

ALABAMA SUPERLOAD REQUIREMENTS

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is responsible for issuing permits for over dimensional vehicles and combinations of vehicles and loads. When permits reach a certain size, they become what is commonly called a "Superload" permit. To help clarify this issue, in Alabama, a Superload will be defined as any load where one or more of the following dimensions are exceeded:

Width	16 feet
Height	16 feet
Length	150 feet
Weight	250,000 lbs. gross weight

The Department has developed the following requirements to expedite the process for obtaining a Superload permit:

1. Justification Letter

A letter from the manufacturer or shipper detailing all pertinent information that would qualify the proposed shipment for permitting on the highways of Alabama. This letter should include, but is not limited to:

- Description of the Product
- Original Origin
- Final Destination
- Projected Delivery Date to Destination
- Statement that the load has been reduced to the smallest dimension possible
- Explanation as to why the load cannot be shipped by other modes of travel (i.e. rail or barge) to an area at or close to its destination to reduce the impact on the highway infrastructure

2. Detailed Shop Drawing

A detailed shop drawing, specification sheet or plans of the item(s) to be shipped showing ALL dimensions in U.S. measurements and units.

3. Axle Configuration Drawing

A detailed shop drawing, specification sheet or plans showing both a longitudinal and a transverse view of the entire axle configuration including truck-tractor with axle spacings and weights on each axle in U.S. measurements. All submittals must include company name, company contact person and telephone number.

4. Special Work Authorization

Superloads with weight will need to contact the vehicle permit office and set up a Special Work Authorization (SWA) which will allow the Department's Bridge Rating Office to perform a detailed bridge analysis for all structures on the proposed route.

5. Route Survey

A detailed route survey is required for all Superloads to be performed by the permit requesting company or an authorized agent for the permit requesting company.

- Superloads that exceed 16' in width, 250,000 lbs. in weight, and/or 150' in length:

The route survey must provide information on horizontal clearances, turning movements at route intersections and any areas along the proposed route where lane shifts or turning movements require the permitted load to encroach into the opposing traffic lane. All conflict areas are to be identified by highway route and milepost number. Identify locations along the route where the permitted load can exit main travel way to allow traffic to proceed.

- Superloads that exceed 16' in height:

The route survey must identify all conflict points such as overhead utility lines, traffic signals, tree branches or any other conflict points by highway route and milepost number. Provide method of addressing each conflict point including interchanges where off and on ramps are used to avoid an overhead obstruction. Provide a list of safe areas by highway route and milepost number where the permitted load can exit the main travel way to allow traffic to proceed.

6. Utility Notification

Proof of utility notification and approval may be required for loads which exceed 16'6" in height. It will be the responsibility of the requesting company to contact the district offices, utility companies, and traffic signal owners along the Superload route, and have them notify the permit office of approval and support of the move. This may be done in writing, email, or fax. A bucket truck will be required for all loads that exceed 16'5" in height.

7. Escort Requirements

A minimum of two (2) State Trooper or Police Escorts are required for all Superloads, in addition to the required civilian escorts. Additional Trooper escorts may be required under certain conditions. The [Alabama Trooper Association](#) will facilitate the scheduling of the escorts and should only be contacted AFTER permit office pre-approval has been confirmed.

8. Approval for Secondary Roads

City or County Engineer approval shall be required for all Superloads traveling on city streets or county roads. [Click here for a list of County Engineers in Alabama.](#)

9. Travel Times

Most Superloads will be required to travel between the hours of 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM Sunday through Thursday, unless otherwise approved by permit office.

10. Lighting Requirements

All Superloads are required to have a lighting plan such that the entire load is easily visible to the traveling public from any direction. Flashing amber or strobe lights are to be mounted on all extremities. This lighting is in addition to other signs and lighting required.

11. Insurance Requirements

ALDOT may require additional insurance coverage as security to compensate the State of Alabama for any injury to any public property, roads, or bridges on the Superload route.

12. Railroad Coordination

It is the responsibility of the permittee to contact the appropriate rail company when at grade rail crossings are a part of proposed route. The Department may require notification of crossing approval from the rail company before issuing a permit. (In many cases, a crossing number and a telephone number is posted on an Emergency Notification System [ENS] sign near the railroad track.) Example:

