



Questions and answers: July 26, 2012 – Emergency proclamation pertaining to the transport of hay, straw and stover

How long is the proclamation in effect?

The proclamation became effective at 12:01 a.m. July 26, 2012, and will expire 60 days from the date and time issued.

Can I haul other agricultural products under this proclamation?

No. The proclamation applies only to hay, straw and stover.

Are there any axle weight limit restrictions?

Yes. See the separate gross weight table. The maximum axle weight limit cannot be more than 12.5% more than the legal axle weight limits. The maximum single axle weight of 20,000 pounds cannot be exceeded.

Does this lift the posted weight limit restrictions on certain roads and bridges?

No.

Can I travel on interstate highways?

A vehicle that is overweight (more than 80,000 pounds) cannot travel on the interstate.

A load that is overwidth can travel on any road, including the interstate, as long as it does not exceed 80,000 pounds.

Implements of husbandry are not permitted to operate on the interstate.

What if my load weighs more than 90,000 pounds gross weight?

A load of hay, straw or stover cannot legally exceed 90,000 pounds under this proclamation because it is considered a “divisible” load. No permit for an overweight load can be issued. The goods must be transported in multiple loads.

What is the maximum width of the load that I can transport without a permit?

12 feet 5 inches

Where can I find information about width restrictions on the primary highway system?

www.511ia.org

Are implements of husbandry that transport hay, straw and stover subject to permitting requirements?

No.

Does this lift the hours of service requirements for drivers hauling other goods?

No. The proclamation pertains only to drivers hauling hay, straw and stover.

Are drivers still subject to controlled substance/alcohol use prohibitions and testing requirements?

Yes.

Do I still need to meet all of the other Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations to operate a commercial vehicle?

Yes

If I tell my carrier that I am tired, fatigued or ill, am I still required to keeping hauling since the hours of service restrictions are suspended?

No motor carrier shall require or allow a fatigued or ill driver to operate a motor vehicle. Once you inform your carrier, they must give you at least 10 consecutive hours off duty before requiring you to return to service.

When do I get a rest period if I have been driving more than 70 hours in any eight consecutive days?

Once a driver makes a request of their carrier, the motor carrier must give a driver at least 34 hours off if they have been on duty more than 70 hours in any eight consecutive days.

My company or the one I work for has an out-of-service order in effect. Can I return to service under this proclamation?

No. Out-of-service carriers cannot take advantage of this proclamation.

What is a commercial motor vehicle?

A commercial motor vehicle can be defined as:

- A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- A combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more if the vehicle(s) being towed had a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds.
- A vehicle that carries 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- Any size vehicle that transports hazardous materials that requires placarding.

To learn more about federal regulations applicable to farm operations, visit:

<http://www.iowadot.gov/farmersafety/faq.html>