

California OS/OW Permit Binder

This document is designed for integration into your RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) system for OpenAI, serving as the authoritative reference for California oversize/overweight (OS/OW) regulations, permitting, and routing.

1. Authoritative Sources (Live Links)

- **California DOT (Caltrans) Oversize/Overweight Permits:**
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/trucking-services/oversize-overweight-permits>
- **California Vehicle Code – Size & Weight:** <https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>
- **Caltrans Transportation Permit System (TPS):** <https://pps.dot.ca.gov/>
- **Contact Caltrans Permits Office:** (916) 322-1297 | Email: oversize.permits@dot.ca.gov

2. Core Permit Rules & Restrictions

- **Permit Required:** For vehicles exceeding legal size/weight limits.
- **Legal Limits (without permit):**
 - Width: 8'6"
 - Height: 14'
 - Length: 40' (single vehicle), 65' (combination)
 - Weight: 20,000 lbs single axle / 34,000 lbs tandem (federal bridge formula applies)
- **Superloads:** Typically > 15' wide, > 17' high, > 135' long, or over 400,000 lbs require engineering review.
- **Travel Restrictions:**
 - No movement on major holidays.
 - Restricted hours in metro areas (LA, SF, San Diego).
 - Night travel requires proper lighting and escorts.
- **Escort Requirements:**
 - Width > 12' requires escorts.
 - Height > 17' requires route survey + escort.
 - Extreme loads may require CHP escort.

3. Permit Workflow

1. **Carrier/Driver Submits Load Info:** Dimensions, axle weights, requested route.
2. **System Checks:** Compare against California statutory limits, verify bridge restrictions.
3. **Permit Issuance:** Through Caltrans TPS system, fees depend on load.
4. **Routing:** Some routes restricted due to low bridges, construction zones.
5. **Compliance:** Permit must be carried in cab; escort rules enforced by CHP.

4. RAG Extraction Checklist

- Vehicle Width, Height, Length
- Total Gross Weight
- Axle Count & Weights
- Route (including interstates, metro areas)

- Dates/Times requested
- Escort Triggers
- Holiday/curfew restrictions

5. Driver & Carrier Notes

- ****CHP Escort:**** Required for superloads and certain extreme routes.
- ****Lighting/Flagging:**** Red flags (day), amber lights (night).
- ****Permit Validity:**** Most single trip permits valid 7 days.
- ****Emergency Info:**** Call 511 for statewide closures and traffic updates.

6. Contacts

- Caltrans Permit Office: (916) 322-1297
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