REGIONAL AGRICULTURE TRANSPORTATION HANDBOOK

North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota

State and Federal Statutes, Rules and Exemptions for the Agricultural Industry

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DISCLAIMER

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Federal Resources

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov
Phone: (800) 832-5660 Fax: (800) 877-8339

Minnesota Division: (651) 291-6150
Montana Division: (406) 449-5304
North Dakota Division: (701) 250-4346
South Dakota Division: (605) 224-8202

State Transportation Resources

Minnesota:
Department of Transportation (800) 657-3774
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/
Minnesota State Patrol
Commercial Vehicles (651)405-6196
https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/msp/commercial-vehicles/Pages/default.aspx
Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation (651)768-2100
http://www.fbmn.org/

Montana:
Department of Transportation (406) 444-6201
https://www.mdt.mt.gov/
MDT Motor Carrier Division (406) 444-6130
Permits (406) 444-7262

North Dakota:
Department of Transportation (701) 328-2500
https://www.dot.nd.gov/
North Dakota Highway Patrol
Motor Carrier Division (701) 328-5128
Permits (701) 328-2621
http://www.nd.gov/ndhp/motor-carrier
North Dakota Truck Weight Calculator
http://dotsc.ugpti.ndsu.nodak.edu/TWC/
South Dakota:
Department of Transportation  (605) 773-3265
http://www.sddot.com/

SD DPS Motor Carrier Services  (605) 773-4578

South Dakota Truckers’ Information Website
http://www.sdtruckinfo.com/
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NORTH DAKOTA
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Anhydrous Ammonia Transportation with Nurse Tanks

- A resident farmer, rancher, dealer, or commercial fertilizer company may tow one or two portable tanks behind a farm tractor, pickup, or truck.
- Speed may not exceed 25 mph.
- Overall length may not exceed 75 feet.
- Slow moving vehicle emblem must be on the rear of the trailer.
- Tanks must be identified front, rear, and both sides with the words: "ANHYDROUS AMMONIA" and on both sides with the words: "INHALATION HAZARD." Lettering shall be at least two inches high and ¼ inch wide.
- Tanks must be placarded front and rear and on both sides with approved DOT "Non-Flammable Gas" placards and marked with the identification number "1005" for Anhydrous Ammonia.
- Travel between sunrise and sunset only except that one anhydrous ammonia tank may be towed between sunset and sunrise if it is equipped with taillights, turn signals, and brake lights.

Should a mishap occur while transporting anhydrous ammonia, the spill or leak should be approached from upwind and water should be sprayed on the point of discharge and not on the tank.

A farmer is exempt from training and emergency response information when transporting agricultural class 2 hazardous materials within 150 miles of the farm as long as the quantity is less than 16,094 pounds for ammonium nitrate fertilizer, 502 gallons for liquids, or 5,070 pounds for all other hazardous materials.

FARM TRANSFER FACILITIES

Agricultural producers can transfer anhydrous ammonia only from cargo tanks to nurse tanks when the following safety requirements are met:

- The transport tank must have complete, up-to-date certification and labeling.
- Wheel chocks of adequate size must be used on the transport tank and the nurse tank before the transfer processes begin.
- The following articles must be on the transport tank: 1) a 5-gallon reservoir of clean water, 2) ammonia-impervious gloves,
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA (cont’d)

3) two full-face piece respirators with ammonia canisters and non-vented goggles.

- The following articles must be on nurse tanks: 1) a 5-gallon reservoir of clean water, 2) a legal decal illustrating the step-by-step ammonia transfer process and 3) a legal decal explaining first aid procedures to follow when exposed to anhydrous ammonia.

- The transfer process must be done on a firm, well-prepared, level surface during daylight hours on the owner's or consignee's property;

The following minimum setback distances apply to transfer facilities:

- 50 feet from any adjoining property or any highway or railroad mainline
- 450 feet from any residence or public assembly
- 750 feet from any institutional residence
- 1 mile from any city limits

INSTRUCTION

The insurance commissioner may inspect any farm transportation wagon or vehicle designed to apply anhydrous ammonia which is in the vicinity of an anhydrous ammonia storage facility. The commissioner may order the discontinuance of use of any farm transportation wagon or implement of husbandry which is found unsafe or hazardous.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL PERMIT

North Dakota does not require a state permit for intrastate hazardous material transportation. Interstate movement of the agricultural product must conform to the requirements of the state in which it is transported. Transporters of hazardous waste must have a permit from the Health Department.

Additional information regarding the transportation of hazardous materials in agricultural operations can be found in the North Dakota Administrative Code, Chapter 38-03-02 and the Code of Federal Regulations: 49CFR 173.5.

HEALTH CARD/AGE/DRUG & ALCOHOL

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING
Federal Law exempts operators of a farm vehicle from alcohol and controlled substance testing if the farm vehicle is:

- Controlled and operated by a farmer;
- Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, or both to or from a farm;
- Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and
- Used within 150 miles of the farmer’s farm.

MEDICAL CARDS
A person meeting the definition of farm vehicle driver who operates a straight truck does not require a medical card. A farm vehicle driver operating an articulated farm vehicle in interstate commerce requires a medical card at all times. A farm vehicle driver operating a farm vehicle (straight or articulated) in intrastate operations within 150 air miles of the farm does not need a medical card.

Medical cards are not required for a driver involved in intrastate or interstate commerce who drives a CMV controlled and operated by a person engaged in custom-harvesting operations under the following conditions. The CMV is:

- Used to transport farm machinery, supplies, or both, to or from a farm for custom-harvesting operations on a farm
- Used to transport custom-harvested crops to storage or market
- Operated by a beekeeper engaged in the seasonal transportation of bees
- A non-articulated farm vehicle (Articulated farm vehicles are not exempt from this requirement.)
- Operated within 150 miles of farm

Note: Custom harvest operations do not meet the farm vehicle driver definitions, but custom harvest vehicle drivers are exempt from the medical card requirements when transporting machinery, supplies, crops, etc. Further info on medical cards can be found in CFR Part 391.
HEALTH CARD/AGE/DRUG & ALCOHOL (cont’d)

AGE
Class A, B, or C license may be issued to a person at least 16 years of age for custom harvesting purposes only for intrastate transport. You must be at least 21 years of age to drive a commercial vehicle across state lines (interstate).

HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS

WIDTH, HEIGHT, AND LENGTH LIMITATIONS ON VEHICLES

HEIGHT
Vehicles operated on a highway in this state may not exceed a height of 14 feet, whether loaded or unloaded. This limitation does not apply to vehicles that are at most 15 feet 6 inches high when all of the following apply:

- The vehicle is an implement of husbandry and is being moved by a resident farmer, rancher, dealer, or manufacturer.
- The trip is at most 60 miles.
- The trip is between sunrise and sunset.
- None of the trip is on an interstate highway.

WIDTH
Vehicles operated on a highway in this state may not exceed a total outside width, including load thereon, of 8 feet 6 inches. This limitation does not apply to:

- Implements of husbandry being moved by resident farmers, ranchers, governmental entities, dealers, or manufacturers between sunrise and sunset on public state, county, or township highway systems other than interstate highway systems.
- Hay in the stack or bale being moved along the extreme right edge of a roadway between sunrise and sunset by someone other than a commercial mover.
- Commercial movement of hay bales or hay bales with vehicles designed specifically for hauling hay, commercial movement of self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators, whether operating under their own power or being transported by another vehicle, commercial movement of portable grain cleaners, commercial movement of forage harvesters, and the commercial movement of hay grinders, which may be moved on the highway after obtaining a seasonal permit issued by the highway patrol. The highway patrol shall issue seasonal permits that are valid during daylight hours on any day of the week, or that are valid at all times for the movement of self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators, to any commercial entity otherwise qualified under this subdivision.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS (cont’d)

LENGTH
A single unit vehicle with two or more axles including the load shall not exceed a length of 50 feet. The length of a trailer or semitrailer including the load may not exceed 53 feet and towed vehicles may not exceed 60 feet. A combination of two, three, and four units including the load shall not exceed an overall length of 75 feet on non-designated highways. For additional restrictions and exceptions to legal length for various tractor-semi trailer combinations refer to NORTH DAKOTA VEHICLE LEGAL SIZE AND WEIGHT GUIDE, NDHP Motor Carrier Operations.

