

Overweight Permitting in Saskatchewan: Authority and Practice

Pursuant to *The Highways and Transportation Act*, the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure (Minister) has the overarching authority to issue overweight and over dimension permits for movement on all public highways, including all roads within a rural municipality (RM).

In 2003, the Minister delegated authority to each RM to issue overweight permits for movement on roads within its respective jurisdictions; this was done by Ministers Order and set the maximum fee to be charged for both single trip (\$25.00) and annual permits (\$100.00). These maximum fees were initially intended to cover actual costs to administer the overweight permit.

Since then, the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has undertaken a study which determined that the fees charged for overweight vehicles should be increased to include both the current administration fee as well as incremental maintenance and operation fees. Effective July 16, 2018, the maximum fees that an RM can charge for a permit for an overweight vehicle are as follows:

- \$50 per single trip with the exception of spring road ban season;
- \$100 per single trip during spring road ban season; and
- \$300 for an annual permit.

Before implementing a permitting system, an RM must first pass a bylaw allowing it to issue overweight permits. Once the bylaw is passed then an RM can begin issuing overweight permits for travel on municipal roads within its jurisdiction. Prior to issuing an overweight permit, it is good practice for an RM to request proof of registration and insurance which are also issue by SGI.

Despite the Minister's Order noted above, the Minister still retains the authority to issue overweight and over dimension permits for movement on all roads within an RM; all said permits are issued by SGI on behalf of the Minister. SGI issues overweight permits for movement on provincial highways, municipal roads, and a combination of the two road systems for any vehicle traveling in Saskatchewan that exceeds secondary weights; the secondary legal weight varies based on the vehicle configuration and number of axles.



If the gross vehicle weight exceeds 54,500kg or an axle group weight of 27,000kg then it is a condition of the overweight permits issued by SGI that the permit holder receives authorization from each affected RM for travelling within its boundaries; SGI does not define what is acceptable as authorization but advise the customer to communicate directly with RMs. If an RM has passed a bylaw and issues overweight permits then, in these instances, a permit holder would be required to obtain 2 permits for the overweight move.

The aforementioned condition is provided in writing on term permits (annual), verbally when a permit is issued over the phone or viewed on-line if a permit is self-issued. SGI does not contact the affected RMs directly to notify them of the issuance of an overweight permit. The weights that trigger the condition noted above are in policy only and can be changed. If changes are to occur then the volume of permits issued by RMs would also increase, as SGI issues overweight permits for any vehicle over secondary weights.

In cases where both SGI and an RM issue an overweight permit then there may be a duplication of fees paid for the trip, as SGI charges a fee for distance traveled which includes that distance traveled within an RM.

If a permit holder does NOT obtain authorization from the RM(s) through which they are travelling when the gross vehicle weight exceeds 54,500kg or an axle group weight of 27,000 then they are violating the terms of the permit and can be penalized.



Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities