Virginia's

Size, Weight and Equipment Requirements

for trucks, trailers and towed vehicles

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

Introduction

The material in this booklet has been condensed from the Motor Vehicle Code of Virginia and explains the size, weight and equipment requirements for trucks, trailers, and towed vehicles. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the agencies listed below.

Motor Carrier Credentials
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
P. O. Box 27412
Richmond, Virginia 23269
(804) 249-5130
www.dmvNOW.com

Motor Carrier Service Centers
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
(Weigh Stations)
(804) 249-5130
(804) 367-1746 (Fax)
www.dmvNOW.com

Virginia Dyed Fuel Program
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
(804) 367-2690 or 367-2657
(800) 272-9268 (hearing impaired only)
www.dmvNOW.com

Hauling Permits
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
P. O. Box 27412
Richmond, Virginia 23269
(804) 497-7135
vahps.dmv.virginia.gov
haulingpermit@dmv.virginia.gov

Virginia State Police (VSP)
P. O. Box 27472
Richmond, Virginia 23261
(804) 674-2000

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
Excise Tax
(804) 916-8300

EPA, Office of Transportation and Air Quality
Diesel Sulfur Content 1-800-385-6164

Emergency Road Conditions
1-800-367-ROAD (7623)

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Interstate and Designated Highways – Virginia Code §46.2-1105 and 46.2-1112

Maximum Length

Truck ..... 40 feet excluding load
Semi-trailer ..... 48 feet including load
Semi-trailer ..... 53 feet including load*
Twin Trailers ..... 28 feet 6 inches each including load
Combinations ..... No overall length restrictions
Automobile and Watercraft Transporter ..... 65 feet plus 3 foot overhang to front and 4 foot overhang to rear
Stinger-steered Automobile and Watercraft Transporters ..... 75 feet plus 3 foot overhang to front and 4 foot overhang to rear
Motor Home and Bus ..... 65 feet including load

*Provided the spacing between the kingpin of the semi-trailer and rearmost axle or a point midway between the rear tandem axle does not exceed 41 feet.

Maximum Width

All Vehicles ..... 102 inches excluding mirror and any warning device installed on a school bus

Maximum Height

All Vehicles ..... 13 feet 6 inches

Maximum Number of Vehicles in Combination

Tractor trucks may not have more than one semi-trailer attached. Trucks may not have more than one trailer attached.

Virginia law specifies that three motor vehicles may be drawn by a saddle mount device when operated on an interstate highway in a drive away service from factory to dealer and the combination does not exceed 97 feet.

Non-Interstate and Non-Designated Highways

Maximum Length

Truck ..... 40 feet excluding load
Semi-trailer ..... 53 feet*
Twin Trailers ..... Not permitted**
Tractor Semi-trailer Combinations ..... No overall length limitations except where prohibited
Combination of a towing vehicle and any manufactured home ..... 65 feet including load***

*Provided the spacing between the kingpin of the semi-trailer and rearmost axle or a point midway between the rear tandem axles does not exceed 41 feet.

**However, these vehicles may be operated on any highway designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (STAA Approved Routes).

***Vehicles designed and used exclusively for the transportation of motor vehicles may have additional load overhang not to exceed 3 feet on the front of the vehicle and 4 feet on the back of the vehicle. (See below for additional information on extended loads.)

Maximum Width

All Vehicles ..... 102 inches excluding mirror and any warning device installed on a school bus

Maximum Height

All Vehicles ..... 13 feet 6 inches

Maximum Number of Vehicles in Combination

Tractor trucks may not have more than one semi-trailer attached. Trucks may not have more than one trailer attached. Two motor vehicles may be drawn together if coupled by a saddle mount device.

Extended Loads on All Highways

Loads may not extend more than 3 feet beyond the front of a vehicle or vehicle combination and may not extend more than 6 inches beyond the line of the fender or body on either side of a vehicle or vehicle combination.

Any load extending 4 feet beyond the rear of the bed of the body of a vehicle or vehicle combination must be marked in the daytime by a red flag at least 12 inches square, and at night by a red light visible for at least 500 feet.

Section 2: Weight Limitations

Maximum Weight Limitations – Virginia Code §46.2-1122

The weights shown below are the maximum allowed except when operating under the authority of an overload permit as outlined on page 7.

Any one axle..... 20,000 pounds

Tandem Axles (more than 40 inches but no more than 96 inches spacing between axle centers)..... 34,000 pounds

Single Unit
(2 Axle)..... 40,000 pounds

Single Unit
(3 Axle)..... 54,000 pounds

Single Unit (4 Axle)..... See chart page 5

Tractor-Semitrailer
(3 Axle)..... 60,000 pounds

Tractor-Semitrailer
(4 Axle)..... 74,000 pounds

Tractor-Semitrailer
(5 Axle)..... 80,000 pounds

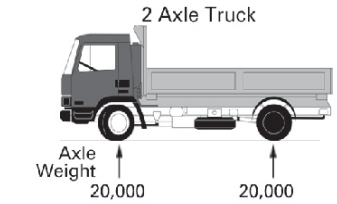
Tractor-Semitrailer
(6 Axle)..... 80,000 pounds

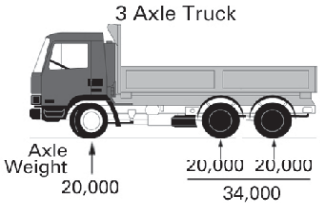
Tractor-Twin Trailers
(5 or more Axles)..... 80,000 pounds

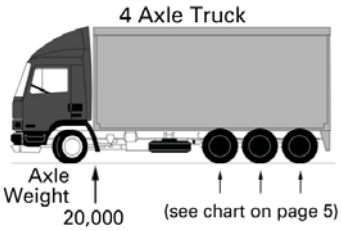
Other Combinations
(5 or more Axles)..... 80,000 pounds

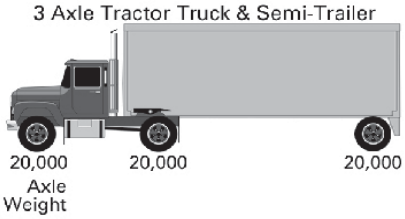
Per inch of tire width in contact
with road surface..... 650 pounds

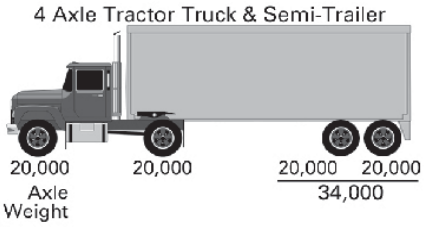
The weights listed above are the maximum weight limits allowed. No vehicle can travel on Virginia highways with a single axle weight in excess of 20,000 pounds, tandem axle weight in excess of 34,000 pounds, or a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds.