Length limitations do not apply to truck-mounted hay stack moving equipment, provided such equipment does not exceed a length of 56 feet.

WEIGHT
A person may not operate on a highway which is part of the interstate system or intrastate highways any vehicle with a single axle that carries a gross weight in excess of 20,000 pounds or a wheel load over 10,000 pounds. A wheel may not carry a gross weight over 550 pounds for each inch of tire width.

The axle weight limitations do not apply to movements of implements of husbandry or equipment with pneumatic tires used for construction which is used by an agricultural producer while using the equipment for the producer’s agricultural, horticultural, or livestock operations if the maximum wheel load does not exceed 550 pounds [249.48 kilograms] for each inch [2.54 centimeters] of tire width and if the gross weight limitation is not exceeded.

PILOT CAR(S)
Pilot Cars are required for all movements exceeding 14 feet 6 inches in width, 18 feet in height, and 120 feet in overall length. In lieu of the pilot car, over-width movements exceeding 14 feet 6 inches but not 16 feet may be equipped with lighted rotating or flashing amber light(s) that are visible from the front and rear at 500 feet. Load movements exceeding 18 feet in overall width are subject to an NDHP escort. Excessive overweight load movements are also subject to pilot cars and an official escort.

[Source: NDHP Trucker’s Handbook; ND Century Code 39-12.04, 39-12.05]
HOURS OF SERVICE

Covered farm vehicles, not transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding, are exempt from hours of service regulations when operating intrastate or within 150 air miles of the farm in interstate commerce. Drivers of commercial motor vehicles not farm-plated but used for agricultural transport must follow federal and state regulations governing maximum driving and on-duty time.

INTRASTATE TRAVEL
Drivers of vehicles with a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less are exempt from hours of service limitations when operating wholly within the state of North Dakota. Drivers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies, including farm equipment and machinery, for agricultural purposes in North Dakota during planting and harvesting seasons from January 1 through December 31, are limited to an area within a 150 air-mile radius from the source of the commodities or the distribution point for the supplies. Hours of service regulations apply to drivers exceeding the 150 air-mile radius, except for drivers of farm plated vehicles used in their own farm operations and not carrying placarded hazardous materials.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE requires all drivers to stay within the hours of service limits if:
- Vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 10,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater.
- Is used in transporting hazardous material in a quantity requiring placarding. [Source: CFR 390.5]
- Ag exemption – operators transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies with a 150 air-mile radius.

For specific information on your operation, refer to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR).

IN CANADA, driving time is limited by Canadian regulations. Drivers must always be in compliance with the rules in the country they are driving.
HOURS OF SERVICE (cont’d)

LOG BOOKS are required, if the exemptions are not met for interstate or intrastate travel, or covered farm vehicle exemptions.

A) INTERSTATE
• Cannot drive more than 11 hours following 10 hours of rest; or
• For any period after the end of the 14th hour after coming on duty following 10 hours of rest.
• Having been on duty 70 hours in any period of 8 consecutive days if the employing motor carrier operates commercial motor vehicle every day of the week.
• Any period of 7 consecutive days may end with the beginning of any off duty period of 34 or more consecutive hours.

B) INTRASTATE
• Cannot drive more than 12 hours following 10 consecutive hours off duty.
• For any period after having been on duty more than 16 hours.
• After having been on duty for 70 hours in any period of 7 consecutive days.

[Source: NDHP Trucker’s Handbook; ND Century Code 39-06.2-17 and 32; 49 CFR 390.5 and 390.39]
Every farm tractor, self-propelled unit of farm equipment, or towed implement of husbandry must be equipped as follows:

- **Tractors and self-propelled units of farm equipment** must be equipped with **two single-beam or multiple-beam headlamps**. If said unit is not equipped with an electrical system, it must be equipped with at least **one lamp displaying a white light** visible when lighted from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle and at least **one lamp displaying a red light** visible when lighted from a distance of 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle. In addition, it must be equipped with **two red reflectors** visible from all distances from 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps.

- Lights must be illuminated one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.

- **Every towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry** must be equipped with at least **one lamp displaying a red light** visible when lighted from a distance of 1,000 feet to the rear or **two red reflectors** visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps. In addition, if the extreme left projection of a towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry extends beyond the extreme left projection of the towing tractor or vehicle, the unit or implement must be equipped with at least **one amber lamp or reflector** mounted to indicate as nearly as practicable the extreme left projection and visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet to the front when illuminated by the lower beams of headlamps and at least **one red lamp reflector** mounted and visible from the same distances to the rear.
IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY (cont’d)

Height and Weight Limits on Implements of Husbandry – For information on height/weight limits refer to Height/Weight Limits section

SPEED
A person may not operate a low-speed vehicle on a highway on which the speed limit exceeds 35 mph. The operator of a low-speed vehicle may make a direct crossing of a highway on which the speed limit exceeds 35 mph if the crossing is made so the operator can continue on a highway on which the speed limit does not exceed 35 mph.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLE (SMV) SIGN
All implements of husbandry designed for operation at a speed of twenty-five miles an hour or less must display either a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem or a rotating or flashing amber light whenever traveling along the roadway on any county, state, federal highway, or city street. The emblem or light must be mounted so as to be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear.

TRUCK INSPECTIONS

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
Intrastate commercial motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 lbs. or less are exempt from all federal motor carrier safety regulations. Annual vehicle inspections are required on all interstate vehicles with a GVWR or GCWR exceeding 10,000 lbs., and all intrastate vehicles with a GVWR over 26,000 lbs., including for-hire farm vehicles. However, farm plated vehicles exceeding 26,000 lbs., controlled and operated by the farmer, and not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding, are exempt from annual inspections when operating intrastate, or within 150 air miles of the operator’s farm in interstate travel.

A copy of the periodic annual vehicle inspection must be kept in the vehicle to be produced at roadside inspections. This can either be a sticker on the vehicle or a copy of the actual inspection form. A copy of the annual vehicle inspection report must also be kept at the farm/residence or place of business in the maintenance file for a period of 14 months from the date of inspection.

Additional information regarding inspections and inspector qualifications can be found online at FMCSA, Vehicle Related Regulations in Parts 393, 396, and Appendix G.

ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS
- All vehicles over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating are subject to safety inspection at fixed or roadside locations.
- All vehicles within the state are subject to having their weight verified on portable or fixed scales.
- During safety or weight inspections, random vehicle and log book checks are conducted. Vehicles and/or operators found with an out-of-service violation will be placed out of service.

Farm plated vehicles not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding, are exempt from further inspection. Annual and roadside inspections are not required on implements of husbandry.

