

**NDOT OVER DIMENSIONAL PERMITS INSTRUCTION 2-06**

Date: December 14, 2006

Subject: Special Procedures and Conditions for Tridem Axle Combinations

Reference: (a) NAC 484.491, Tridem axle defined.  
(b) NRS 484.737 through NRS 484.775  
(c) NAC 484.525 through NAC 484.543

1. **Purpose.** To implement procedures for issuing single trip permits to vehicles with tridem axle combinations and carrying non-reducible loads up to 60,000 lbs.
2. **Background.** Tridem axle combinations are becoming commonplace and are authorized by many of Nevada’s surrounding states. In order to facilitate commerce and interstate travel on Nevada roadways, NDOT has studied the potential impact on the highway infrastructure and determined that with some restrictions permitting tridem axle combinations is feasible and beneficial. Reference (a) provides a basic tridem axle definition, and references (b) and (c) require permits for vehicles with tridem axle combinations weighing over 42,000 pounds.
3. **Procedures and Conditions**
  - a. Routing will be based on purple loading and the total number of axles of the vehicle.
  - b. Tridem bonus purple group axle weight will be determined based on the following:

Ft/In	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	57,960	58,061	58,161	58,262	58,363	58,463	58,564	58,664	58,765	58,866	58,966	59,067
9	59,168	59,268	59,369	59,469	59,570	59,671	59,771	59,872	59,973	60,000	60,000	60,000
10	60,000	xxxx										

- Note 1: No increased allowances for axle widths over 10 ft with 4 tires per axle or for axle widths less than 10 ft with 8 tires per axle.
  - Note 2: Maximum of 25% increase in table weights up to 60,000 lb maximum for axles 10 ft wide or wider with 8 tires per axle.
- c. Maximum of two bonus purple weight tridem axle combinations per vehicle combination.

- d. Minimum of 8 feet and maximum of 10 feet from the first axle to third axle in any tridem axle combination.
  - e. Minimum of 25 feet between the centerline of any axle of a bonus weight tridem axle combination to the centerline of any axle of another bonus weight tridem axle combination.
  - f. Minimum of 18 feet between any two axles of a tridem axle combination and the closest axle of any adjacent axle group (i.e., close coupling is not authorized).
  - g. Minimum of 8 feet wide at the outside tire bulge.
  - h. Qualified tridem axle combinations will be routed as follows:
    - 6-Axle: 3-axle tractor, 3-axle trailer (see current NDOT routing map)
    - 7-Axle: 4-axle tractor, 3-axle trailer (see current NDOT routing map)
    - Routing maps are to be developed for greater than seven axles.
  - i. The current NDOT routing map for single trip permits remains in effect for singlewide trucks with 7 or fewer axles and doublewide trucks up to 220,000 lbs GVW.
  - j. These guidelines do not apply to annual permits or to cranes with more than seven axles operating under 6-month area permits.
  - k. Requests for permits that exceed the specifications described herein will be routed to Structural Design Division for analysis, restrictions and concurrence/disapproval.
  - l. These guidelines are similar to those established by Caltrans (TPPM 2006-04, Tridem Bonus Purple).
4. **Action.** All Permit Agents will comply with this instruction, maintain a copy of this instruction in their desktop procedures, and provide a copy to applicable permit holders.
5. **Supersedes.** N/A

//S//  
Richard J. Yeoman  
Administrative Services Officer III

//S//  
Richard Nelson  
Assistant Director, Operations