



# 8 Steps to Overcome Oversized Freight

Oversized shipments tend to be more involved projects with many variables. To manage all the moving pieces, you need a clear, concise playbook. This checklist from Worldwide Express will guide you through the keys to determining if your freight is oversized and the logistics of a successful shipment.

## #1 Verify size limits.

Federal dimensional limits apply to the width, while length and height requirements are determined by each state. Exceeding any dimensional limits — length, width or height — likely makes your shipment oversized. Double-check state limits on your route to be sure.

### General size limits:

- » Length: 53 feet (636 inches)
- » Width: 8 feet 6 inches (102 inches)
- » Height: 10 feet 6 inches (126 inches)

## #2 Review weight limits.

Going over the gross vehicle weight (truck, trailer and cargo) or pounds-per-axle limits qualifies loads as overweight. There are several weight requirements in place to protect roadways, bridges and infrastructure — and each state keeps its own rules. Use the federal limits below to determine if your load is oversized and confirm with state limits on your route.

### Weight limits:

- » 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight
- » 20,000 pounds per single axle
- » 34,000 pounds per tandem axle

## #3 Decide to divide.

You will be required to separate shipments to stay under weight and dimensional size limits whenever possible. However, generally speaking,

shippers do not need to divide materials if it would decrease the value of materials, hinder functionality or take more than eight hours of work to separate the shipment.

## #4 Exceed oversized.

Superloads are just like they sound — they surpass oversized shipment sizes and weights. These loads may require special escorts and even highway closures. Like oversized, states have different definitions of a superload, so check their requirements for exact measurements.

### Size limits:

- » Length: 160 feet
- » Width: 16 feet
- » Height: 16 feet

**Weight limit:** 200,000 pounds

## #5 Prepare for permits.

While there are no federal permits, states set their own size and weight requirements. Your carrier will help with permits, but they need accurate information first. This includes:

- » Accurate weight of all pieces
- » Accurate dimensions of all pieces
- » The specific delivery address

## #6 Find a carrier.

It's not always about who is cheapest — especially with the logistics involved in

oversized shipping. When choosing your partner, consider:

- » If the carrier has the right trailer and equipment.
- » Shipping reputation, safety and road record.
- » If the carrier can work on your schedule.
- » Service costs such as running permits and contracting escorts.
- » Transportation costs.

## #7 Bring escorts.

Oversized shipments more than 12 feet wide typically require an escort service. Shippers cover escort room, board and fuel — so be sure to build these costs into your budget. Also, these “wide loads” require extra planning as they cannot be on the highway over the weekend and can only be on the road 30 minutes before dawn through 30 minutes after sundown on weekdays in most states.

## #8 Get rolling.

Before hitting the road, make sure your oversized freight is secured and that you're following all safety and compliance requirements.

- » Check all straps, ropes and tarps to ensure freight is secure.
- » Fasten the appropriate oversized sign to the truck.
- » Place flag markers on any edges extending beyond the trailer frame.
- » If shipping at night or in low visibility areas, place lights on edges.
- » If you have escorts, make sure they have markers and lights.