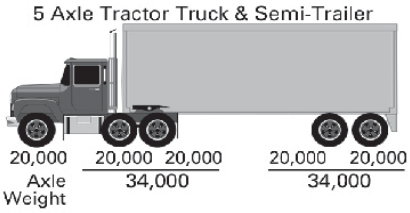


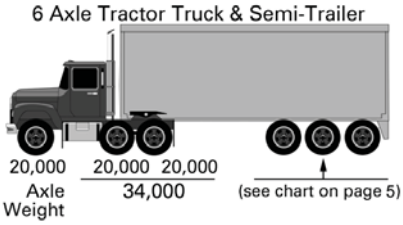


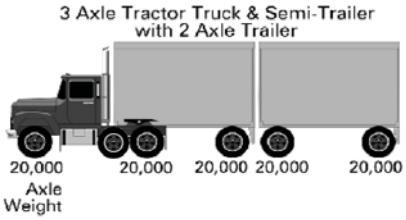








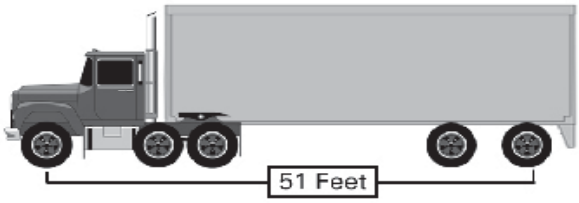




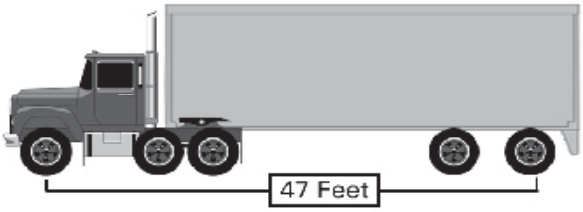
Maximum gross weight is determined by the number of axles and the distance between the first and last axles.

Axle and Gross Weight Limits – Virginia Code §46.2-1126

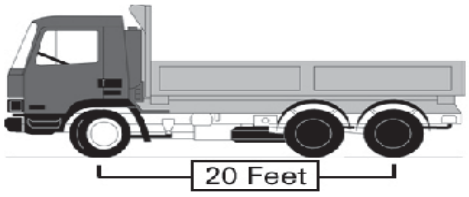
The maximum gross weight is determined by the number of axles on a vehicle and the distance between the first axle (steering) and extreme rear axle. The following examples give the maximum allowable gross weight of each vehicle.



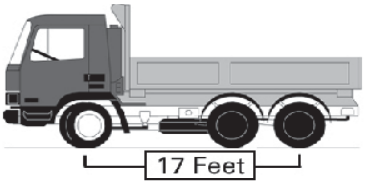
This 5 axle vehicle with 51 feet of axle spacing is allowed a maximum gross weight of 80,000 pounds.



This 5 axle vehicle with 47 feet of axle spacing is allowed a maximum gross weight of 77,500 pounds.



This 3 axle vehicle with 20 feet of axle spacing is allowed a maximum gross weight of 51,000 pounds.



This 3 axle vehicle with 17 feet of axle spacing is allowed a maximum gross weight of 48,500 pounds.

A vehicle may not exceed a single axle weight of 20,000 pounds or a tandem axle weight of 34,000 pounds. Therefore, some vehicles cannot be loaded to the maximum allowable gross weight because the tandem axle or single axle weights would exceed legal weight limits.

Weight Allowed Based on Axle Spacing –

Virginia Code §46.2-1126

The maximum gross weight is determined by the total number of axles and by measuring the distance between the first axle (steering) and extreme rear axle. The maximum weight allowance for axle groups is determined by measuring the distance between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle and the number of axles within a specific axle group. Look up the distance between axles and the appropriate number of axles or axle groups on the chart to obtain the maximum gross or axle group weight allowance.

Any motor vehicle that utilizes an auxiliary power unit or other idle reduction technology in order to promote reduction of fuel use and emissions due to engine idling shall be allowed, in accordance to §46.2-1129.1, up to an additional 550 pounds total in gross, single axle, tandem axle, or bridge formula weight limits. In addition, any motor vehicle that is fueled, wholly or partially, by natural gas shall be allowed, in accordance to §46.2-1129.2 up to an additional 2,000 pounds total in gross, single axle, tandem axle, or bridge formula weight limits.

Maximum Weight in Pounds Carried on any Group of Axles

Distance in Feet Between the Extremes of any Group of 2 or more Axles
Note: Any fraction of a foot is rounded to the next highest foot

	2 Axles	3 Axles	4 Axles	5 Axles	6 Axles	7 Axles
4	34,000					
5	34,000					
6	34,000					
7	34,000					
8	34,000	34,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,000				
12		45,000	50,000			
13		45,000	50,500			
14		46,500	51,500			
15		47,000	52,000			
16		48,000	52,500	58,000		
17		48,500	53,500	58,500		
18		49,500	54,000	59,000		
19		50,000	54,500	60,000		
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33			64,000	68,500	74,000	79,500
34			64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
35			65,500	70,000	75,000	
36			66,000	70,500	75,500	
37			66,500	71,000	76,000	
38			67,500	72,000	77,000	
39			68,000	72,500	77,500	
40			68,500	73,000	78,000	
41			69,500	73,500	78,500	
42			70,000	74,000	79,000	
43			70,500	75,000	80,000	
44			71,500	75,500		
45			72,000	76,000		
46			72,500	76,500		
47			73,500	77,500		
48			74,000	78,000		
49			74,500	78,500		
50			75,500	79,000		
51			76,000	80,000		

Overweight Penalties – Virginia Code §46.2-1134

The following chart outlines fees charged for overweight vehicles. In addition, the owner, operator, or other person responsible for the overweight violation will be charged a $25 civil penalty, a $20 processing fee, a $2 weighing fee, plus additional liquidated damages of $20.

Violation Type and Overweight Amount (in pounds)	Assessment per Pound
Axle Weight	
2,000 pounds or less	1 cent per pound
2,001 to 4,000 pounds	3 cents per pound
4,001 to 8,000 pounds	12 cents per pound
8,001 to 12,000 pounds	22 cents per pound
12,001 pounds or more	35 cents per pound
Gross Weight*	
2,000 pounds or less	1 cent per pound
2,001 to 4,000 pounds	3 cents per pound
4,001 to 8,000 pounds	7 cents per pound
8,001 to 12,000 pounds	12 cents per pound
12,001 pounds or more	20 cents per pound
Permit Gross Weight**	
All violations	20 cents per pound

*If the vehicle's gross weight exceeds the weight limit by 25% to 50%, the assessment is doubled. If the gross weight is over 50%, the assessment is tripled.

**Fines are assessed based on the weight in excess of the permit.

Forest or farm products hauled from the place where such products are first produced, cut, harvested, or felled to the location where they are first processed are assessed the following overweight fees.

