

# Over Height Loads

## Washington State Department of Transportation Commercial Vehicle Services

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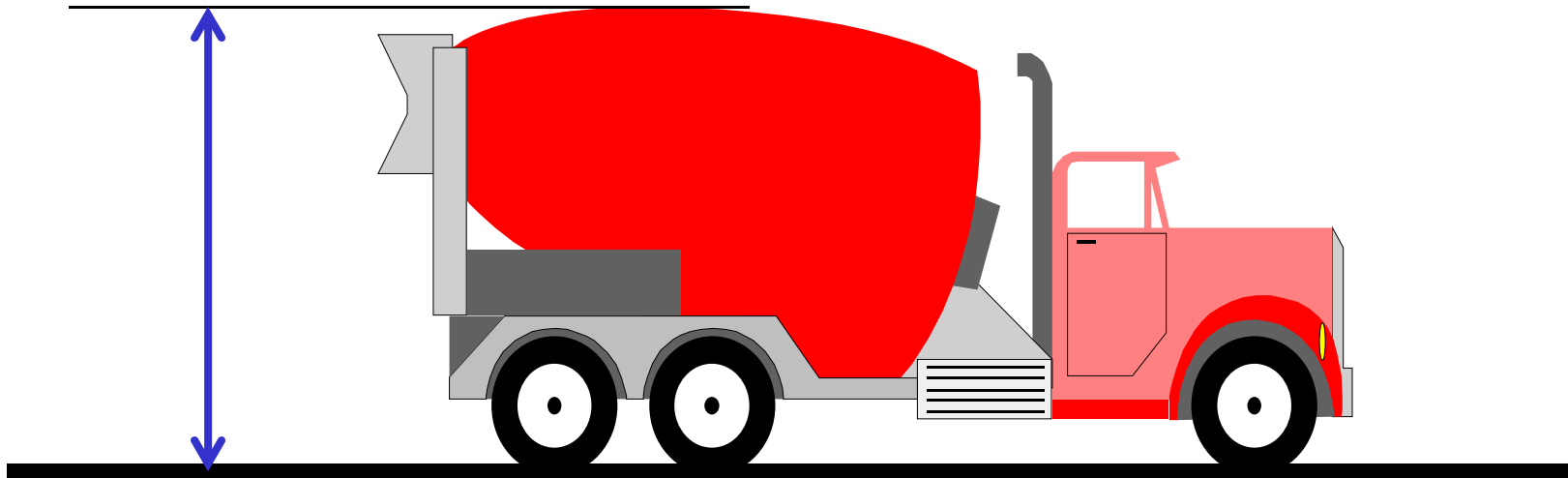
# Over Height Loads



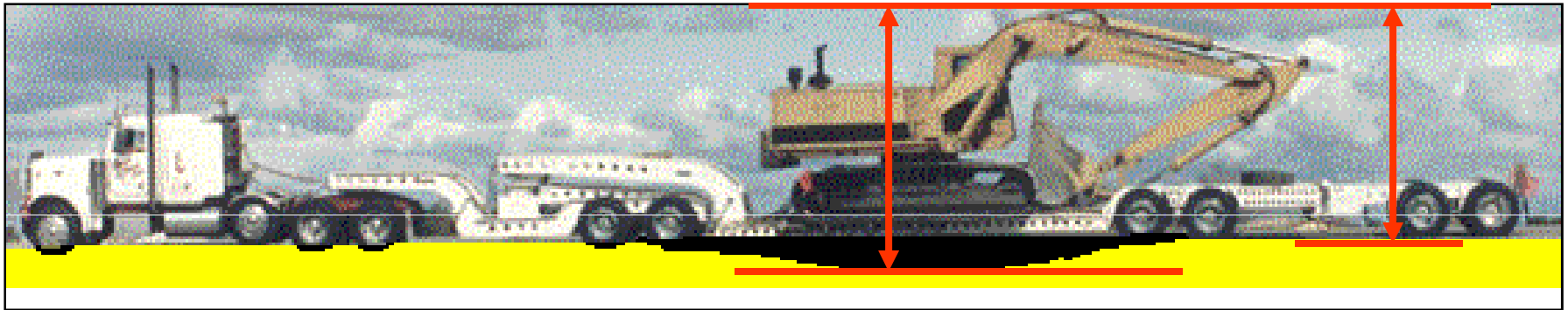
**WSDOT  
Commercial Vehicle Services**

# 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

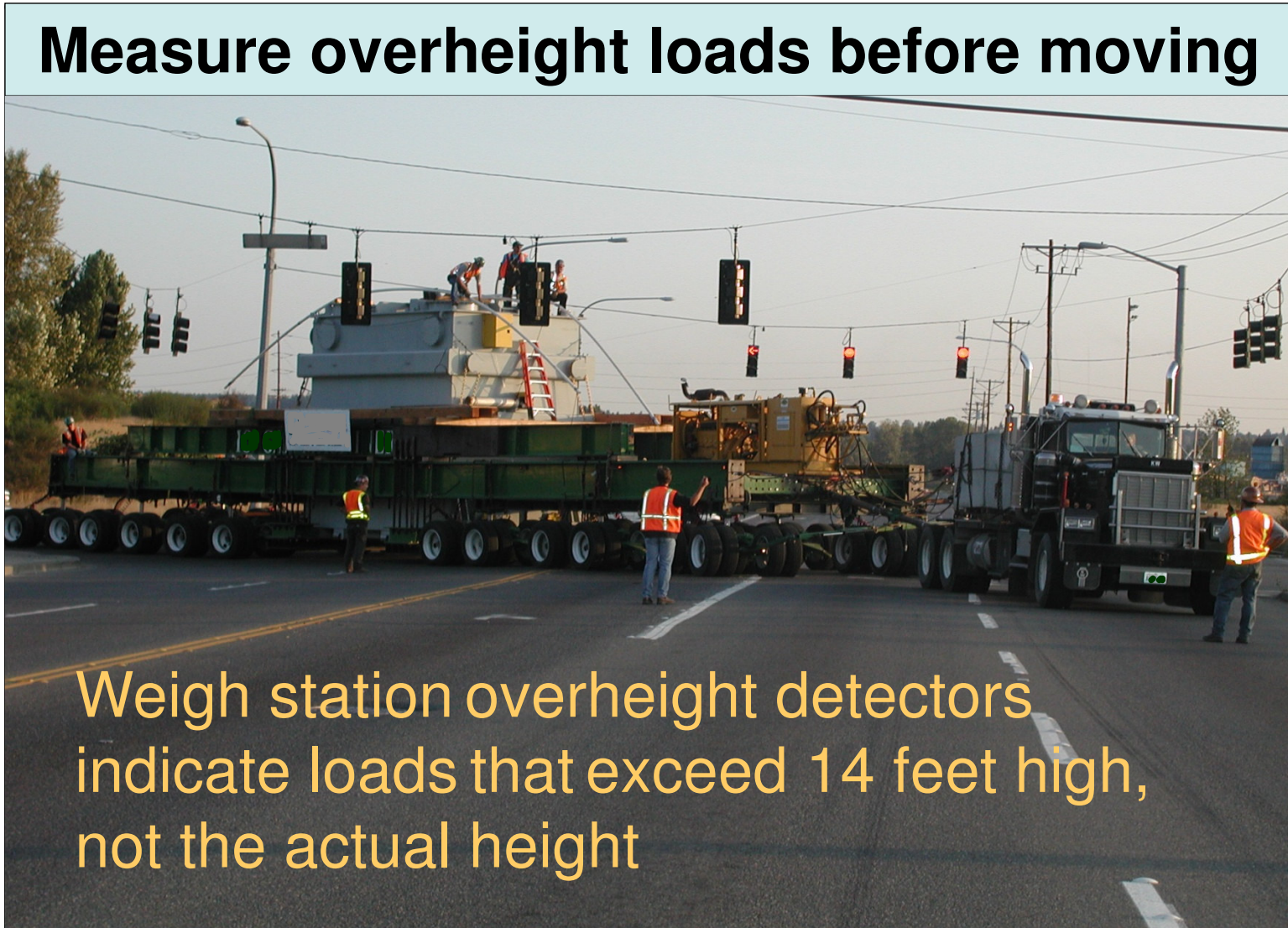
- Guidelines for overheight clearances are available in the WSDOT Bridge List Book
- Available on line [www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/commercialvehicle)  
(Under Resources)
- Indicates minimum and maximum height of structures
- Current version was published in 2002  
(Example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

# Bridge List

I-5		SRMP 172.76		JAN, 2002 BRIDGE LIST		PAGE 58		VERTICAL CLEARANCES	
STATE ROUTE	BRIDGE MILE POST	CROSSING NAME	LOCATION	STRUCTURE IDENT. NUMBER	RDWY. WIDTH < 20'	N BOUND OR E BOUND MAX. MIN.	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

# 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