Dear COVID-19 Relief Effort Supply Permit holders

The emergency oversize and overweight permits that have been implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will expire on May 11, 2020.

Governor Evers declared a statewide public health emergency on March 12, 2020. Our immediate priority was to ensure that our essential grocery supply chains remained intact as grocery stores across the state were experiencing inventory shortages.

Under his emergency powers the Governor issued Emergency Order #2 on March 14 and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was able to expediently offer COVID-19 Relief Effort Supply Permits. These permits allowed increased weight limits and waived driver hours of operation limitations for truck drivers hauling grocery supplies. This permit was in effect until April 10 and was utilized by more than 60 fleets, representing thousands of trucks carrying vital goods and supplies to replenish store shelves throughout Wisconsin.

Anticipating continued pressure on vital supply chains, the Governor issued Emergency Order #24 on April 10. Under this order, emergency oversize and overweight permits were expanded to include agricultural products, medical supplies, warehouse goods, and all freight supplying any of the federally-defined sixteen critical infrastructure sectors. Weight limits were expanded from 88,000 pounds to 90,000 pounds to harmonize with neighboring states. It was necessary to quickly maximize all essential supply lines before the situation became critical and they became compromised. The permit is heavily utilized and has been issued to 174 freight carriers covering 5,574 trucks.

We wanted to make sure you are aware that the Governor’s order expires on May 11, 2020 and so, too, will the department’s authority to issue oversize and overweight permits. While we looked for options to extend the permits, we do not have that authority. We also recently shared this information with our legislators representing the state’s legislative transportation committees.

Thank you for your dedication in a time of crisis and your hard work to keep essential supplies available.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Oversize-Overweight Permits

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