[Source: 49 CFR 390.5, 390.39]
LICENSING & REGISTRATION

DRIVER'S LICENSING
North Dakota Law states a CDL requirement is waived for farm-to-market operations. Exemptions must meet the following criteria:

- Drivers age 14 or 15 may drive a farm motor vehicle within 150 miles of driver's farm, having a gross weight of not more than 50,000 lbs., when transporting agricultural products or farm supplies.
- Any two-axle, tandem axle, or truck-tractor farm vehicle controlled and operated by a farmer transporting agricultural products, farm machines, or farm supplies to or from a farm within 150 miles of the person's farm. Farm vehicle may tow a trailer, semi-trailer, or farm trailer except double, triple trailers or if under 18 years of age, a truck-tractor.
- Any farm vehicle operated by a farmer may transport hazardous material within 150 miles of the farm without a hazardous material endorsement on the operator's license.

If the vehicle is a North Dakota Covered Farm Vehicle, it may be operated anywhere in North Dakota without a mileage limitation.

RESTRICTED CDL
The required knowledge and skills tests may be waived and a restricted commercial driver's license issued to employees of agrichemical businesses, custom harvesters, farm retail outlets and suppliers, including retailers and suppliers of trees, and livestock feeders. The restricted CDL is valid for a seasonal period or periods defined by the State but not exceeding 180 days in any 12-month period. If a State elects to provide for more than one seasonal period, the restricted CDL is valid for CMV operation only during the currently approved season, and must be revalidated for each successive season. Only one seasonal period of validity may appear on the license document at a time.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION
Farm vehicles are required to register with the state and be furnished with registration plates. Farm vehicles not required to register must be furnished with an identification plate. Farm vehicles are considered to be trucks or combinations of trucks and...
LICENSING & REGISTRATION (cont’d)

trailers weighing more than 20,000 lbs but not more than 105,500 lbs. owned, or leased for at least one year by a bona fide resident farmer who uses the vehicles exclusively for transporting the farmer's own property or other property on a farm work exchange basis with other farmers between farms and the usual local trading places but not in connection with any commercial retail or wholesale business being conducted from those farms, nor otherwise for hire.

Farm tractors may be operated upon the highways, roads, and streets of this state without being registered. Lamps, reflectors and other reflective equipment compliance is required. (For more information re: lamps/reflective equipment refer to Implements of Husbandry.)

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE REQUIREMENT
No certificate of title is needed for implements of husbandry.

FARM VEHICLE REGISTRATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS
For North Dakota farm plated vehicles hauling their own product, supplies, or equipment for interstate commerce:
- **Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Montana** – no mileage restriction provided movement is interstate operation only.
- **Minnesota** – expanded free zone for farmers – approximate north-south line from Cass Lake, MN to Fairmont, MN.
- **South Dakota** – 20 mile free zone from ND/SD border traveling most reasonably direct route.

U.S. DOT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS
Anyone who is participating in a business venture and has a vehicle(s) which meets the definition of a CMV must have a USDOT number prior to operating in interstate commerce. Example: A farmer with a 1/2 ton pickup that has a GVWR of 6000 lbs, and a bumper hitch stock trailer that has a GVWR of 4,500 lbs who hauls a load of cows to South Dakota to an auction barn will need to have a USDOT number. (The pickup GVWR added to the trailer GVWR is 10,500 lbs.) A U.S. DOT number is not required for intrastate travel.

IMPORTANT PARTS & ACCESSORIES

All vehicles on roadways must meet state operating conditions. There are no farm exemptions for parts and accessories necessary for safe operation. Parts & accessories shall be in safe and proper operating condition at all times.

LIGHTED LAMPS
Every farm vehicle upon a highway within this state must have working lamps and proper illuminating devices if traveling within a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise.

BRAKES
Motor vehicles when operated upon a highway must be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such vehicle. Every farm tractor when operated upon a highway must be equipped with at least one brake, which may be operated by hand or foot.

MIRRORS
Every motor vehicle operated singly or when towing any other vehicle, must be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of such motor vehicle.

SEAT BELTS
A commercial motor vehicle which has a seat belt assembly installed at the driver’s seat shall not be driven unless the driver has properly restrained himself/herself with the seat belt assembly. Seat belts are not required in implements of husbandry.


Parts and accessories are not limited to those listed above.
SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL PERMITS & PROVISIONS

SEASONAL PERMITS
Seasonal permits will be issued in lieu of single trip permits for commercial movement of over-width haystacks, hay bales, forage harvesters, grain cleaners, hay grinders, fertilizer spreaders and chemical applicators transported by another vehicle, and for commercial movement of over-width and over-weight self-propelled fertilizer spreaders and self-propelled agricultural chemical applicators.

Seasonal permits do not authorize movement of hay stacks and hay bales on I-29 and I-94 when using haystack moving equipment. If no alternate routes are available, a single trip permit may be issued provided a pilot car follows the movement. (For more information re: pilot cars refer to Height/Weight Limits)

A North Dakota farmer or rancher moving his/her 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. A farm truck with mounted haystack moving equipment is considered an implement of husbandry and is exempt from registration.

The seasonal permits issued for stack movers 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).

Seasonal permits can be purchased online at www.nd.gov/ndhp/motor-carrier/e-permits.

Every permit must be carried in the vehicle to which it refers in printed or electronic format and must be opened to inspection by any peace officer or agent of the superintendent of the highway patrol unless prior approval is obtained from the highway patrol.

[Source: NDHP Trucker’s Handbook; ND Century Code 39-12-02]
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

The following regulations apply to containers of 3,000 gallons capacity or less and systems mounted on farm wagons, implements of husbandry, and equipment which are used for transportation and applying anhydrous ammonia exclusively for agricultural purposes.

MOUNTING OF CONTAINERS

- **Secure Mounting** - All containers must be securely mounted. A "stop" or "stops" must be mounted on the farm wagon or on the container so that the container cannot be dislodged from its mounting due to a sudden stop. Back slippage must also be prevented.

- **Hold-down Device** - A hold-down device must be provided to anchor the container to the farm wagon at one or more places on each side of the container.

- **Weight Distribution** - If containers are mounted on four-wheel farm wagons, the weight must be distributed evenly over both axles.

- **Friction** - If the cradle and the container are not welded together, suitable material must be used between them to eliminate metal-to-metal friction.

PLACARDING AND MARKING OF CONTAINERS.

There must appear on each side and on each end of the container in letters at least two inches high, the words, “ANHYDROUS AMMONIA” and the words "INHALATION HAZARD" on two sides. Each container must also be marked with the UN identification number, 1005, on each side and each end according to DOT requirements. Containers must be marked in compliance with DOT requirements.

Slow-moving (30 mph or less) farm wagons and equipment operating on public roads must display a slow moving vehicle emblem.

FARM WAGONS AND EQUIPMENT

- A towed implement, including a farm wagon, must be equipped with safety chains, a regulation kingpin and fifth wheel, or a hitch pin with a retainer that prevents accidental unhitching.
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA (cont’d)

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- An ammonia tank must be equipped with at least five gallons of clean water for flushing any area of the body contacted by ammonia.
- Applicators must have a legible decal depicting the instructions for step-by-step ammonia transfer.
- Toolbars must have information for connecting and disconnecting the coupling device.

[Source: MN Legislature Office of the Revisor of Statutes, Chapter 1513, Anhydrous Ammonia]
HEALTH CARD/AGE/DRUG & ALCOHOL

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING
Federal Law states that operators of farm vehicles are exempt from controlled substance and alcohol use testing if the truck is:
- Controlled and operated by a farmer;
- Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, or both to or from a farm;
- Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and
- Used within 150 miles of the farmer’s farm.
Drivers of covered farm vehicles are also exempt from drug and alcohol testing.

MEDICAL/HEALTH CARDS
Farmers and their drivers generally do not need to carry medical or health cards. However, truck and trailer drivers involved in interstate commerce who are not operating a covered farm vehicle do need to self-certify their medical qualification with the Driver and Vehicle Services section of the Department of Public Safety.

