

MENARD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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OVERWEIGHT/ OVERSIZE PERMIT POLICY

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Legal Authority

The Menard County Highway Department is authorized by the Illinois Size and Weight Law [625 ILCS 5/Ch.15] to issue special permits. These special permits allow the operation of vehicles or loads that exceed the legal maximum dimensions and weights. The permits are valid only for those highways under County jurisdiction. Bridge postings shall take precedence over any permit issued.

Scope

This policy is written to provide a uniform system for issuing excess size and weight permits. All applications for permits are given full consideration. Permits for proposed moves may be issued:

- 1) when the highways and bridges will not be unduly damaged and
- 2) when the safety of the traveling public will be adequately protected.

A permit may also be issued when substantial benefits will be realized by a large segment of the public, and the potential damage and safety problems can be resolved; or in the case of extreme necessity. Questions regarding permits or permit policy should be directed to the Menard County Highway Department, P.O. Box 497, 15620 Chautauqua Road, Petersburg, IL 62675 (Phone: 217/632-2722).

Year-Round Highway Weight Limitations

Only a 2.5 mile portion of County Highway 11 (Quarry Avenue), from Illinois Route 29 to Engle Street, is designated as a Class III truck route. No other County Highways are on the designated State highway truck route system and, therefore, are considered Local Roads and Streets for determining maximum legal weights and dimensions. As per the Illinois Size and Weight Law [625 ILCS 5/15-301], "No state or local agency shall authorize the issuance of excess size or weight permits for vehicles and loads that are divisible and that can be carried, when divided, within the existing size or weight maximums specified." This means that no permits for **divisible** loads exceeding 80,000 lbs can be issued for transport upon County Highways.

Seasonal Highway Weight Limitations

On May 12, 1998, the Menard County Board adopted an ordinance to update the seasonal weight limitations on County Highways. The ordinance provides a weight limitations of 15 Ton (30,000 pounds) for all vehicles. These weight restrictions apply to all County Highways which have been posted. The period for these seasonal weight limits is January

15th through April 15th of each year. All County Highways that have this posting are subject to these weight limitations unless express written permission has been given by the Menard County Highway Department in accordance with this policy.

When road bases are thawing or heavy rains have occurred, great damage can be done by heavily loaded vehicles. It is during these critical periods that compliance with the above restrictions will be necessary. It is not the intent of the County Board or the County Engineer that trucks or other vehicles be prohibited from using the County Highways when the roads are dry or frozen. Little damage results when these conditions prevail.

Certain vehicles may be considered exempt from these seasonal weight limitations including the following:

1. All firefighting apparatus;
2. Equipment for snow and ice removal operations owned or operated by any governmental body;
3. All vehicles, equipment and apparatus operating under the jurisdiction and/or direction of the Menard County Highway Department;
4. Any law enforcement agency in the State and/or County or the Menard County Emergency Services Department;
5. All vehicles, equipment and apparatus operating to restore gas, electric, water or sewer services in an emergency due to an unplanned disruption of service;
6. School buses used for the transport of students; and
7. Service vehicles including but not limited to milk trucks, fuel trucks, garbage trucks, and livestock feed trucks operating at a weight which does not exceed the empty weight of the vehicle plus 6,000 pounds.

Types of Permits

Two types of permits will be issued by the Menard County Highway Department:

- 1) **Limited continuous operation permits.** This type of permit will be issued to vehicles requiring several trips over County Highways for a limited duration of time. Examples may include hauling grain or rock during Seasonal Highway Weight Limitations. These written permits are only valid on those days specified by the Menard County Highway Department. To determine if limited continuous permits are valid, please check our highway calendar on our website at www.menardcountyil.org/departments/highway-department/highway-department-calendar/, or by calling our office at (217) 632-2722.
- 2) **Special haul permits.** This type of permit will be issued to all other vehicles requiring oversize or overweight loads. These permits are good without in person or telephone validation unless specified by the County Engineer. Examples may include hauling special material or equipment to and from a construction site.

Obtaining a Permit

Permits may be obtained at the Menard County Highway Department, 15620 Chautauqua Road, Petersburg, Illinois, 62675, by FAX at (217) 632-7820, or on our website at <http://menardcountyil.org/files/7314/8226/1353/Weight Limit Permit Dec 2016.pdf>. No fee is required to obtain a permit. All information requested on the permit must be complete and accurate.

Applicant's Responsibility

Acceptance of the permit by the applicant will be deemed prima facie evidence of an unequivocal allegation by the applicant that:

- 1) They are in compliance with all operational requirements;
- 2) All dimension and weight limitations specified in the permit will not be exceeded;
- 3) All operation, registration, and license requirements have been met;
- 4) All financial responsibility obligations and other legal requirements have been met; and
- 5) They assume all responsibility for injury to persons or damage to public or private property, including their own, or to the object being transported, caused directly or indirectly by the transportation of vehicles and objects authorized under the permit. They agree to hold harmless the County of Menard from all suits, claims, damages, or proceedings of any kind and to indemnify the County of Menard for any claim it may be required to pay arising from the movement.

The driver of the vehicle shall have the permit in his possession during the progress of the movement and shall show the permit, on demand, to any police officer or authorized employee of the County of Menard.