Violation Type and Overweight Amount (in pounds)	Assessment per Pound
Axle Weight	
4,000 pounds or less	1 cent per pound
4,001 to 8,000 pounds	10 cents per pound
8,001 to 12,000 pounds	20 cents per pound
12,001 pounds or more	30 cents per pound
Gross Weight *	
4,000 pounds	1 cent per pound
4,001 to 8,000 pounds	5 cents per pound
8,001 to 12,000 pounds	10 cents per pound
12,001 pounds or more	15 cents per pound

*If the vehicle's gross weight exceeds the weight limit by 25% to 50%, the assessment is doubled. If the gross weight is over 50%, the assessment is tripled.

Within 21 days from the citation date, the owner, operator or person charged with a weight violation must make full payment of the assessed fees and penalties to DMV or inform DMV of intent to contest the charge in court as a civil case.

Send payment and written notifications to DMV,
P. O. Box 27412, Richmond, Virginia 23269.

Payments may also be made at DMV Motor Carrier Service Centers (weigh stations) or any DMV customer service center.

Section 3: Commercial Driver's License

Commercial Driver's License Program

The Virginia Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program promotes highway safety by testing drivers on their skills to operate commercial vehicles in a safe manner. The CDL program also prevents drivers from having more than one operator's license and removes problem drivers from the highway.

Operators of vehicles having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 or more or a combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more if the vehicle(s) being towed has a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds are required to hold a valid CDL permit.

The following situations exempt operators of certain vehicles from the CDL requirements.

1. Operation of a vehicle for personal use only, such as a recreational vehicle or truck to move your personal belongings.
2. Operation of a fire truck or other emergency vehicle.
3. Operation of a farm vehicle that meets all of the following conditions:
   - Controlled and operated by a farmer.
   - Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to and from a farm.
   - Strictly for farm use and not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier.
   - Used within 150 miles of the vehicle owner's farm.
4. Operation of a vehicle for military purposes while the operator is on active duty.

There are three classes of commercial driver's licenses.

Class A — Any combination of vehicles with a GCWR of 26,001 pounds or more, if the vehicle(s) being towed have a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds. Examples: tractor trailer, truck and trailer combinations and tractor-trailer buses.

Class B — A single vehicle with GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any single vehicle with GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more towing another vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less. Examples: dump truck, most buses.

Class C — Any vehicle that is not included in classes A or B that carries hazardous materials requiring placards or is designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver. Examples: passenger vans, pick up trucks and other small vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

If you hold a Class A license, you can also drive Class B and Class C vehicles as long as you have the correct endorsement(s). If you hold a Class B license, you can also drive Class C vehicles as long as you have the correct endorsement(s).

To obtain a commercial driver's license, request a Commercial Driver's Manual from any DMV customer service center or download the manual at www.dmvNOW.com. After a thorough study of the manual, visit your local DMV customer service center to take the vision screening, knowledge exam and skills tests. Skills tests are given at full service customer service centers but are not offered at DMV's mall offices. If applying for a CDL, you must either hold a CDL instruction permit for 30 days or complete a commercial driver training school course before the CDL can be issued.

Disqualification

Disqualification cancels the privilege of an individual to drive a commercial vehicle because of conviction of one or more offenses such as driving under the influence of alcohol or for traffic violations. Disqualification results in suspension of the CDL for a period ranging from 7 days to permanent revocation.

Overload – Virginia Code §46.2-1128

The owner of any motor vehicle may obtain a 5% extension of single axle, tandem axle and gross weight by purchasing an overload permit. The permit extends the single axle weight limit of 20,000 pounds, tandem axle weight limit of 34,000 pounds and gross weight limit based upon axle spacing and the number of axles.

Interstate travel is restricted to 80,000 pounds maximum. However, motor carriers may purchase an appropriate overload permit to extend their maximum weight to 84,000 pounds to travel on non-interstate highways.

Permits are valid for one year and may be purchased annually at the time of registration. The permit fee for the 5% extension is $250.

The Department of Motor Vehicles makes the permit available to vehicles registered outside Virginia under the same conditions that are applicable to vehicles registered in Virginia.

The owner of any vehicle used for hauling Virginia-grown forest or farm products from the place where they are first produced, cut, harvested, or felled to the location where they are first processed may also receive an additional 5% extension of the single axle, tandem axle, and gross weight limits.

Vehicles that are registered as farm use vehicles (as provided in §46.2-698) may operate as authorized under this section without a permit or payment of a fee. However, if a vehicle violates the weight limits permitted by this section and §46.2-1129, the vehicle owner or operator must apply for and receive a permit and pay the permit fee to operate the vehicle as described in this section.

No permit allows the operation of any vehicle on the federal interstate system with a single axle weight in excess of 20,000 pounds, a tandem axle weight in excess of 34,000 pounds or a gross weight greater than that permitted based on axle spacing or a gross weight, regardless of axle spacing, in excess of 80,000 pounds.

Overload permits cannot be used in conjunction with overweight hauling permits. The only exception to this rule applies to concrete haulers. Concrete haulers can purchase an overload permit up to 5% above the authorization allowed by overweight hauling permits.

Forestry permits require an overweight hauling permit.

Overload permits for vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP) are available through DMV's webCAT system. Overload permits for other vehicles may be obtained at https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/dmvnet/overloadPermits/intro.aspx, any DMV customer service center or from:

Department of Motor Vehicles
P. O. Box 27412
Richmond, Virginia 23269
(804) 249-5130

Oversize/Overweight Hauling Permits

Oversize/overweight permits are available to motor vehicle owners and operators through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and at vahps.dmv.virginia.gov.

Oversize/overweight permits are available only when:

- no other form of transportation is available,

  AND
- the load cannot be reduced to meet legal limits.

Empty, oversized and overweight, rubber-tired, self-propelled haulers used in the construction and coal mining industries are eligible to operate under the authority of an oversize/overweight permit. An oversized/overweight permit may be issued only after VDOT has conducted an engineering analysis to ensure that the desired route can support the vehicle's size and weight. The cost of the engineering analysis may also be charged in addition to the permit fee.

Farm machinery, when temporarily propelled, hauled, transported, or moved on the highway by a farm machinery distributor or dealer, fertilizer distributor, or farmer in the ordinary course of business, does not require an oversize or overweight permit. However, commercial carriers must secure appropriate permits prior to traveling on Virginia's highways. Overweight machinery may not be operated on the federal interstate system.

The following examples explain situations that require an oversize/overweight permit:

- Gross weight of the vehicle, including load, exceeds the weight limits as defined in the chart on page 5.
- Vehicle width, including load, exceeds 8 feet and 6 inches
- Vehicle height, including load, exceeds 13 feet and 6 inches
- Length of a single unit vehicle exceeds 40 feet
- Length of manufactured housing unit and tow vehicle exceeds 65 feet
- Length of tractor trailer combination exceeds 65 feet and will travel on non-designated highways
- Hauling tree-length logs and the combination of the vehicle and the tree-length logs exceeds 65 feet
- Hauling or towing a mobile home

You may contact the DMV Hauling Permit Office at (804) 497-7135 for oversize and overweight permit eligibility requirements and additional information concerning your eligibility for Single Trip, Blanket and Superload Permits.

Permit Type	Cost
Single Trip Definition: one move between origin and destination	Cost: $20 **Note:** A mileage fee of 30 cents per mile is added if overweight or if the vehicle configuration cannot be licensed in Virginia. Mobile homes and Manufactured housing will pay a flat fee of $1.00 in lieu of the 30 cents per mile fee.
Blanket Definition: multiple moves over a specified period of time	Cost: $100 for one year; $200 for two years **Note:** A mileage fee of $40 and a damage fee of $360 per year will be added if overweight. If the vehicle configuration cannot be licensed in Virginia (Mobile homes and Manufactured homes included), the $40 mileage fee per year will apply.
Super-load The overall size and/or weight of the vehicle configuration requires research and analysis.	Cost: $30 **Note:** A mileage fee of 30 cents per mile is added if overweight or if the vehicle configuration cannot be licensed in Virginia. A $4.00 per structure/bridge research fee is added. Interstate only moves count as one structure/bridge. An additional damage fee is added based on the gross weight of the vehicle configuration. Please call the Hauling Permits Department at (804) 497-7135 for more information.

Exempt Hauling Permits

The Code of Virginia allows the following oversize/overweight permits to be issued specifically for the vehicles or load listed in this section. Weight restrictions are provided for each vehicle type. Contact DMV at (804) 497-7135 for additional information.

Coal and Liquids Produced from Gas or Oil Wells – Virginia Code §46.2-1143

Coal hauling permits will be issued free of charge for vehicles with three axles that comply with the weight requirements listed in the following chart. The load on any vehicle operating under a permit must not rise above the top of the truck bed or exceed the maximum bed size.

Maximum bed size is computed by a formula using gross weight minus the weight of the truck when empty, divided by the average weight of coal. The average weight of coal is 52 pounds per cubic foot. No such permit shall be valid for the operation of any such vehicle for a distance of more than 85 miles within the Commonwealth of Virginia from the preparation plant, loading dock, or railroad.

Hauling liquids produced from gas or oil well does not require a permit. However, in counties that impose a tax on coal and gases extracted from the earth, the following weight limits are valid for no more than 50 miles from the origin to the destination within counties that impose a tax on coal and gases extracted from the earth. No travel is allowed on the federal interstate system.

Maximum Weights for Vehicles Hauling Coal and Liquids Produced from Gas or Oil Wells

Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	45,000 lbs	N/A
Four	N/A	70,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	N/A	50,000 lbs
Five	35 feet	90,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Six	N/A	110,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	44,000 lbs	54,500 lbs

Maximum travel distance allowed: 85 miles from the preparation plant, loading dock or railroad.
No travel on federal interstate system allowed.

Sand, Gravel and Crushed Stone – Virginia Code §46.2-1143

The permit fee is $70 for one year or $140 for two years.

Permit will be issued for vehicles hauling gravel, sand or crushed stone for a distance of no more than 50 miles from origin to destination. The permit does not authorize travel on the federal interstate system.

Vehicles with three axles may have a maximum gross weight, when loaded, of no more than 60,000 pounds, a single axle weight of not more than 24,000 pounds and a tandem axle weight of no more than 45,000 pounds.

Vehicles with four axles may have a maximum gross weight, when loaded, of no more than 70,000 pounds, a single axle weight of no more than 24,000 pounds, and a tri-axle weight of no more than 50,000 pounds.

Vehicles with five axles having no less than 35 feet of axle space between extreme axles may have a maximum gross weight, when loaded, of no more than 90,000 pounds, a single axle weight of no more than 20,000 pounds, and a tandem axle weight of no more than 40,000 pounds.

Vehicles with six axles may have a maximum gross weight, when loaded, of no more than 110,000 pounds, a single axle weight of no more than 24,000 pounds, a tandem axle weight of no more than 44,000 pounds, and a tri-axle weight of no more than 54,500 pounds.

Maximum Weights for Vehicles Hauling Sand, Gravel and Crushed Stone

Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	45,000 lbs	N/A
Four	N/A	70,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	N/A	50,000 lbs
Five	35 feet	90,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Six	N/A	110,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	44,000 lbs	54,500 lbs

Concrete Haulers – Virginia Code §46.2-1142

The permit fee is $130 for three or four-axle vehicles used exclusively for mixing concrete in transit or at a project site, or for transporting necessary components in a compartmentalized vehicle to produce concrete immediately upon arrival at a project site.

Maximum Weights for Concrete Haulers					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Four	22 feet	70,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	N/A	50,000 lbs No single axle in the tri-axle group can exceed 20,000 lbs

No travel on federal interstate system allowed.

Tank Wagons – Virginia Code §46.2-1144.1

The permit fee is $130. Two axle vehicles shall not exceed a gross weight of 40,000 pounds, or 24,000 on a single axle. This permit does not authorize travel on the federal interstate system.

Underground Pipe Cleaning, Hydroexcavating, and Water Blasting Equipment – Virginia Code §46.2-1149.5

The permit fee is $130 for one year.

Permit will be issued for the operation of underground pipe cleaning, hydroexcavating, and water blasting equipment. Any vehicle operating with this permit shall have a gross weight of no more than 64,000 pounds, a single axle weight of no more than 20,000 pounds, and a tandem axle weight of no more than 44,000 pounds. This permit does not authorize travel on the federal interstate system.

"Underground pipe cleaning equipment" means a self-propelled motor vehicle manufactured for the specific purpose of vacuuming and cleaning underground sanitary and storm pipe. "Hydroexcavating equipment" means a self-propelled motor vehicle manufactured for the specific purpose of digging with water and vacuuming of debris. "Water blasting equipment" means a self-propelled motor vehicle manufactured for the specific purpose of waterblasting flat concrete surfaces and vacuuming spent water for reuse.

Containerized Cargo – Virginia Code §46.2-1141

The permit fee is $130 for cargo transported in a sealed seagoing container bound to or from a seaport. The seagoing container shall be transported via marine transport and the contents of the seagoing container shall not be changed from the time it is loaded to the time it is delivered.

Cotton Module – Virginia Code §46.2-1149.1

The permit fee is $45 for one year or $90 for two years for vehicles used exclusively to transport seed cotton modules between September 1 and December 31. The tandem axle weights shall not exceed 44,000 pounds, the single axle weights shall not exceed 20,000 pounds, and the gross weight shall not exceed 56,000 pounds.

The permit does not authorize travel on the federal interstate system.

Excavated Material – Virginia Code §46.2-1143.1

The permit fee is $130 for three or four-axle vehicles used exclusively for hauling excavated materials from construction-related land-clearing operations.

Excavated material is defined as natural earth materials, includes stumps, brush, leaves, soil, and rocks removed by any mechanized means. This permit does not authorize travel on the federal interstate system.

Maximum Weights for Vehicles Hauling Excavated Materials					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Four	N/A	70,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A

Maximum travel distance allowed: 25 miles from land-clearing operation.
No travel on federal interstate system allowed.

Specialized Equipment – Virginia Code §46.2-1149.4

The permit fee is $130 for self-propelled vehicles manufactured specifically for the purpose of supporting well-drilling machinery on the job site. Movement of these vehicles on the highway must be incidental to the purpose for which the machinery was designed and manufactured. Vehicles operating under this permit shall not exceed a gross weight of 64,000 pounds—20,000 pounds on a single axle or 44,000 pounds on a tandem axle. Travel on the federal interstate system is not allowed.

Solid Waste – Virginia Code §46.2-1144

The permit fee is $130 for two and three-axle vehicles used exclusively for hauling solid waste other than hazardous waste.

Maximum Weights for Vehicles Hauling Solid Waste					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Two	N/A	40,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	N/A	N/A
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A

Maximum travel distance allowed: Within the boundary of the county or city where vehicle is principally garaged or 25 miles from where the vehicle is principally garaged, whichever is greater.

No travel on federal interstate system allowed.

Virginia-Grown Farm Products – Virginia Code §46.2-1148

The permit fee is $45 for any three-axle vehicle, four-axle combination, or five-axle combination used exclusively for the purpose of hauling Virginia-grown farm products in Accomack and Northampton counties.

Maximum Weights for Vehicles Hauling Virginia-grown Farm Products					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Two	N/A	40,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Four	N/A	70,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	50,000 lbs
Five	N/A	90,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	50,000 lbs

No travel on federal interstate system allowed.

Farm Animal Feed – Virginia Code §46.2-1144.2

The permit fee is $130 for one year.

Permits will be issued to vehicles with specially designed five-axle semi-trailer combinations with bulk feed compartments and at least 51 feet of axle spacing between the first and last axle and used exclusively for hauling farm animal feed.

Permits are valid for one year from the date of issuance. Such permits shall not be combined with any other overweight permits or extension of weight limits. The permit does not authorize travel on the Federal Interstate system.

The gross weight cannot exceed 84,000 pounds, and a tandem axle weight cannot exceed 37,400 pounds.

Maximum Weights for Vehicle Hauling Farm Animal Feed					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Five	51 feet	84,000 lbs	20,000 lbs	37,400 lbs	N/A

Forest Products – Virginia Code §46.2-1148.1

The permit fee is $130, as provided in §46.2-1140.1.

A forest product is defined as raw logs to market and wood residuals, including wood chips, sawdust, mulch, and tree bark.

Permits are issued for the operation of vehicles hauling forest products transported from the place where they are first produced, cut, harvested, or felled to the location where they are first processed. Such permits shall allow the vehicles to have a single-axle weight of no more than 24,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight of no more than 40,000 pounds, and a tri-axle grouping weight of no more than 50,000 pounds. Additionally, any five-axle combination having a minimum of 48 feet between the first and last axle may have a gross weight of no more than 90,000 pounds, any four-axle combination may have a gross weight of no more than 70,000 pounds, any three-axle combination may have a gross weight of no more than 60,000 pounds, and any two-axle combination may have a gross weight of no more than 40,000 pounds.

No permit issued under this section shall designate the route to be traversed, or contain restrictions, or conditions not applicable to other vehicles in their general use of the highways. However, no such permit shall authorize violation of the length limitations in §46.2-1149.2, or any weight limitation applicable to bridges or culverts, as promulgated and posted in accordance with §46.2-1130. Nothing contained in this section shall authorize any extension of weight limits provided in §46.2-1127 for operation on interstate highways.

Each vehicle when loaded according to the provisions of a permit issued under this section shall be operated at a reduced speed as provided in § 46.2-872.

Maximum Weights for Vehicles Hauling Forest Products					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Two	N/A	40,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A
Four	N/A	70,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	50,000 lbs
Five	48 feet	90,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	50,000 lbs

No travel on federal interstate system allowed.

Articulated Buses – Virginia Code §46.2-1147

The permit fee is $130 one year and $260 for two years.

Permit will be issued for the operation of passenger buses having three or more axles consisting of two sections joined together by an articulated joint with the trailer being equipped with a mechanically steered rear axle passenger bus, and a width of no more than 102 inches. The permit does not authorize travel on the Federal Interstate system.

The gross weight cannot be more than 60,000 pounds and a single axle weight of no more than 25,000 pounds.

Maximum Weights for Articulated Buses					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Three or more	N/A	60,000 lbs	25,000 lbs	N/A	N/A

Arlington County Trucks – Virginia Code §46.2-1145

The permit fee is $130 for one year and $260 for two years.

Permit is issued for the operation of vehicles hauling household waste and vehicles used for highway or utility construction, operation or maintenance on the highways of Arlington County. The permit does not authorize travel on the Federal Interstate system.

Vehicles with two axles may have a maximum gross weight of no more than 48,000 pounds and a single axle weight of not more than 24,000 pounds.

Vehicles with three axles may have a maximum gross weight of not more than 60,000 pounds and a single axle weight of not more than 24,000 pounds and a tandem axle weight of not more than 40,000 pounds.

Maximum Weights for Arlington County Trucks					
Number of Axles	Minimum Axle Spacing	Maximum Gross Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Single Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tandem Axle Weight Allowed (lbs)	Maximum Tri-axle Weight Allowed (lbs)
Two	N/A	48,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	N/A	N/A
Three	N/A	60,000 lbs	24,000 lbs	40,000 lbs	N/A

Section 5: Safety and Equipment Requirements

In accordance with the United States Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1984, Virginia has adopted the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations pertaining to commercial vehicles. If you are subject to the provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, you must abide by the regulations in addition to the requirements outlined in this booklet. These regulations are enforced by the Virginia State Police. All equipment must be type-approved by the Superintendent of the Virginia State Police. For more information call (804) 674-2000.

Brakes On Trailers

Every semi-trailer, trailer or separate vehicle attached by a draw bar, chain or coupling to a towing vehicle must be equipped with brakes controlled or operated by the driver of the towing vehicle when the gross weight including the load exceeds 3,000 pounds.

All trailers manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1964, registered for an actual gross weight exceeding 3,000 pounds and equipped with air, electric or vacuum actuated brakes must be equipped with an emergency breakaway system designed to apply the breaks automatically if the trailer brakes away from the tow vehicle.

These requirements do not apply to vehicles being towed for repairs, repossession or in an emergency. These requirements do not apply to vehicles being moved by a wrecker when two wheels of the towed vehicle are off the ground.

Brake Performance

Trucks, tractor-trucks, buses and all combinations traveling at 20 mph or more must be capable of stopping within 40 feet or less when traveling on a dry, hard, approximately level highway free from loose material.

Exhaust System

All motor vehicles must be equipped with an exhaust system comparable to a factory-installed system designed for that specific vehicle. The exhaust system must be in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, annoying smoke and escape of excessive gas, steam or oil.

The term "exhaust system" includes all parts of the motor vehicle through which exhaust passes after leaving the engine block. Chambered pipes do not meet the requirements for an effective muffling device to prevent excessive or unusual noise. Exhaust systems must meet the same standards as those set for a factory-installed system designed for the specific vehicle.

Mirror and Horn

Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror and a horn. The mirror must provide the operator with a highway view of at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle. The horn must be capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions over a distance of at least 200 feet.

Windshield

Every motor vehicle or reconstructed motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, registered in Virginia and manufactured, assembled or reconstructed after July 1, 1970, must be equipped with a windshield.

Windshield Wipers

Every permanent windshield on a motor vehicle must be equipped with a device for clearing snow, rain, moisture or other matter from the windshield directly in front of the operator. The device must be constructed so that the vehicle operator controls or operates it. Windshield wiper devices on motor vehicles manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1943 must clean both the right and left sides of the windshield and must be operated mechanically or electrically.

Safety Glass

All for-hire, passenger-carrying motor vehicles registered in Virginia and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1935, such as taxis, buses and school buses, must be equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, windshields and sideshields.

All motor vehicles registered in Virginia and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1936, must be equipped with safety glass wherever glass is used in doors, windows, windshields and sideshields.

Draw-bar

The connection between any two vehicles, one of which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall consist of a fifth wheel, drawbar, trailer hitch or other similar device not to exceed 15 feet in length from one vehicle to the other. Any such two vehicles shall, in addition to such drawbar or other similar device, be equipped at all times when so operated on the highway with an emergency chain or cable that is structurally adequate to securely stop and hold the trailer being towed.

The fifth wheel, drawbar, trailer hitch, or similar device must be structurally adequate for the weight being drawn; be properly and securely mounted; provide for adequate articulation at the connection without excessive slack at that location and be provided with a locking device that prevents accidental separation of the towed and towing vehicles. The mounting of the fifth wheel, drawbar, trailer hitch, or similar device on the towing vehicle must include reinforcement or bracing of the frame sufficient to produce strength and rigidity of the frame to prevent its undue distortion.

A vehicle may be towed by a chain, rope or cable not more than 15 feet long in case of a bona fide emergency resulting from a mechanical break-down or accident as long as the vehicle is being towed to the nearest garage or repair shop.

A licensed driver must be at the controls of the towed vehicle when the connection consists of chain, rope or cable, in order to brake, steer, and control its lights.

Tow Dolly and Converter Gear

A tow dolly is used to support the front or rear wheels of a passenger vehicle or pick-up or panel truck for towing purposes. A converter gear is an axle-like device, with a fifth wheel mount and used to convert a semi-trailer to a full trailer. These devices are not considered vehicles when used on the public highways. Both devices must be equipped with a safety chain or chains with strength to restrain the device and vehicle being towed should the connection fail. Additionally these devices must be equipped with rear marker lamps or reflectors when towed without a load. When used to tow a vehicle, the towed vehicle must comply with all current and future requirements of the Code of Virginia as it relates to towed vehicles.

Although Virginia does not require titling and registration for converter gears and tow dollys, these devices may be titled and registered in Virginia. Converter gears and tow dollys will be registered as trailers and you will receive a license plate to mount on the device. You can also purchase permanent and personalized plates for your converter gear and tow dollys. If you operate in California, you will be required to pay the annual California plate fee.

Splash Guards

Motor vehicles or combinations of vehicles with a licensed gross weight exceeding 40,000 pounds (including the weight of the load) must be equipped with rear fenders, flaps or guards large enough to prevent projection of rocks, dirt, water and other substances from the rear of the vehicle. Tractor trucks and other vehicles used exclusively for hauling logs are exempt from this requirement.

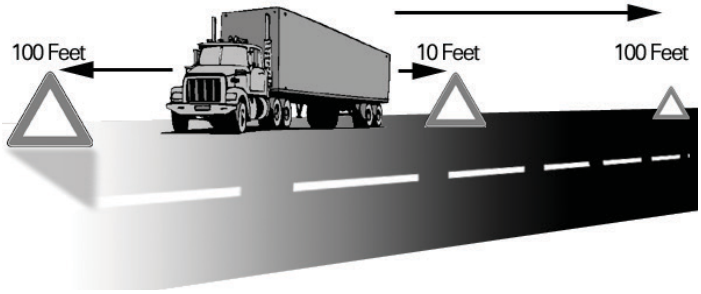
Solid Tires

Vehicles equipped with solid tires must have a permit from the Virginia Department of Transportation to be operated in Virginia.

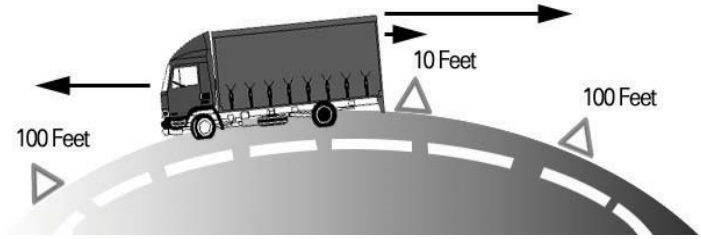
Flares and Disabled Vehicles

When stopped on a road or the shoulder of any road, the driver of a bus, truck, tractor trailer, or mobile home must immediately activate the vehicle's hazard warning signals and must put out three emergency warning devices within 10 minutes. Flares, torches or reflectorized red triangles may be used as warning devices. If the vehicle is used for transporting flammable liquids in bulk, whether loaded or empty, or flammable gases, red reflectorized triangular warning devices or red electric lanterns may be used.

Place the warning devices in the following locations.



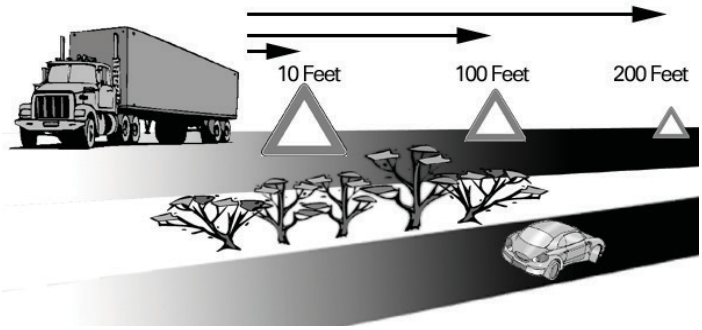
On two-lane roads carrying traffic in both directions or on an undivided highway, place warning devices within ten feet of the front or rear corners of your vehicle. Place a warning device 100 feet behind or ahead of your vehicle. Place it on the shoulder or in the lane where you stopped.



Place a warning device behind or ahead of your vehicle on any hill, curve or anything else that prevents other drivers from seeing your vehicle within 500 feet.

On a one-way or divided highway, place warning device 10 feet, 100 feet and 200 feet behind your vehicle.

When you place the warning devices, hold them between yourself and the oncoming traffic. This helps ensure your safety.



Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem

Farm tractors and all self-propelled farm equipment as well as other vehicles designed for operation at 25 mph or less must display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem on the rear of the vehicle when traveling on a public highway during the day or at night.

