

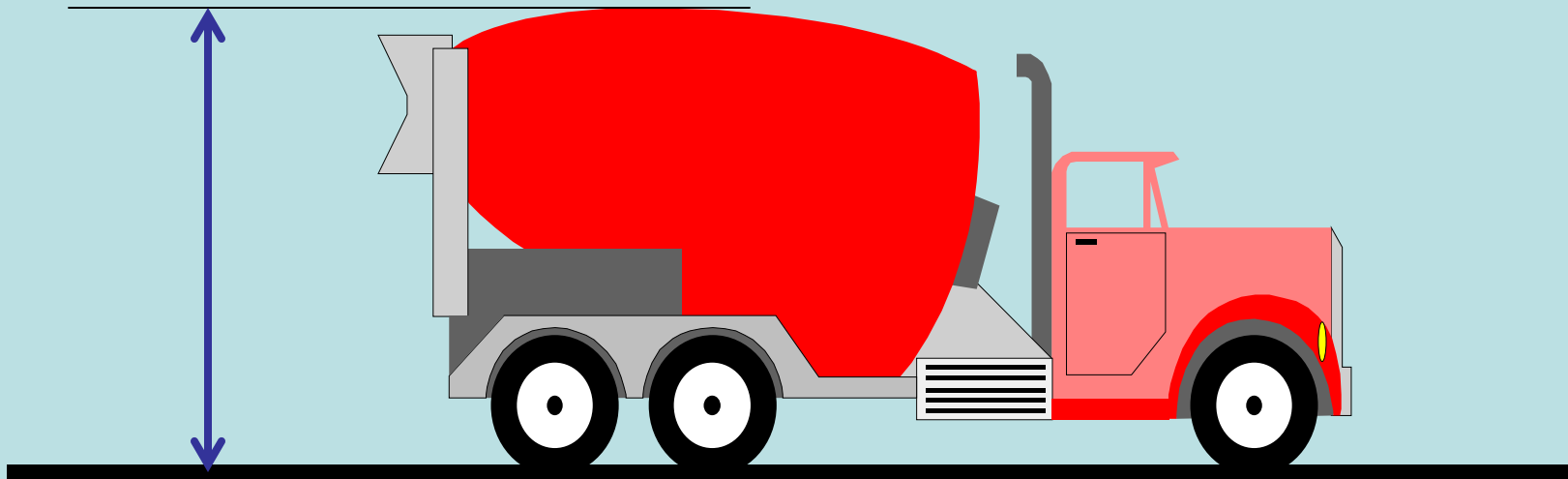
Overheight Loads



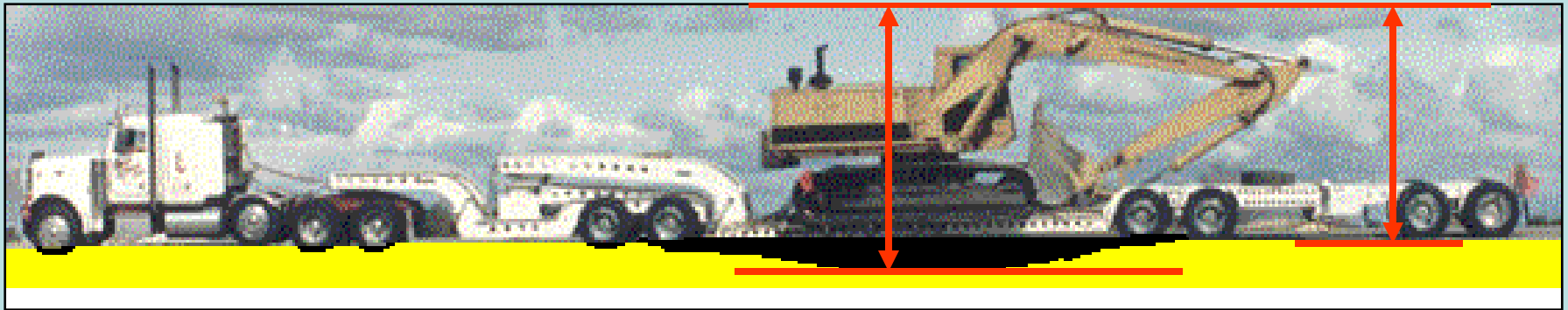
WSDOT
Commercial Vehicle Services

Legal Height

- Legal Height is 14 feet measured from the road surface to the top of load or vehicle



Variations in Height Due to Road Dynamics



The shape of the road and the length of the vehicle can make the clearance of the structure or wire much different.

Liability

The carrier is responsible for reviewing the route and overheight clearances, which may include a pre-running of the route



Structure Hits

2007 - 36 strikes

2008 - 21 strikes



Superload Heights

- Loads exceeding 16 feet high
- Special review is required
- Detailed route survey is required
- No special review for loads up to 16 feet high



Routing Overheight Loads

Permits may be obtained for loads that exceed the height clearance but require detours

- An “Up and Over” detour may be possible
 - Using the off and on ramps
- County/City streets may be taken to detour, with local approval
- Monthly permits allow up to 15 feet high and the carrier must review each route before moving
- 14 feet 6 inches high is authorized at night with a permit (Special approval is not required)

Marking of Structures

- Overcrossings must be marked with the height when less than 15 feet 3 inches
- Overcrossings less than 14 feet require advance posting of signs and more extensive warnings



WSDOT Bridge List

- Guidelines for overheight clearances are available in the WSDOT Bridge List Book
- Available on line
www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle
(Under Resources)
- Indicates minimum and maximum height of structures
- Current version was published in 2002
(Example next slide)

Bridge List

I-5		SRMP 172.76		JAN, 2002 BRIDGE LIST		PAGE 58	
STATE ROUTE BRIDGE NUMBER	MILE POST	CROSSING NAME	LOCATION	STRUCTURE IDENT. NUMBER	RDWY. WIDTH < 20'	VERTICAL N BOUND OR E BOUND MAX. MIN.	CLEARANCES S BOUND OR W BOUND MAX. MIN. LENGTH SPAN TYPE
5/588W	172.76	NORTHGATE WAY OC	2.0 N JCT SR 522	0012197B	--		166 PCB
		SOUTHBOUND COLLECTOR-DISTRIBUTOR					
		5/588SCD SBCD	NORTHGATE WAY OC	0007156I	--		166 PCB
		NE 107TH TO I-5 NORTHBOUND					
		5/588N-N N-N RAMP	NE 110TH OC	0014539A	--		164 PCB
5/589	173.15	NE 117TH ST UC	2.4 N JCT SR 522	0007270A	--	1804 1803	1702 1700 312 CBOX
5/590							
523/5	174.58	SR 523 UC	1784 3.8 N JCT SR 522	0007270E	--	1705 1605	2104 2004 249 CBOX
	174.58	JCT SR 523	3.8 N JCT SR 522				
5/593E	175.11	NE 155TH ST OC	1728 0.5 N JCT SR 523	0007270C	--		147 CBOX
5/593W	175.11	NE 155TH ST OC	1728 0.5 N JCT SR 523	0007270D	--		147 CBOX
5/594	175.51	METRO OC	1728 0.9 N JCT SR 523	0013302A	--		40 CS
5/595E	176.13	NE 175TH ST OC	1728 1.6 N JCT SR 523	0007299A	--		163 CBOX
5/595W	176.13	NE 175TH ST OC	1728 1.6 N JCT SR 523	0007299B	--		163 CBOX
5/596	176.72	NE 185TH ST UC	1728 2.1 N JCT SR 523	0007299C	--	1703 1603	2102 2003 249 CBOX
5/598	177.21	PED UC NE 195TH ST	1728 2.6 N JCT SR 523	0007299D	--	2109 2101	1906 1801 268 PCB
	177.77	KING-SNOHOMISH CO LINE		3.2 N JCT SR 523			
		BALLINGER LAKE INTERCHANGE					
		JCT I-5 - SR 104					
		SRMP 177.43 TO 178.10					
		CS 1728 U					
		3.2 N JCT SR 523					
		I-5 MAINLINE					
5/599E		SR 104 OC	NE 205TH ST	0007071A	--		200 PCB
5/599W		SR 104 OC	NE 205TH ST	0007071B	--		188 PCB
I-5		SRMP 177.78					

Prevention on the Highway

Measure overheight loads before moving



Weigh station overheight detectors indicate loads that exceed 14 feet high, not the actual height

Pilot/Escort Vehicle Requirements

- Loads exceeding 14 feet 6 inches require front pilot/escort vehicle with a height pole
- Height pole must be 3 to 6 inches higher than the load
- Mobile Homes – Pilot/escort vehicle not required until load exceeds 15 feet in height
- Pilot/escort operator certification is required



Pilot/Escort Vehicle Communication

- Following distance for pilot/escort vehicle and load is described in regulation as “Reasonably prudent” to allow for changes in traffic and speed conditions
- Front pilot/escort operator must have sufficient time to notify load driver of overheight clearances
- Load should not approach undercrossing until front pilot/escort vehicle passes and operator verbally verifies clearance to load driver

Treat Every Overheight Load With Extra Attention



For Questions call WSDOT Commercial Vehicle Services

360-704-6340