



Public Works Permitting

210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: (360) 778-8329 - Email: pwpermits@cob.org
Web: www.cob.org/permits

Oversize / Overweight Vehicle Permit Regulations & Conditions

General Requirements

Over-legal vehicles and loads: Vehicles or loads exceeding the maximum height, width, and/or length as specified by State and City laws.

Authorized over-legal vehicle traveling on city streets

All over-legal loads traveling within the City are required to obtain a special permit that allows operation or movement of a vehicle, a combination of vehicles, or special mobile equipment of a size or weight (fixed loads) that exceeds maximums specified by State law.

Obtaining a permit for over-legal vehicles and loads

The City issues permits for over-legal vehicles through the Permit Center located at City Hall, 210 Lottie St., Bellingham, WA 98225. Call 360-778-8329 to request an application form or go to the City website, www.cob.org/services/permits to print out a form. You may complete and return by mail or email (pwpermits@cob.org). Permit fees must be paid prior to permit issuance. Permits may be used only on the vehicles to which they have been issued. The City accepts cash, check, or credit card, and fees may be paid online at www.cob.org/epermits.

Please be advised that the City may, on rare occasions, deny a permit because of higher priority concerns for the time and date requested. These may include major road or utility work, community events or holidays. Alternate dates or routes may be considered to accommodate the load. Please plan ahead, as overweight vehicle applications may take up to one week to process.

Possession of permit

- Permits for over-legal vehicles moving within the City must be in the vehicle at all times.
- The permit must be available for inspection by any police officer or any other employee charged with the care or protection of city streets.
- Permits may be used only on the vehicle for which they are valid.
- Permits are valid only on the specific streets that are identified on the permit.
- Permits are not granted for over-legal vehicle movement during peak traffic periods (7:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday, except holidays.
- Over-legal load movement is not permitted during peak traffic periods.

Pilot/Escort Vehicle Requirements

- **Over-width**
 - One rear pilot car is required when the vehicle and/or load is 12 feet to 13 feet 11 inches.
 - Both a front and rear pilot car are required when the vehicle and/or load is 14 feet to 15 feet, 5 inches.
- **Over-weight** - Issuing permits for overweight vehicles and/or loads beyond the licensed gross weight enables the City to restrict vehicle travel in areas where there is a possibility of damage to streets or their underground structure.
 - Single-axle weight shall not exceed 20,000 pounds.
 - Dual-axle weight shall not exceed 34,000 pounds.

- **Over-height** - When load height exceeds the legal limit, it becomes the responsibility of the permit holder to check all underpasses, bridges, overhead wires or any other structures for impaired vertical clearance, and to bypass or arrange clearance at such locations. If you have any questions, call City of Bellingham Permit Center at 360-778-8329.
 - 15 feet to 15 feet, 5 inches—one front pilot car required.
- **Over-length**
 - One rear pilot car is required if the vehicle is 81 to 89 feet long.
 - Both front and rear pilot cars are required if the vehicle is 90 to 99 feet long.
 - A vehicle greater than 100 feet in length requires a City of Bellingham Police Department escort and a piloted steering trailer equipped with a communication device between the driver of the vehicle and rear of the load.
- **Overhang**
 - The overhang may not exceed one-third of the overall length of the vehicle.
 - One rear pilot car is required if the overhang is 15 feet from the rear axle.

Advance notice of move

- Where clearing parked vehicles from streets is required, the street shall be properly posted 24 hours in advance of the parking removal (additional permitting required).
- In all movements involving heights that require the adjustment of any overhead utilities, it is the responsibility of the Permittee to notify the utility.

Repair of damage and liability during movement of over-legal vehicle loads

By accepting a permit, the permit holder agrees to repair, at his or her expense, any damage to highway appurtenance or structures. If it is necessary that City crews repair damage, the permit holder will pay any costs incurred. The permit holder is responsible for all liability for injury or death of any person, or damage to property that may occur through any act or omission of either the Permittee or the City arising from the issuance of a permit. In the event that any claim, suit or action is brought against the City, its officers, employees or agents, permit holders shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, employees, or agents from such claim, suit or action.

For more information, call 360-778-8329.