permits

The Mississippi Department of Transportation Permits Division must authorize all overdimensional and overweight motor vehicle moves. The permit authorization office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and may be reached by voice toll-free at 1-888-737-0061 or (601) 359-1717, or by fax at (601) 359-5928. This authorization will allow you to contact the MDOT Law Enforcement Division to obtain your permit.

MAXIMUM WIDTH - 8 feet 6 inches

MAXIMUM HEIGHT - 13 feet 6 inches

MAXIMUM HIGHWAY GROSS WEIGHT LIMIT - Mississippi's highway system has two different maximum highway gross weight limits. Some state highway routes have what is referred to as a "low weight road limit." These highways have a limit of 57,650 pounds. All of the Federal Interstate System, U. S. Highways and most State Highways have a maximum load limit of 80,000 pounds. Before moving on highways that you are uncertain about, you should contact the MDOT Permit Division to obtain correct information on highway limits.

No more than three vehicles in combination shall be towed by saddle-mounts, provided the overall length of the towing and towed vehicles shall not exceed sixty-five feet in length. No more than one motor vehicle shall be towed by tow-bar.

Commercial Drivers License

For any information concerning drivers' requirements or licenses, contact the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol at (601) 987-1212.

Fuel Taxes

Mississippi is a member of the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). All private, commercial, common and contract carriers of property or passengers and private carriers of property who are not members of IFTA and cross the boundary line of the State and have a gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, shall be subject to a privilege tax for use of the highways. This tax is included in the price of fuels purchased in the state and the invoice or sales ticket acts as proof of fuel purchased. If fuel is not purchased, a twenty dollar fuel fee is charged. This fee is paid at inspection stations throughout Mississippi when the vehicle is exiting the state. For additional information you may contact the State Tax Commission Petroleum Division at (601) 923-7104.

Temporary Permit

Any person, owner, or operator who has paid the annual privilege license within one license tax classification or specific gross weight bracket and shall desire to operate such vehicle within another license tax classification or an increased gross weight bracket for the bona fide and actual temporary transportation or hauling of horticultural, agricultural, dairy products or livestock, and products of the forest, but not including the manufactured products thereof, may do so by obtaining a temporary permit thereof and paying an additional amount, which shall be computed and ascertained by the ratio which the time said vehicle is to be operated in the new classification or gross weight bracket bears to the total annual privilege tax within the new classification or gross weight bracket, plus an additional ten per cent (10%) thereof, after having given credit thereon for the proportionate amount of the annual license tax already paid;

provided, however, that when such person obtains a temporary permit in a lower classification, but of a greater gross weight than the licensed gross weight of such vehicle, then such person shall be entitled to credit only for an amount equal to the proportionate amount of tax which would have been paid on such vehicle for its licensed gross weight in the tax classification in which such vehicle is to be operated under the temporary permit. No permit shall be issued hereunder for a period of time less than one month, and no permit shall be issued hereunder for less than the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00).

Such temporary permits shall be issued by the State Tax Commission or its agents. The permit shall be issued on forms to be prescribed by the commission, and such permit shall authorize such person, owner, or operator to operate said motor vehicle in the classification allowed for the period of time therein prescribed; provided, such person, owner or operator shall comply with all other requirements of law respecting said operation.