AGE
Interstate: All farm truck drivers involved in interstate commerce using a combination truck and trailer must be 18 years of age. For straight farm trucks used in interstate commerce, the driver must possess a valid driver's license. Intrastate: All farm truck drivers operating in intrastate commerce have a valid class D license.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook 2014]
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS

HEIGHT AND WIDTH
An operator must ensure an implement of husbandry that is higher than 13 feet 6 inches or wider than 8 feet 6 inches must not damage a highway structure, utility line or structure, or other fixture adjacent to or over a public highway.

LENGTH
No single vehicle may exceed 45 feet in overall length, including load and front and rear bumpers. No semitrailer may exceed 48 feet in overall length. Statewide, except on identified highways, no combination of vehicles may exceed a total length of 75 feet. Additional information on restrictions and exceptions to legal length can be found at Office of the Revisor of Statutes, section 169.81.

WEIGHT
The gross vehicle weight shall not exceed:
- 80,000 lbs. for any vehicle or combination of vehicles on all roads, unless posted to a lower limit.
- All vehicles must be operated in compliance with the gross weight table or Federal Bridge Formula.
- Subject to the limitations upon wheel and axle loads, the gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles driven onto or over a bridge on any highway shall not exceed the safe capacity of the bridge.

WEIGHT LIMITS FOR HAULING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
With permits, gross weight limits for trucks hauling agricultural products is 90,000 lbs. on six axles and 97,000 lbs. on seven axles, and apply to the transportation of "raw or unprocessed agricultural products" only. In addition, both trucks are subject to the following restrictions:
- posted bridge limits must be followed
- per-axle weight limitations must still be followed
- all wheels must have brakes
- spring road restrictions must still be followed
- the manufacturer's gross vehicle rating must not be exceeded
- the 10% "first haul" allowance does not apply to either truck
- cannot operate on interstate highways
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS (cont’d)

BRIDGE AND LOAD LIMITS
An implement of husbandry that is not self-propelled and is equipped with pneumatic tires may not be operated on a public highway with a maximum wheel load that exceeds 500 lbs. per inch of tire width and must abide by gross bridge weight limitations.

WINTER GROSS WEIGHT INCREASE
The regular weight limitations are increased by 10 percent between dates and zones set by the commissioner based on a freezing index model each winter.

ESCORT VEHICLE
The requirement for front and/or rear escort vehicles, whether on divided or non-divided highways, can vary. Generally, escort vehicles will be required when:

- loads exceed 14 feet 6 inches in width
- loads exceed 95 feet in length

Requirements for night travel include front and rear escort for loads over 10 feet wide and/or over 85 feet long.

The operator of an escort/pilot car must attend and pass the escort/pilot car course facilitated by the Department of Public Safety.

An implement of husbandry may be operated or towed to the left of the center of a roadway only if it is escorted at the front by a vehicle displaying hazard warning lights visible in normal sunlight and the operation does not extend into the left half of the roadway more than is necessary. Escort/pilot car training is not required for this operation.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook 2014; Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations, Escort Requirements, Office of Revisor of Statutes 169.81]


**HOURS OF SERVICE**

Farmers generally do not need to comply with hours of service limitations. If the truck is involved in *interstate* commerce, the driver must follow federal hours of service rules, but only if the truck travels more than 150 air miles from the farm or ranch. Minnesota exempts farmers from hours of service limitations for *intrastate* transportation.

Minnesota law states that federal regulations governing maximum driving and on-duty time do not apply to drivers engaged in the interstate or intrastate transportation of:

- Agricultural commodities or farm supplies for agricultural purposes in Minnesota during the planting and harvesting seasons from March 15 to December 15 of each year; or
- Sugarbeets harvesting season from September 1 to May 15 of each year if the transportation is limited to an area within a 150 air-mile radius from the source of the commodities or the distribution point for the farm supplies.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook 2014]
 IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

LAMPS, REFLECTORS, AND REFLECTIVE MATERIALS ON FARM TRACTORS, FARM EQUIPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

An implement of husbandry may not be operated or towed on an interstate highway.

LIGHTS & REFLECTORS
During times when lights are required, a combination of self-propelled or towed implements of husbandry must be equipped with:

- at least one lamp displaying a white or amber light to the front, at least one red or amber light to the rear at the extreme left projection, and two red reflectors visible to the rear on the rear most unit.
- The reflectors must be mounted as close as practicable to the extreme edges of the implement of husbandry.
- The reflectors must be reflex reflectors that are visible at night from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps.

REAR LAMPS
An implement of husbandry being towed by a motor vehicle at a speed of not more than 30 mph, displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem, is not required to have a red tail lamp.

HAZARD WARNING LIGHTS
No person may operate a self-propelled implement of husbandry manufactured after January 1, 1970, on a highway unless the implement of husbandry displays vehicular hazard warning lights visible to the front and rear in normal sunlight.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SIGN
All implements of husbandry which are designed for operation at a speed of 30 mph or less, must display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem. The emblem must consist of a fluorescent or illuminated red-orange triangle with a dark red reflective border and be mounted so as to be visible from a distance of not less than 600
IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY (cont’d)

feet to the rear. When a primary power unit towing an implement of husbandry or other machinery displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem visible from a distance of 600 feet to the rear, it is not necessary to display a similar emblem on the secondary unit.

SPEED
No person may drive or tow an implement of husbandry at a speed in excess of 30 mph.

Height and Weight Limits on Implements of Husbandry – For information on height/weight limits refer to Height/Weight Limits.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook 2014]
TRUCK INSPECTIONS

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
Commercial motor vehicles 10,001 lbs. or greater involved in interstate commerce must have proof of a federal annual inspection (a Minnesota one year annual decal will be sufficient as that proof). Commercial motor vehicles 10,001 lbs. or greater involved in intrastate commerce must display proof of an annual inspection. Minnesota-based commercial motor vehicles or combinations greater than 26,000 lbs. must display a Minnesota annual inspection decal. A covered farm vehicle that is not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be placarded is exempt from the annual truck inspection requirement.

ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS
Minnesota law also gives law enforcement officers the authority to conduct random, roadside spot checks for unsafe motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment. A covered farm vehicle that is not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be placarded is exempt from further inspection under this section. However, if probable cause exists to believe the vehicle or its equipment is unsafe or illegal activity is suspected, enforcement action may be initiated.

DAILY INSPECTIONS
A covered farm vehicle that is not carrying hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be placarded is exempt from the daily written inspection report.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook 2014]
LICENSING & REGISTRATION

DRIVER’S LICENSE
A commercial driver license (CDL) is not required if you operate a farm vehicle which is:

• Controlled and operated by a farmer, including operation by employees or family members;
• Used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies, including hazardous materials, to or from a farm;
• Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and
• Used within 150 miles of the farm.

QUARTERLY REGISTRATION
Minnesota allows farmers to register and license their farm trucks on a quarterly basis beginning on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.

RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS
Minnesota has entered into reciprocity agreements with border states regarding registration requirements. These agreements allow Minnesota intrastate plated vehicles, which includes farm class, to travel a limited distance into a border state.

Reciprocity is not extended to intrastate operation except for Minnesota and North Dakota farm plated vehicles operating in Minnesota and North Dakota. Farm plated vehicles can operate interstate and intrastate when transporting their own farm products, farm supplies or farm equipment.

Border registration reciprocity agreements:
• Iowa – farm registered vehicles
• South Dakota – vehicles operated within 20 miles of the border
• North Dakota - vehicles operated within 20 miles of the border; ND farm registered vehicles may travel in the western half of MN (includes intrastate and interstate operations); MN farm registered vehicles may travel in the eastern half of ND
• Wisconsin – vehicles operated within 30 miles of the border
• Manitoba – no reciprocity
RESTRICTED CDL
You may qualify for a restricted class B or C CDL without taking any tests if you are employed as a seasonal driver for a farm retail outlet or supplier, an agri-chemical business, a custom harvester or a livestock feeder. You may operate a CMV only during the seasonal period that you select, which may not exceed 180 consecutive days in a 12-month period.

You must renew the restricted seasonal CDL before your driving season starts. You may not drive a CMV outside of a 150-mile radius of your place of business or the farm you are serving.

When you are driving a vehicle that is required to display hazardous materials placards, you are strictly limited to:
- 1,000 gallons or less of diesel fuel
- Liquid fertilizers, including anhydrous ammonia, in vehicles with a total capacity of 3,000 gallons or less
- Solid fertilizers that are not mixed with any organic substance

U. S. DOT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS
A USDOT number and compliance with the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement is required when a truck 10,001 pounds and greater is involved in interstate commerce. A single trip across a state border with a commercial motor vehicle will trigger the requirement. A USDOT number is not required for farm trucks that are involved in intrastate commerce.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook, 2014; 49 C.F.R. sec. 383.3(d)(1); Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations, 2014; Minnesota Commercial Driver’s Manual]
IMPORTANT PARTS & ACCESSORIES

BRAKES
A self-propelled implement of husbandry must be equipped with brakes adequate to control its movement and to stop and hold it and any vehicle it is towing. A towed implement of husbandry must be equipped with brakes adequate to control its movement and to stop and hold it, unless the implement of husbandry is in a combination of vehicles (such as a pickup truck pulling the implement) and the towing vehicle’s braking capability meets state braking performance standards. If a towed implement of husbandry is required to have brakes, and is manufactured after January 1, 2011 with a gross vehicle weight of more than 3,000 pounds, it must also be equipped with brakes adequate to stop and hold it if it becomes detached from the towing vehicle.

HITCHES
A towed implement of husbandry must be equipped with safety chains, a regulation fifth wheel and kingpin assembly approved by the commissioner of public safety; or a hitch pin with a retainer.

MUD FLAPS
Mud flaps are not required on rear unloading farm trucks.

SEAT BELTS
Seatbelt use is required under federal law if the commercial motor vehicle has a seat belt assembly installed in the driver’s seat. However, a person driving or riding in a pickup truck while engaged in normal farming work or activity is exempt from the primary seatbelt law.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook 2014]

Parts and accessories are not limited to those listed above.
SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL PERMITS & PROVISIONS

BALED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT
Farmers can receive an annual permit to carry bales of hay, straw, or cornstalks, with a total outside width of the vehicle or load not exceeding 12 feet and 14 ½ feet high - in the twin cities metro area, 15 feet high outside the metro. Farm vehicles not for hire carrying baled hay, straw, or cornstalks less than 20 miles are exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit.

LIVESTOCK HAULERS
Farmers hauling livestock can purchase a permit to haul up to 88,000 lbs. (year round except for spring road restrictions) in a semi-truck with six or more axles. Permit holders must abide by posted bridge weight limits and may not use interstate highways.

VEHICLE TRANSPORTING MILK
Spring road restrictions do not apply to a vehicle transporting milk from the point of production to the point of first processing if the vehicle is carrying milk loaded at only one point of production. This does not authorize a vehicle to exceed a weight restriction of five tons per axle by more than two tons per axle. There is no permit required for this exemption.

CANOLA
Trucks can haul up to 105,500 pounds of canola from the Canadian border on Highway 75 or from the North Dakota border on highway 175 to a processing plant in Hallock. These trucks must still comply with overall length, per-axle weight limitations and spring road restrictions.

TEN PERCENT OVERWEIGHT PERMITS
Sugarbeet, potato, and carrot growers have the option to purchase 10 percent overweight permits for movement from the field of harvest to the point of the first unloading. Permits are valid from the beginning of harvest until November 30.

[Source: Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, Agriculture Transportation Handbook, 2014; MS169.862]
MONTANA
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

SYSTEMS MOUNTED ON FARM WAGONS (IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY) FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

The following requirements apply to containers of 2000 gallons capacity or less and pertinent equipment mounted on farm wagons (implements of husbandry) and used for the transportation of anhydrous ammonia.

MOUNTING CONTAINER
- Stop(s) shall be mounted on the truck, semi-trailer, or trailer or on the container so that the container cannot be dislodged from its mounting due to a sudden stop. Back slippage shall also be prevented.
- A hold-down device must be provided to anchor the container to the vehicle at one or more places on each side of the container.
- When containers are mounted on four-wheel trailers, the weight must be distributed evenly over both axles.
- When the cradle and the tank are not welded together, material shall be used between the two to eliminate metal-to-metal friction.

MARKING OF CONTAINER
- Four diamond shape, non-flammable, DOT gas placards must be displayed (one on each side and one on each end).
- The words "Anhydrous Ammonia" must also appear on each side and each end in letters no less than two inches high.
- The words "Liquid" or "Vapor" must be placed on or within 12 inches of the appropriate valve

FARM WAGONS (IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY)
- All farm wagons must be securely attached to the vehicle by means of drawbars supplemented by safety chains.
- A farm wagon must be constructed so that it will follow substantially in the path of the towing vehicle.
- All farm wagons shall have at least five gallons of readily available clean water.
- Nurse tanks containing anhydrous ammonia must be stored no less than 50 feet from the edge of the adjacent road, 150 feet...
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA (cont’d)

from place of private or public assembly, and 750 feet from place of institutional occupancy.

[Source: Administrative Rules of Montana; 4.12.720]
HEALTH CARD/AGE/DRUG & ALCOHOL

DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING
Operators of a farm vehicle are exempt if the vehicle is:
- Controlled and operated by a farmer;
- Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, or both to or from a farm;
- Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier;
- Used within 150 miles of the farmer’s farm.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE
Medical certificates are not required for operators of a CMV in intrastate or interstate commerce if the CMV is:
- Used in custom harvesting or to transport farm machinery and supplies used in the custom harvesting operation to and from a farm, or to transport custom harvested crops to storage or market.
- Controlled and operated by a farmer, but is not a combination vehicle, and is used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies (no placarded hazardous materials) to and from a farm and within 150 air-miles of the farm.

AGE
A person must be at least 21 years of age and meet the qualifications to obtain a CDL for interstate operation. For intrastate travel, a person can receive a type 2 endorsement if at least 18 years of age.

[Source: Administrative Rules of Montana; 18.8.1502, 23.3.505; 49 CFR 382.103; Montana Commercial Driver License Manual]
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS

HEIGHT
The maximum height without a permit of any vehicle is 14 feet. Term and single trip permits are available for:
- divisible loads with a height of 14 feet 6 inches or less;
- non-reducible loads may be issued a term permit for a maximum height of 15 feet 6 inches; loads exceeding 15 feet 6 inches may obtain single trip over dimensional permits;
- baled hay loads may be term or trip permitted to 15 feet 6 inches.

WIDTH
The maximum width without a permit of any vehicle is 8 feet 6 inches. An implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay is exempt when:
- movement upon the highway is during daylight hours;
- distance is not more than 100 miles; and
- movement is incidental to the farming operations of the owner of the implement of husbandry or the vehicle used for hauling hay.

LENGTH
The maximum length without a permit of a single truck or self-propelled vehicle is 55 feet. Other restrictions apply to various tractor-semi trailer combinations.

WEIGHT
An axle may not carry a load in excess of 20,000 lbs., and no two consecutive axles more than 40 inches or less than 96 inches apart may carry a load in excess of 34,000 lbs. Except for the steering axle, all axles weighing over 11,000 lbs. must have at least 4 tires or have wide-based tires. Information pertaining to weight tables and special permits for overweight vehicles and loads is available at the Motor Carrier Services Division, 2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620 or by phone at (406) 444-6130.

FLAG VEHICLES
Flag vehicles are required when the following conditions apply:
- An implement or vehicle more than 12 feet 6 inches wide must be preceded by flag vehicle unless it is a dual-wheel tractor under 15 feet overall width that is used in farming operations or
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS (cont’d)

movement on a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner of the implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay.

- A rear flag vehicle escort is not required for a vehicle that exceeds 12 feet 6 inches in width, hauling or towing an implement of husbandry if the vehicle is operating at highway speed or with the flow of traffic. However, an implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay that exceeds 16 feet 6 inches in width and traveling on an interstate or a four-lane highway must be followed by a flag vehicle escort.

- If the highway passes through a hazardous area, the implements or vehicles must be preceded and followed by flag vehicle escorts unless movement is restricted to a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner.

HOURS OF SERVICE

Montana adopts federal regulations outlined in 49 CFR 395 of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety regarding hours of service with the following exemptions for agricultural operations.

The hours of service provisions do not apply during planting and harvesting periods, as determined by each state, to drivers transporting:

- Agricultural commodities within a 150 air-mile radius from the source;
- Farm supplies for agricultural purposes from a wholesale or retail distribution point of the farm supplies to a farm or other location where the farm supplies are intended to be used within a 150 air-mile radius from the distribution point; or
- Farm supplies for agricultural purposes from a wholesale distribution point of the farm supplies to a retail distribution point of the farm supplies within a 150 air-mile radius from the wholesale distribution point.

[Source: Administrative Rules of Montana; 18.8.1502; U.S. DOT, FMCSA, Part 395.1]
IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

LAMPS, REFLECTORS, AND REFLECTIVE MATERIALS ON FARM TRACTORS, FARM EQUIPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

Farm tractors and self-propelled units of farm equipment or implements of husbandry must at all times be equipped as follows:

- **Tractors and self-propelled units of farm equipment or implements of husbandry** must be equipped with two multiple-beam or single-beam headlamps. If the unit is not equipped with an electric lighting system, it must be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle. In addition, it must be equipped with two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The lights must be positioned so that one lamp showing to the front and one lamp or reflector showing to the rear indicates the farthest projection of the tractor, unit, or implement on the side of the road used in passing the vehicle.

- **The towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry element** of the combination must be equipped with two red lamps visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear, or one red lamp visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The red lamps or reflectors must be located to indicate the extreme left and right projections of the towed unit or implement on the highway.

- The combination must also be equipped with a lamp displaying a white or amber light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front and a lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear.

- The lamp or lamps must indicate to the front and rear the farthest projection of the combination on the side of the road used by other vehicles in passing the combination.
SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SIGN – Slow moving vehicles or equipment operating at speeds less than 25 mph must display an equilateral triangle emblem of fluorescent yellow-orange film or equivalent quality paint bordered with reflective red strips. The emblem must be a minimum of 14 inches in height, and must be mounted near the center on the rear of the vehicle at a height of 3 to 5 feet above the roadway.

TRUCK INSPECTIONS

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
Vehicles with GVWR or GCWR of 10,001 lbs. or more used in interstate commerce, and vehicles of 26,001 lbs. or more used in intrastate commerce are required to comply with federal safety regulations including annual inspections. However, Covered farm vehicles exceeding 26,000 lbs., controlled and operated by the farmer, and not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding, are exempt from annual inspections when operating intrastate, or within 150 air miles of the operator's farm in interstate travel.

ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS
Law enforcement or designated peace officers may conduct random roadside checks for unsafe motor vehicles and equipment. Citations may be issued and arrests can be made in connection with violations of safety standards. Covered farm vehicles not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding are exempt from further inspection.

[Source: Montana Code Annotated 2014: 61-10-154]
LICENSING & REGISTRATION

DRIVER’S LICENSE
A person who is at least 16 years of age with a minimum of 12 months driving experience may be issued a type 2 endorsement with a "B" classification restricted to hauling goods and property only within a 150 mile radius of his/her home or place of employment.

SEASONAL CDL
A seasonal commercial driver’s license (CDL) will be issued to qualified employees working in farm-related service industries such as custom harvesters, farm retail outlets and suppliers, agri-chemical businesses, and livestock feeders.

Seasonal CDL holders will have the knowledge and skill testing waived but are limited by the following restrictions:

- operate class B and C vehicles only.
- 4 year renewal cycle but only valid for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle from March 15 through September 11 in any given calendar year.
- May not drive vehicles carrying any placarded quantities of hazardous materials, except for diesel fuel in quantities of 1000 gallons or less transported only in vehicles with a total capacity of 1,000 gallons or less; liquid fertilizers in vehicles or implements of husbandry with total capacities of 3,000 gallons or less; and solid fertilizers that are not transported with any organic substances.
- May not operate a commercial motor vehicle beyond 150 miles from the place of business or the farm currently being served.

RECIROCITY AGREEMENTS
Vehicles registered in other states and provinces may be granted reciprocity on certain license requirements and fees. Information for each jurisdiction is available by contacting the Motor Carrier Services Division, Box 4639, Helena, Montana 59604, (406) 444-6130, voice, or (406) 444-7696, TDD (2701 Prospect Avenue.)

[Source: Administrative Rules of Montana, 18.8.301, 23.3.505, 23.3.523]
IMPORTANT PARTS & ACCESSORIES

BRAKES
Each commercial motor vehicle must have brakes adequate to control the movement of the vehicle and stop and hold the vehicle or combination of motor vehicles.

LIGHTS
Every vehicle upon a highway within this state at any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, and at any other time when due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, must display lighted lamps and illuminating devices. (For additional lighting information refer to Implements of Husbandry)

MIRRORS
A motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror that reflects to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motor vehicle.


Parts and accessories are not limited to those listed above.
SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL PERMITS & PROVISIONS

BALED OR LOOSE HAY
Single trip or term permits may be issued on vehicles hauling an oversize shipment of large round bales of hay, whether the vehicle is loaded or with an empty hay rack, under the following conditions:
- large round and large square bales up to 12 feet in width and 15 feet 6 inches in height limited to travel during daylight hours;
- Small square bales and hay racks can be permitted to 9 feet 6 inches in width and 15 feet 6 inches in height travel day or night providing lights are displayed the full length and width;
- day of week restrictions may apply.

Any permit must be verified for clearance of any bridge or underpass or other overhead obstruction on the route traveled.

Implements of husbandry and vehicles hauling hay may be moved on a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner without using flag vehicles regardless of width.

CUSTOM COMBINE
When used to transport agricultural products, a 20% tolerance will be given for a 100 mile radius from the harvested field to the first point of unloading. 20% from field to elevator only applies to non-interstate highways. Interstate highways are restricted to 10%. The truck may not haul agricultural products from one commercial elevator to another commercial elevator.

COMMERCIAL HAY GRINDER
A permit is required for commercial hay grinders exceeding 8 feet 6 inches in width, and if more than 12 feet 6 inches wide, must be preceded by flag vehicle escorts and lights must be displayed on the rear.

