ALABAMA SUPERLOAD REQUIREMENTS

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is charged with issuing permits for over dimensional vehicles and combinations of vehicles and loads. When permits reach a certain size, they become what is commonly called a "Superload" permit. To help clarify this issue, in Alabama, a Superload will be defined as any load where one or more of the following dimensions are exceeded:

Width	16 feet
Height	16 feet
Length	150 feet
Weight	300,000 lbs. gross weight

The Department has developed the following requirements to expedite the process for obtaining a Superload permit:

1. **Justification Letter**

   A letter from the manufacturer or shipper detailing all pertinent information that would qualify the proposed shipment for permitting on the highways of Alabama. This letter should include, but is not limited to:
   - Description of the Product
   - Original Origin
   - Final Destination
   - Projected Delivery Date to Destination
   - Statement that the load has been reduced to the smallest dimension possible
   - Explanation as to why the load cannot be shipped by other modes of travel (I.e. rail or barge) to an area at or close to its destination to reduce the impact on the highway infrastructure

2. **Load Dimensions**

   A detailed shop drawing, specification sheet or plans of the item(s) to be shipped showing ALL dimensions in U.S. measurements

3. **Axle Configuration Drawing**

   A detailed shop drawing, specification sheet or plans showing both a longitudinal and a transverse view of the entire axle configuration including truck-tractor with axle spacings and weights on each axle in U.S. measurements. All submittals must include company name, company contact person and telephone number.

4. **Special Work Authorization**

   Superloads with weight will need to contact the vehicle permit office and set up a Special Work Authorization (SWA) which will allow the Department's Bridge Rating Office to perform a detailed bridge analysis for all structures on the proposed route.

5. **Route Survey**

   A detailed route survey is required for all Superloads to be performed by the permit requesting company or an authorized agent for the permit requesting company.

   Superloads with HEIGHT will need to:
   - Show all conflict points by route and milepost
   - Indicate method of addressing or avoiding conflict points, including interchanges where off ramps are used to avoid overhead structures
   - Provide safe area locations where permitted load can exit main travel-way to allow clearing of traffic

6. **Utility Notification**

   Proof of utility notification may be required for loads which exceed 16'6" in height. It will be the responsibility of the requesting company to contact the district offices, utility, and traffic signal owners along the Superload route, and have them notify the permit office of approval and support of the move. This may be done in writing, email, or fax. A bucket truck will be required for all loads that exceed 16'5" in height.

7. **Escort Requirements**

   A minimum of two (2) State Trooper or Police Escorts are required for all Superloads. Additional Trooper escorts may be required under certain conditions. ALEA will facilitate the scheduling of the escorts and should only be contacted AFTER permit office pre-approval has been confirmed.

8. **Approval for Secondary Roads**

   City or County Engineer approval shall be required for all Superloads traveling on city streets or county roads.

9. **Travel Times**

   Most Superloads will be required to travel between the hours of 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM Sunday through Thursday, unless approved by permit office.

10. **Lighting Requirements**

    All Superloads are required to have a lighting plan such that the entire load is easily visible to the traveling public from any direction. Flashing amber or strobe lights are to be mounted on all extremities. This lighting is in addition to other signs and lighting required.

11. **Insurance Requirements**

    ALDOT may require additional insurance coverage as security to compensate the State of Alabama for any injury to any public road or bridge on the Superload route.