

FARM IMPLEMENTS - WAC 468.38.290

All of the information included in this brochure pertains to the movement of oversize farm implements on Washington State highways.

A farm implement is defined as:

A device that directly affects the production of agricultural products, including fertilizer and chemical applicator apparatus (including auxiliary equipment).

- Less than 65,000 pounds
- Less than 20 feet wide
- Legal height (16 feet high) (The 16-foot legal height requirement for an annual farm implement permit does not apply to the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Island, Snohomish, and King)
- Overall length less than 70 feet
- Air-filled rubber tires or solid rubber tracks non-damaging to the public highways

PERMITS

No permit is required on state highways when: Farm machinery is towed, hauled, or self-propelled fitting the above description and up to 16 feet wide.

Farm Implement Permit

- Width over 16 feet to less than 20 feet
- Must be legal height (16 feet)
- Farmer fee: Quarterly \$10, Annually \$25
- Dealer fee: Quarterly \$25, Annually \$100
- A letter to Motor Carrier Services office is required listing counties of travel, permit start date, quarterly or annual, and farmer or dealer

A commercial oversize permit is required when:

- Over 20 feet wide
- Over 16 feet high
- Over 70 feet in length

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Escort Vehicles

The use of escort vehicles is required when the implement exceeds 12 feet 6 inches wide and must comply with WAC 468.38.100. The following exceptions are made for farmers:

- The escort vehicle may be any vehicle as long as it is legal size and weight. The escort vehicle may pull a trailer.
- Escort drivers do not have to be certified.
- Escort vehicles are allowed to carry passengers.

“Oversize Load” signs on escort vehicles:

- 5 feet wide and 10 inches high
- Yellow background with 8-inch black letters

Note: Escort vehicles are used to communicate to the public that they are approaching a large load that could be hazardous to their travel. For example, the use of escorts in the front and rear, properly spaced from a large load, gives motorists warning when visibility is impaired, such as in curves. This will warn motorists before they encounter a large load in their path in a potentially dangerous area.

Posting a route may be used in lieu of escort vehicles if the route to be traveled is less than two (2) miles.

“Oversize Load” signs on the Implement

- Required when implement exceeds 10 feet wide
- Signs must be 7 feet wide and 18 inches high
- Yellow background with 10 inch black lettering
- Visible from front and rear
- Signs are not required on the implement if there are signs on the front and rear escort vehicles

Red Flags

Eighteen (18) inch square red flag is required to be attached:

- To the widest parts when exceeding 10 feet
- To the end of the implement when exceeding 4 feet from the bed to the end
- During hours of darkness, lights are used in place of flags

Lights

Lamps and other lighting must at all times be in compliance with RCW 46.37.160, including:

- Two (2) headlights
- At least one (1) tail light
- Two (2) rear reflectors

Night-time Movement

Night-time movement of loads over 12 feet wide can be approved by Motor Carrier Services:

- Emergency conditions only
- Proper lighting and escort vehicles in front and to the rear of the implement

Proper lighting for night-time travel includes the above lighting requirements plus the following lighting for the implement or towed unit:

- Two (2) red tail lamps
- Two (2) red reflectors

Slow Moving Triangle

The slow moving vehicle triangle emblem is for equipment moving at a speed of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less and can be displayed on the tractor as long as the implement being pulled does not cover the view of the sign.

Curfew/Commuter Hours (Metropolitan areas)

Movement of oversize farm implements must comply with any published curfew or commuter hour restrictions.

Convoys

Farm implement convoys are allowed with the following requirements:

- Must have properly equipped escort vehicles in the front and rear of convoy

- Five hundred (500) feet between vehicles to allow for others to pass

If five (5) or more vehicles are waiting to pass, the implements must pull off the road at the first safe wide spot to allow the waiting vehicles to pass.

Additional information concerning oversize farm equipment safety and movement can be found on the Washington State Department of Transportation web site:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle/

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

SAFE TRANSPORTATION of OVERSIZE FARM IMPLEMENTS



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