



Movement of *Farm Equipment*

Here are some important facts about the movement of farm equipment. Alberta's current legislation has been in effect since 1998 and has not been changed. An amendment is underway to increase the legal allowable dimensions to better reflect the requirements of modern farm equipment.

The maximum height for farm equipment will be increased from 4.15 metres (13'7") to 5.0 metres (16'8") and the maximum overall length will be increased from 23.0 metres (75'5") to 30.5 metres (100 feet). The current exemption for farm equipment width will not be changed.

The legislation for axle and gross (combined) vehicle weights is not under review.

Farm vehicles are not subject to width restrictions. Vehicle height must be limited to minimize issues with power lines and other overhead structure (such as overpasses, signs and signals) clearances. There are two main concerns associated with excessive vehicle length: safety of the other road users who must be able to safely pass, and the ability to maneuver the vehicles at intersections and farm entrances.

There is no change to the allowable weights which have always been set at the highest level to ensure road safety and protect highways and bridges from excessive damage.

There is no permit fee for farmers. The fee for annual over-dimensional permit for commercial (for hire) operators is \$60 per year for the entire company. To obtain a permit, contact the Central Permit Office at 1-800-662-7138. The permit staff will assist with the application process.

Until the regulation is changed permits are available to allow the new, increased lengths and heights. These are annual permits covering all farm equipment owned by the farm and does not need to be listed on the permit. There is no need to get trip approval. The permit is valid on all public roads, although movement on local roads may require municipal approval.

Alberta recognizes two classes of vehicles: private passenger and commercial. If a vehicle is used for any type of business it's a commercial vehicle. So farming has always been a commercial enterprise and the commercial vehicle legislation for weights and dimensions has always applied. There are differences in registration requirements for farmers using own equipment for their own operations versus custom (for hire) operation of similar farm equipment. The allowable weights and dimensions are the same for both types of operations.

Farm equipment is defined in the Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation and specifically excludes trucks and trailers:

- (q) “farm equipment” means equipment designed and intended for use in farming operations, other than a truck, trailer or semi-trailer, but does not include farm equipment that is loaded on a truck, trailer or semi-trailer or that is towing equipment other than another piece of farm equipment;

If a truck is hauling grain for hire or transporting farm equipment for custom operations, the truck is required to follow the commercial vehicle rules. If it is registered as a Class 2 Farm Truck, it may require a permit to temporarily change the vehicle registration from a farm plate to a commercial plate. There is a fee for the registration permit.

For more information contact:

Alvin Moroz
Alberta Transportation
Transport Engineering
Phone: 403-340-5189
To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.
E-mail: alvin.moroz@gov.ab.ca