HAYSTACK MOVERS
A term or blanket permit may be issued for a self-propelled vehicle used only for the purpose of moving haystacks on a commercial basis providing:
- The vehicle, loaded or unloaded, does not exceed 55 feet in length or 20 feet in width.
**SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL PERMITS & PROVISIONS (cont’d)**

- A single load may not be moved greater than 75 miles from the point of origin on public roads.

When the vehicle is hauling a load, it must be accompanied by two pilot cars each equipped with a flashing warning light, a red flag, and a sign with the words "wide load". One car must precede the vehicle by not less than 100 yards, and one car must follow the vehicle at a distance not less than 100 yards. The following pilot car must be in radio contact with the vehicle at all times.
  - The speed of the vehicle must be reasonable and proper but not in excess of 35 miles per hour.
  - The vehicle may be operated only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.
  - The vehicle may not be operated on an interstate or a controlled-access highway.

[Source: Administrative Rules of Montana; 18.8.512, 18.8.513; Montana Code Annotated 61-10-102, 61-10-121, 61-10-123, 61-10-130]
SOUTH DAKOTA
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA TRAILERS
The maximum overall length for a combination of a towing vehicle (including farm tractors) and two anhydrous ammonia fertilizer tank trailers is 70 feet. This combination may travel on public highways under the following conditions:
- Travel only during daylight hours
- Speed may not exceed 25 miles per hour
- Each trailer displays a slow-moving vehicle sign
- Towing vehicle may not have a GVWR less than 11,000 pounds

[Source: South Dakota Trucking Information Motor Carrier Handbook Chapters 3 and 5; South Dakota Legislature Codified Laws 32-22-12.2]
HEALTH CARD/AGE/DRUG & ALCOHOL

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING – Operators, at least 18 years of age holding a valid operator's license, involved in farm to market transportation movements, are exempt if the vehicle is:
- Controlled and operated by a farmer;
- Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from a farm; and
- Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier;
- limited to those operators of a farm vehicle

MEDICAL CARD AND SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE TESTING EXEMPT - Operators involved in farm to market transportation movements are exempt from medical card and skills/knowledge testing if the farm vehicle is:
- Controlled and operated by a farmer;
- Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from a farm; and
- Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier

AGE
Operators, at least 18 years of age, holding a valid operator's license are exempt from CDL licensing when operation is limited to farm vehicles:
- Controlled and operated by a farmer
- Used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from a farm; and
- Not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier;
- Used within 150 miles of a person's farm

[Source: South Dakota Trucking Information Motor Carrier Handbook Chapter7; South Dakota Legislature Codified Laws: 32-12A-9]
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS

A vehicle owned by a farmer used to transport his own farm commodities or farm implements is exempt from width and height limitations on state highways. However, all oversize movements on the interstate highway system require oversize vehicle permits.

HEIGHT
The maximum height for any vehicle, including load, is 14 feet. However, vehicles with loads of baled hay are permissible up to 14 feet 3 inches. There is no maximum height limit for farm machinery.

WIDTH
The maximum width of any vehicle is 8 feet 6 inches. However, there is no width limitation for farm machinery operated by a farmer during daylight hours only.

Farm machinery or farm implement exceeding the above width cannot be operated on any state or interstate highway between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. However, over-dimension farm implements can be moved on all other county and township roads at night if equipped with the proper lighting. (For more information refer to Implements of Husbandry)

LENGTH
Unless specifically addressed, the length limits below only apply to the vehicle, and do not apply to the load carried on it. They are exclusive of the load overhang, retractable extensions used to support loads, and safety or energy conservation devices such as mirrors, turn signal lamps, hand holds, flexible fender extensions, and mud flaps.

Retractable extensions must be retracted if not being used to support overhanging loads.

- Single Truck – 45 feet maximum length
- Tractor/Semitrailer – no overall length limitation; 53 feet trailer length
- Straight Truck/Trailer Combination – 80 feet maximum overall length
HEIGHT/WEIGHT LIMITS (cont’d)

- Semitrailer-Trailer Combination – no overall length limitation; 81 feet 6 inches maximum length; 45 feet maximum trailer length

- Towing Vehicle & Two Anhydrous Ammonia Fertilizer Tank Trailers – 70 feet maximum overall length

WEIGHT

Maximum allowable weight of a vehicle depends on the number and spacing of axles and size of tires. Individual axles cannot exceed 20,000 lbs. and tandem axles 34,000 lbs. Other axle groups are based on the Bridge Weight Formula.

Tire weight supporting a steering axle, axle with dual tires, or a trailer towed by a vehicle with a GVWR of 11,000 lbs. or less cannot exceed 600 lbs. per inch. Tires mounted on other axles cannot exceed 500 lbs. per inch.

An extra weight tolerance of ten percent is allowed for vehicles hauling from a harvesting combine to point of first unloading, and a tolerance of five percent is allowed for vehicles hauling agricultural products from farm storage or livestock from a farm with the following restrictions:

- Within a range of 50 miles of the farm or harvested field
- Does not exceed the posted weight of any bridge or road
- Not applicable during spring load restrictions
- Not permitted on the interstate highway system

ESCORT VEHICLES

Escort vehicles are required for vehicles wider than 16 feet traveling on the interstate highway system, and vehicles wider than 20 feet traveling on the state highway system. Escort vehicles must display revolving or flashing amber lights, signage, and red or orange mounted flags. The escort vehicle must travel in front of the oversize vehicle on undivided highways and behind it on divided highways.

[South Dakota Commercial and Agricultural Vehicle Handbook, Motor Vehicle Handbook; South Dakota Statutes: 32-22-2; 32-22-3; 32-22-3.2; 32-22-14, 32-22-42.2, 32-22-42.12, 32-22-16.3; South Dakota Legislature Administrative Rule: 70:03:01:18]
HOURS OF SERVICE

Hours of service regulations do not apply to the transport of ag commodities within 150-mile radius of a wholesale or retail distribution point to the end user.

Covered farm vehicles greater than 26,000 pounds GCWR, not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding, are exempt from hours of service regulations when operating intrastate, or within 150 air miles of the farm in interstate travel.

[Source: FMCSA, Part 395.1]
IMPLEMENTING OF HUSBANDRY

LAMPS, REFLECTORS, AND REFLECTIVE MATERIALS ON FARM TRACTORS, FARM EQUIPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

LIGHTS & REFLECTORS

- Any farm implement exceeding the width limitations may be operated during the period of day between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise if the equipment has flashing or rotating white or amber warning lights placed at each side of the equipment's widest extremity and clearly visible to motorists approaching from front and rear.

- During daylight hours if the load extends more than four feet beyond the rear of the bed or body there must be displayed at the end of the load, in a position clearly visible at all times, a red flag not less than 12 inches both in length and width. During the time period one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise there must be displayed at the end of the load a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least 200 feet from the rear of the vehicle.

- Farm vehicles which are being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles may be equipped with two four-inch reflectors in lieu of lighted lamps with a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the rear most vehicle. On vehicles with more than one tail lamp, the lamps must be mounted on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Every tail lamp upon every vehicle must be located at a height of not more than 72 inches or less than 15 inches.

- All vehicles not required to be equipped with specified lighted lamps must carry one or more lighted lamps or lanterns displaying a white light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and to the rear of such vehicle.

SLOW MOVING VEHICLE SIGN

All farm machinery, including animal drawn vehicles, operating at speeds of 25 mph or less, when operated on a public highway, must display a clearly visible slow-moving vehicle sign mounted on the rear, and are prohibited from operating on public roads between
IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY (cont’d)

one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise unless equipped with proper warning lights.

TRUCK INSPECTIONS

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
Vehicles or combinations of vehicles must comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, including annual DOT inspections, if they:

- engage in interstate commerce and exceed 10,000 pounds GVWR; or
- engage only in intrastate operation and have more than 3 axles and a GVWR exceeding 26,000 pounds.

Covered farm vehicles exceeding 26,000 lbs., controlled and operated by the farmer, and not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding, are exempt from annual inspections when operating intrastate, or within 150 air miles of the operator’s farm in interstate travel.

ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS
Vehicles may be selected for roadside inspection based on observation of their safety condition or by a computerized Inspection Selection System (ISS). These officials may:

- stop any vehicle or carrier to examine, measure, or weigh the vehicle and its load and to withdraw and inspect any fuel being transported by the vehicle or used to propel the vehicle.
- examine any bill-of-lading, registration, license, or permit to determine if the motor carrier is properly registered, licensed, or permitted and if the load transported is an amount permitted by the commercial motor vehicle license issued to the carrier.

Covered farm vehicles not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding are exempt from further inspection.

LICENSING & REGISTRATION

DRIVER’S LICENSE
All farmers are required to have a valid driver license for the vehicle being driven. If a vehicle requires the driver to hold a commercial driver license, the driver (including farmers) must have a CDL with the proper class and endorsements attached.

However, farmers meeting all of the following criteria are not required to hold a CDL. Operators at least 18 years of age and holding a valid operator’s license involved in farm to market transportation movements limited to farm vehicles:

- controlled and operated by a farmer;
- used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from a farm;
- not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier; and
- used within 150 miles of a person’s farm.

Drivers of covered farm vehicles exceeding 26,000 lbs., controlled and operated by the farmer, and not transporting hazardous materials that require placarding, are exempt from CDL requirements when operating intrastate, or within 150 air miles of the operator’s farm in interstate travel.

RESTRICTED CDL
Drivers who are seasonal employees of a farm-related service industry—such as custom harvesters, farm retail outlet suppliers, agrichemical business, and livestock feeders—are eligible for a restricted CDL. Knowledge and skills testing will be waived for applicants at least 18 years of age with a good driving record for the most recent two years.

A restricted CDL allows operators to operate only Class B and C commercial vehicles in intrastate commerce, or within 150 miles interstate from the place of business or farm being served. Operators may not drive vehicles carrying any placarded quantities of hazardous materials, except for:

- diesel fuel in quantities of 1,000 gallons or less;
LICENSING & REGISTRATION (cont’d)

- liquid fertilizers, such as plant nutrients, in vehicles or implements of husbandry with total capacities of 3,000 gallons or less;
- solid fertilizers, such as solid plant nutrients, that aren’t transported with any organic substance.

RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS

Interstate licensing reciprocity is granted to:

- Minnesota within 20 miles of each states’ border.
- North Dakota from Montana state line US12 to ND22 to ND 21 to ND 6 to ND24 to ND13 to the Minnesota state line
- Nebraska reciprocity applies only to farm trucks owned or operated by ranchers or farmers for the transportation of their own ranch or farm products from point of production to market; or transportation of supplies, commodities, or equipment to be used on the ranch or farm; and for the infrequent or seasonal transportation (but not for commercial hire) by one farmer for another of the produce of the farm or ranch.

Intrastate licensing reciprocity is granted to:

- All farm vehicles owned or operated by farmers or ranchers in North Dakota and South Dakota hauling their own farm products, farm supplies, or farm equipment when such vehicles are operated within the boundaries described.

U.S. DOT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Companies that operate commercial vehicles transporting passengers or hauling cargo in interstate commerce must have a USDOT number. Also, commercial intrastate hazardous materials carriers who haul quantities requiring a safety permit must register for a USDOT number.

[Source: South Dakota Trucking Information One-Stop Shop, Chapters 3, 5, 7, Commercial Driver License]
IMPORTANT PARTS & ACCESSORIES

MIRRORS
Every motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror located to reflect a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear.

LIGHTS
Vehicles must be equipped with lighted front and rear lamps visible to a distance of 200 feet ahead during the period from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise.

Farm vehicles which are being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles may be equipped with two four-inch reflectors in lieu of lighted lamps to display a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.

BRAKES
Motor vehicles operating upon a highway within this state must be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of the vehicle. Any farm vehicle, except wagons and other implements of husbandry drawn by another vehicle, traveling at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour must have service brakes complying with the performance requirements found at South Dakota Codified Laws: 32-18-8.

SEAT BELTS
Drivers and front seat passengers of vehicles operated on a public highway in this state shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. Seat belts are not required in farm tractors or implements of husbandry designed primarily or exclusively for farm operations.

[Source: South Dakota Department of Public Safety; South Dakota Codified Laws: 32-15-8, 32-17-4, 32-17-8, 32-18-1, 32-18-1.1, 32-18-8]

Parts and accessories are not limited to those listed above.
SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL PERMITS & PROVISIONS

BALED FEED, STRAW OR SOLID WASTE PERMIT
An extended period permit may be purchased to haul overwidth baled feed, flax straw or solid waste on a truck. The load may not exceed a width of 12 feet.

STACK MOVER PERMIT
Permits are required for the movement of baled or loose-stacked livestock feed on oversized truck-mounted or tractor-towed stack movers on state trunk highways allowing the vehicle to move oversized empty or loaded. Movement is not allowed on the interstate highway system, unless no parallel route is available.

HARVEST PERMIT
South Dakota residents engaged in custom harvesting must comply with commercial licensing laws. Farmers who are temporarily engaged in custom harvesting are treated like any other custom harvester. However, farmers harvesting their own fields are exempt from commercial licensing.

Any motor vehicle or trailer owned and operated by a resident, provided it is not commercially licensed, engaged in the harvest of agricultural products may be operated upon the highways, roads and streets of this state upon obtaining a harvest permit. Harvest permits are sold to vehicles that will be used to haul agricultural products or to service harvesting equipment. A permit is required for each truck or tractor and for each grain hauling trailer.

[Source: South Dakota Trucking Information Motor Carrier Handbook, Chapters 5]
**Anhydrous Ammonia** is a source of nitrogen fertilizer with very caustic properties. When used as an agricultural fertilizer, it is compressed into liquid.

**Axle Weight** is the weight transmitted to the ground by one axle or one set of axles.

**CDL** means Commercial Driver's License.

**Commercial Freighting** means the carriage of things other than passengers, for hire, except hauling done by farmers for their neighbors in transporting agricultural products to or from market.

**CMV** means Commercial Motor Vehicle.

**Covered Farm Vehicle** is a vehicle identified by the state of registration as a farm vehicle, operated by the owner or employee of a farm or ranch, used to transport commodities or supplies to or from the farm, and not used in for-hire motor carrier operations.

**Farm Tractor** includes every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, moving machines, and other implements of husbandry.

**Farm Trailer** includes those trailers and semitrailers towed by a bona fide resident farmer hauling the farmer’s own agricultural, horticultural, dairy, and other farm products if the gross weight, not including the towing vehicle, does not exceed 24,000 pounds.

**Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)** is the total weight of a single vehicle plus its load.

**Gross Combination Weight (GCW)** is the total weight of a powered unit, plus trailer(s), plus the cargo.

**Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)** is the maximum GVW specified by the manufacturer for a single vehicle plus its load.

**Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR)** is the maximum GCW specified by the manufacturer for a specific combination of vehicles plus its load.
**Gross Weight** means the weight of a vehicle without load plus the weight of any load thereon.

**Implement of husbandry** means every vehicle designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or livestock raising operations or for lifting or carrying an implement of husbandry and in either case not subject to registration if used upon the highway.

**Intrastate** refers to any goods transported within the state.

**Interstate** refers to any good transported across state borders.

**Pneumatic Tire** means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load.