

FACT SHEET

Special Mobile Equipment

DEFINITION

- (1) Vehicles not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property, except for tools and parts necessary for the use and maintenance of the vehicle, and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway.
- (2) Vehicles which have machinery permanently attached shall not carry a load, except for tools and parts necessary for the use and maintenance of the permanently attached machinery, and are only incidentally operated or moved over a highway.
- (3) Motor vehicles used primarily for road and bridge maintenance or repair which carry a load of asphalt emulsion or epoxy and aggregate material that is applied as a finished product by the vehicle's equipment directly to a highway or trafficway for maintenance or repair of the road or bridge surface.

The term includes, but is not limited to: ditch digging apparatus, well boring apparatus, earth moving and road construction and maintenance machinery, such as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, snowplows, ditchers, graders, patchers, finishing machines, road rollers, scarifiers, earth moving carryalls, scrapers, power shovels and drag lines, and self-propelled cranes and tractors other than truck tractors. The term does not include house trailers, dump trucks, or truck-mounted transit mixers, cranes or shovels.

REGISTRATION

FEES: Please refer to Form [MV-70S](#), "Bureau of Motor Vehicles Schedule of Fees," found on our website at www.dmv.pa.gov.

NOTE: Special mobile equipment registration plates may be personalized for an additional fee. To check personalized registration plate availability, visit PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website, www.dmv.pa.gov and select the [Plate Availability](#) link from the list of services under the Online Services heading.

FORMS:

If the vehicle is being titled in Pennsylvania for the first time:

- Manufacturer's Statement of Origin or Out-of-State Certificate of Title.
- Completed Form MV-1, "Application for Certificate of Title."
- Completed [Form MV-190](#), Side B, "Special Mobile Equipment Supplemental Application."
- Completed [Form MV-426B](#), "Application for Reconstructed, Specially Constructed, Collectible, Modified, Flood, Recovered Theft Vehicles and Street Rods," if the vehicle is specially constructed or reconstructed.
- A Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) tracing.
- Applicant's Proof of Identification.
- Proof of Insurance, if the vehicle is to be registered.

If the vehicle is currently titled in Pennsylvania:

- Pennsylvania Certificate of Title.
- Completed Form MV-4ST, "Vehicle Sales and Use Tax Return/Application for Registration."
- Completed [Form MV-190](#), Side B, "Special Mobile Equipment Supplemental Application,"

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- Completed [Form MV-426B](#), “Application for Reconstructed, Specially Constructed, Collectible, Modified, Flood, Recovered Theft Vehicles and Street Rods,” if the vehicle is specially constructed or reconstructed.
- Applicant’s Proof of Identification.
- Proof of Insurance, if the vehicle is to be registered.

INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Special mobile equipment is exempt from inspection.

SIZE LIMITATIONS

Permissible vehicle width is generally 8’6”. Special mobile equipment not exceeding 9’2” in width may be driven or towed between sunrise and sunset on highways other than freeways. Vehicles with an overall width greater than 9’2” including wheels and tires may obtain a permit.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

PennDOT’s Central Permit Office is responsible for the statewide administration of the Special Hauling Permit Program. Each PennDOT Engineering District Permit Office is responsible for the management of the Special Hauling Permit Program consistent with Federal and State laws.

The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Title 75, Chapter 49, specifies the legal vehicle size and weight limits, and under what conditions vehicles may be permitted to exceed the legal limits.

Additional oversize, overweight permit information and requirements pertaining to special mobile equipment may be reference in [Publication 31, Special Hauling Permit Manual](#).

An annual permit may be issued for operation or movement between sunrise and sunset of a vehicle containing wheels and tires extending beyond the maximum width allowed in Section 4921(a) if the department determines that the wheels and tires are essential to the function for which the vehicle is designed or adapted and used.

Vehicles required to be registered as trucks or trailers and which have tires marked “not for highway use,” “unsafe for highway use,” or similar designations must obtain a permit as described above.

Vehicles that have tires which extend beyond the outer edge of the wheel housing must also obtain a permit.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must show proof of financial responsibility (insurance) as required by the Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law.