A slow moving vehicle towing a unit on a public highway must display a slow moving vehicle emblem on one or both vehicles. If the towed unit obscures the emblem on the towing vehicle, then the emblem must be displayed on the towed unit.

Fire Extinguisher

All trucks, buses and power units of tractor trailer combinations must be equipped with an accessible and properly filled fire extinguisher which is securely mounted, freezeproof and allows visual inspection of charge status. The fire extinguisher may not use a vaporizing liquid that emits vapors more toxic than the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) rating of 5 or 6.

Vehicles constructed before January 1, 1973 must be equipped with a fire extinguisher having a UL rating of 4 BC or higher. Vehicles constructed on or after January 1, 1973 must be equipped with either a fire extinguisher having a UL rating of 5 BC or more or two fire extinguishers having UL ratings of 4 BC or more.

Any power unit constructed before January 1, 1971 used for transporting hazardous materials must be equipped with a fire extinguisher having a UL rating of 4 BC or more.

Power units constructed on or after January 1, 1971 must be equipped with a fire extinguisher having a UL rating of 10 BC or more.

Amber Flashing Lights – Overdimensional Loads

High intensity amber flashing lights, visible for at least 500 feet, must be used on any vehicle operating under the authority of a highway hauling permit when either the vehicle or the load is more than 12 feet wide or more than 75 feet long. Such lights must be mounted on the top of the towing vehicle and on the upper rear end of the overdimensional load or vehicle.

However, an overdimensional vehicle does not need amber lights if it is accompanied by escort vehicles with amber flashing lights mounted on the top of each escort vehicle.

Headlights

All motor vehicles must be equipped with at least two head lamps but not more than four lamps that provide illumination ahead of the vehicle. No more than four lamps providing general illumination may be lit, including at least two head lamps and any combination of fog, passing, driving or other auxiliary lights.

Rear Lamps

Every truck, bus, tractor-truck, trailer, or semi-trailer must be equipped with a rear lamp capable of projecting a red light visible in clear weather from a distance of 500 feet from the vehicle's rear end. This lamp or another lamp must also illuminate the license plate with a white light and make it visible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

Dimension or Marker Lights

Every motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer exceeding 7 feet in width or any part of which extends 4 inches or more beyond the extreme edge of the front fenders must be equipped with lamps mounted at the top front corners. Each lamp must project an amber light visible from the front of the vehicle for at least 500 feet in clear weather. The vehicle must also be equipped with lamps mounted at the top rear corners. Each lamp must project a red light visible from the rear of the vehicle for a distance of 500 feet in clear weather.

Red dimension lights and marker lamps are not necessary on tractor trucks. If the lights and lamps are used, they must be mounted on the highest and widest portions of the permanent body.

Vehicles with three red identification lamps installed on the rear as close as practical to the top and as close as practical to the vehicle's rear vertical centerline and with the lamp centers spaced at least six but not more than 12 inches apart, may mount rear dimension or marker lamps at any height. However, the dimension or marker lights must indicate, as nearly as possible, the full width of the vehicle.

In addition to the dimension and markerlamps, vehicles must be equipped with amber reflectors located on the side and at or near the front. Red reflectors must be used on the rear of the vehicle. Reflectors must be securely fastened to the vehicle at least 24 but not more than 60 inches from the ground. Reflectors must be securely fastened at the highest point possible on vehicles less than 24 inches high.

Auxiliary Lamps

A vehicle must be equipped with two spotlights that, when shining, can be aimed to strike the road to the right of the center, not more than 100 feet ahead. These spotlights may not be used in conjunction with or as a substitute for required headlamps except in the case of an emergency.

Directional Signal

All motor vehicles registered in Virginia and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1955 must be equipped with approved signal lights on both the front and rear.

Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, when temporarily stopped on the traveled or paved portion of the highway so as to create a traffic hazard, must use all four turn signals simultaneously to signal approaching motorists of the existing hazard. All four signals may be flashed simultaneously on a vehicle slowed or stopped at the scene of a traffic hazard or when traveling at a speed of 30 miles per hour or less. However, all four signals may not be flashed simultaneously while the vehicle is in motion for any other reason.

Effective January 1, 1955, all motor vehicles registered in Virginia and manufactured or assembled after this date must be equipped with approved-type signal lights both to the front and the rear.

A tractor-truck equipped with double-faced signal lamps mounted on the front fenders or the sides of the vehicle near the front does not need to be equipped with mechanical or electrical signal devices on the rear.

Stop Signal (Lights)

Every motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer registered in Virginia, except an antique vehicle not originally equipped with a stop lamp, must be equipped with at least one stop lamp. The device must automatically exhibit a red or amber light plainly visible in clear weather from a distance of 500 feet from the rear of the vehicle when the foot brake is applied.

Section 6: Inspection and Traffic Rules

Inspection

All Virginia-registered motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers equipped with brakes must be inspected by a certified mechanic at an official Virginia inspection station. The maximum fee is $51. Trailers or semi-trailers require a separate inspection and the fee is $16.

The following vehicles are deemed to comply with the Virginia Safety Inspection requirements:

- Any commercial motor vehicle that operates in interstate commerce and is subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations which is found to meet the federal requirement for annual inspection through a self-inspection, a third party inspection, a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspection or a periodic inspection performed in any state with a program determined by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to be compared to, or as effective as, the requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 396, provided documentation is available for inspection by law enforcement officials which verifies the inspection is current.
- Trailers and semi-trailers as defined in Section 46.2-100, *Code of Virginia*, having a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, and operated in interstate commerce if documentation is on the vehicle and available for inspection by law enforcement officials which verifies an inspection done pursuant to Title 49, code of Federal Regulations, Part 396, is current and valid.

Securing of Load or Contents

The loads of all trucks, trailers and semi-trailers carrying gravel, coal, sand or other non-agricultural and non-forestry products on any highway must either be secured to the vehicle or covered. Public service company vehicles, pickup trucks, and emergency snow removal equipment engaged in snow removal operations are excluded from this requirement.

Truck covers used to prevent the escape of solid waste transported in commercial vehicles must be designed, installed, and constructed to keep all of the cargo within the vehicle regardless of the vehicle's speed or weather conditions. This provision, however, does not apply to vehicles used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

Vehicles designed or used for hauling logs, poles or lumber, barrels, hogsheads or other materials or containers which may shift or roll may not be operated or moved over any highway unless the load is securely fastened by adequate log chains, metal cables, nylon webbing, steel straps or other restraining devices that prevent shifting or falling of the load. However, in lieu of chains or metal cables, tobacco hogsheads may be secured by manila or hemp rope strong enough and at least five-eights inch in diameter to securely fasten the hogshead against shifting, falling or rolling.

Weight Inspection Requirement – Permanent Weigh Stations 24VAC20-81-250

Operators of trucks having a registered gross weight in excess of 7,500 pounds are required by law to drive their vehicles onto scales for weight inspection as directed by either a law enforcement officer or by a regulatory highway sign. A law enforcement officer may require the operator of a truck to drive a distance of up to 10 road miles to a permanent weighing station for weight inspection. Refusal to drive onto the scales for inspection is a misdemeanor.

Operators of pickup or panel trucks registered for personal use with a gross weight in excess of 7,500 pounds but not in excess of 10,000 pounds are not required by law to drive their vehicles onto scales for weight inspection.

Tow Trucks Not Engaged in Towing Another Vehicle

Trucks designed and equipped for towing inoperative or disabled vehicles do not need to be weighed at motor carrier service centers (weigh stations) if the truck is not engaged in towing another vehicle.

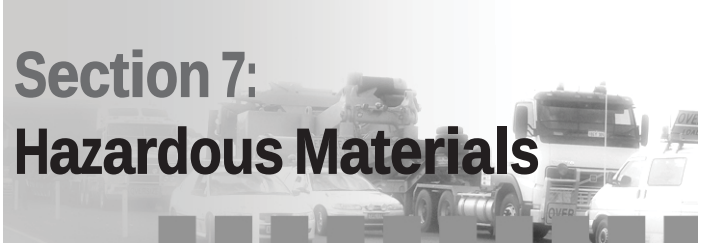
Traffic Rules

Speedlimits

Vehicle Type	Interstate Highways	Limited Access Highways	Non-Limited Access Highways		School Business or Residential Zones	Highways Designated as a Rural Rustic Road
			Four or More Lanes	Less than Four Lanes		
Trucks	65 mph where designated 55 mph on all others	55 mph	55 mph	45 mph (2)	25 mph	35 mph
Passenger Buses	65 mph where designated	55 mph	55 mph	45 mph	25 mph	35 mph
School Buses	Maximum 60 mph where the posted speed limit is more than 55 mph	35 mph (1)	35 mph (1)	35 mph (1)	25 mph	35 mph

(1) A School bus may travel 45 mph when not loading or unloading passengers between its starting point and its destination. However, during the loading and unloading of students—from the first pick-up/drop-off to the last pick-up/drop-off—the maximum speed is 35 mph. A school bus, with or without passengers, may travel up to 60 mph on an interstate where the posted speed limit is more than 55 mph.

(2) Unless otherwise posted and driving conditions permit, the maximum speed limit is 45 mph on all public roads except primary highways (Routes 1-599) and the Interstate.



Section 7: Hazardous Materials

Hauling Certain Cargoes in Violation of Posted Signs

Hauling any explosive, flammable or other hazardous cargo as prohibited by the Virginia Department of Transportation through any tunnel on Virginia's highways in violation of any lawfully posted sign constitutes a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Hazardous Materials Contact Information

The transportation of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) within or through Virginia must comply with Federal regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Transportation and set forth in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Specific HAZMAT related questions must be addressed to the following agencies.

Transport of HAZMAT and transport and permitting of hazardous waste.

Department of Environmental Quality
Waste Division
629 East Main Street
P. O. Box 10009
Richmond, Virginia 23240
HAZMAT (804) 698-4237
Haz. Waste (804) 698-4189

Transport of HAZMAT through tunnels/bridges only.

Department of Transportation
1221 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
1-800-367-7623

HAZMAT spills/incidents (24-hours a day)

CHEMTREC
1-800-424-9300

Transportation of Hazardous Materials through Bridge-Tunnel Facilities — Rules and Regulations

The Department of Transportation operates Virginia's six bridge-tunnel facilities listed below.

Facility Name	Telephone Number
*Big Walker Mountain I-77	276-228-5571
*East River Mountain I-77	276-928-1994
*Elizabeth River-Downtown I-264	757-494-2424
*Elizabeth River-Midtown I-58	757-683-8123
*Hampton Roads I-64	757-727-4832
*Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge I-664	757-247-2123

*For information about the operation of these facilities, call The Emergency Operations Center, Virginia Department of Transportation, (804) 796-4603.

Transport of hazardous materials through the Big Walker Mountain and East River Mountain facilities requires compliance with parts 100 through 180 of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49. No other restrictions apply.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel is not operated by VDOT. Contact the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Authority at (757) 331-2960 directly to obtain information regarding their rules and regulations.

Transport of hazardous materials through the Elizabeth River-Downtown, Elizabeth River-Midtown, Hampton Roads and Monitor-Merrimac facilities requires compliance with parts 100 through 180 of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 plus compliance with the restrictions listed in the following three tables. These tunnels are classified as urban/water proximate facilities. The following tables list categories of materials grouped under the designations "Prohibited", "No Restrictions" or "Restricted."

Prohibited

Materials defined in the following classes are not allowed passage through the four urban, water-proximate tunnels.

Category	Placard Name	Reference
1.1	Explosives 1.1	49 CFR § 172.522
1.2	Explosives 1.2	49 CFR § 172.522
1.3	Explosives 1.3	49 CFR § 172.522
2.3	Poison Gas	49 CFR § 172.540
4.3	Dangerous When Wet	49 CFR § 172.548
6.1 (PG1, inhalation hazard only)	Poison	49 CFR § 172.554

Restricted

Materials in the following hazard classes are allowed access to the four urban, water-proximate tunnels if transported in a container allowing a maximum capacity of 119 gallons/450 liters or less as a receptacle for liquids, a water capacity of 1000 pounds/454 kilograms or less as a receptacle for gases, and a maximum net mass of 882 pounds/400 kilograms or less and a maximum capacity of 119 gallons/450 liters or less as a receptacle for solids.

Category	Placard Name	Placard Reference
2.1	Flammable Gas	49 CFR § 172.532
3	Flammable Gas	49 CFR § 172.542
5.1	Oxidizer	49 CFR § 172.550
5.2	Organic Peroxide	49 CFR § 172.552
8	Corrosive	49 CFR § 172.558

No Restrictions

Materials in the following hazard classes are not restricted in the four urban, water-proximate tunnels.

Category	Placard Name	Placard Reference
1.4	Explosives 1.4	49 CFR § 172.523
1.5	Explosives 1.5	49 CFR § 172.524
1.6	Explosives 1.6	49 CFR § 172.525
2.2	Non-Flammable Gas	49 CFR § 172.528
Combustible liquid	Combustible	49 CFR § 172.544
4.1	Flammable Solid	49 CFR § 172.546
4.2	Spontaneously Combustible	49 CFR § 172.547
6.1 (PGI or II, other than PG 1 inhalation hazard)	Poison	49 CFR § 172.554
6.1 (PG III)	Keep Away From Food	49 CFR § 172.553
6.2	(None)	
7 Radioactive	Radioactive	49 CFR § 172.556
9	Class 9	49 CFR § 172.560
ORM-D	(None)	

Section 8: Travel Restrictions for Trucks

Tractor truck/semi-trailer combinations (i.e., tractor trailers) are prohibited from operating on U.S. Route 17 in Fauquier County, Virginia between U.S. Route 50 and Interstate 66. The only exceptions are trucks making local deliveries, pickups or transactions within 25 miles of the restricted area.

DMV 109 (07/01/2016)
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