

Vehicle Operating Requirements When Loads Are Oversize; SB 344

SB 344 specifies signage requirements for a vehicle operating on any highway with a special permit because the vehicle exceeds dimension or weight restrictions and specifies the times and weather conditions when those vehicles could operate. The bill also amends when and under what weather conditions a motor carrier transporting hay or related animal forage feedstuffs to a drought disaster area in Kansas, as declared by the Governor or the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are allowed to operate if the vehicle exceeds dimension or weight restrictions. For purposes of this summary, the term “hay transporter” is used.

The bill requires a vehicle operating under a permit because the vehicle exceeds width or length limitations to display an “oversize load” sign of a specified size and lettering on the sign. The bill also requires red flags on all four corners of the oversize load.

The bill specifies these restrictions related to times and weather conditions:

- A vehicle that has a special permit because it exceeds width or length limitations is not allowed to operate from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise, when visibility is less than one-half mile, or when highway surfaces have ice or snow pack or driving snow.
- A hay transporter that exceeds width or length limitations is not allowed to operate when visibility is less than one-half mile, or when highway surfaces have ice or snow pack or driving snow. (Under continuing law, such a hay transporter cannot operate from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.)
- A vehicle operating with a permit only because it exceeds weight limitations and a hay transporter that exceeds weight limitations will be permitted to operate 24 hours a day except when highway surfaces have ice or snow pack or drifting snow.