

Hyperscale Logistics Cheat Sheet: DOT Rules for the Top U.S. Data Center Builds



The U.S. hyperscale boom is rewriting construction timelines. If you're moving HAC modules, cooling towers, ESS, or electrical skids, you don't have time to flip through 50-page DOT manuals. Here's a quick "cheat sheet" with the key DOT rules for some of the biggest projects.

Meta Hyperion (Richland Parish, LA)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 14', length 38'–53' depending on trailer type; legal gross 80,000 lbs.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

Annual heavy-equipment permits up to 120,000 lbs GVW, 14'4" H, 12'0" W, 90' L

Pilot limits:

Over 90' = 1 escort; over 125' = State Police escort.
Width >12' = 1 escort; width >16' = State Police escort (2- or multi-lane). Height >15'-10' may require a high-pole escort off interstates.

Superload:

Case-by-case bridge analysis; classified when exceeding 125' L, 18' W, 16'-5' H, or 120,000 lbs.

Travel restrictions for OD Loads:

Daylight only; New Orleans urban curfews during AM/PM rush.

Oracle "Stargate" (Abilene, TX)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 14', length varies by combo; legal gross 80,000 lbs.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

TxDMV OS/OW permits up to 16' wide on controlled-access highways; length up to 125' without route inspection certification; height up to 18'-11" with certification.

Pilot Limits:

Length >110' = 1 escort; >125' = 2 escorts. Overhang >20' = 1 escort; >30' = 2 escorts (special approval).
Width >14' = 1 escort; >16' = 2 escorts. Height >17' = 1 escort; >18' = 2 escorts. If two dimensions trigger, 2 escorts required.

Superload:

Case-by-case TxDMV routing; "Superheavy" if \geq 254,300 lbs GVW (or \geq 200,000 lbs with <95' axle spacing).

Travel Restrictions for OD Loads:

Sunrise–sunset; local/metro curfews (Dallas, Houston, etc.); limited night allowances for overweight-only.



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Microsoft Mount Pleasant Campus (Racine County, WI)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 13'6", semi-trailer length ~70'; legal gross 80,000 lbs.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

WisDOT OS/OW permits; signage and lighting required.

Pilot limits:

Width >15' requires 1 escort; height generally not required but can be route-specific.

Superload:

Evaluated by WisDOT when exceeding ~16' W or ~150,000 lbs GVW; axle spacing and bridge analysis required.

Travel restrictions for OD Loads:

Weekend/holiday restrictions in Milwaukee/Racine corridor. Overweight-only may travel 24/7. Spring thaw restrictions apply on Class 2 roads (Mar–May).

Google Pryor & Stillwater Expansion (OK)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 13'6", semi-trailer length 53'; legal gross 80,000 lbs.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

ODOT OS/OW permits; signage/lighting standards must be met.

Pilot Limits:

Length >80' (2-lane) = 1 escort; >100' (2-lane) = 2 escorts. Width >12' = 1 escort; >14' (2-lane) or >16' (multi-lane) = 2 escorts. Height >15'-8" = 2 escorts. Utilities and railroads must be notified by permit holder.

Superload:

Case-by-case ODOT route/structure analysis; >110' L, >16' W, or >151,000 lbs typically triggers.

Travel Restrictions for OD Loads:

Daylight only; interstate curfews in Tulsa, OKC, Cleveland counties (7–9 a.m., 3:30–6:30 p.m. weekdays). Overweight-only may move continuously.



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AWS (New Albany / Columbus, OH)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 13'6", length 53'; legal gross 80,000 lbs.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

ODOT Special Hauling Permits govern OS/OW moves.

Pilot limits:

Length >90' = 1 escort. Width >13' = 1 escort; >14'-6" = 2 escorts; >16' = police escort. Height >14'-6" = 1 escort; >14'-10" = 2 escorts. Over 13' wide and >120,000 lbs GVW = police escort. Moves >14'-10" require utility/overhead clearance coordination. Moves >15'-6" are not permitted. If two dimensions trigger, 2 escorts required.

Superload:

Case-by-case ODOT review of routing, axle spacing, and utility coordination.

Travel restrictions for OD Loads:

Daylight only. County curfews (6:30–9 a.m., 4:30–6 p.m. weekdays). Weekend/holiday limits apply.

Virginia (Interstate Highways)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 13'6", length 53', weight 80,000 lbs GVW.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

VDOT OS/OW permits cover routine oversize moves; annual blanket permits available for certain commodities.

Pilot Limits:

Length >120' = 1 escort; >150' = 2 escorts. Overhang >10' front or >15' rear = 1 escort. Width >12' = 1 escort; >14' = 2 escorts; >16' = 3 escorts; >18' = case-by-case. Height >14'-5" = 1 high-pole escort.

Superload:

Loads exceeding ~150' L, 18' W, or 14'-5" H may be classified as superloads, requiring engineering review.

Travel Restrictions for OD Loads:

Sunrise–sunset only; no weekend or holiday travel. Northern Virginia interstate corridors (I-95/I-495/I-66) restricted during rush hours (6:30–9 a.m., 3:30–6 p.m. weekdays).



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Virginia (2-Lane Highways)

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 13'6", length 53', weight 80,000 lbs GVW.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

VDOT OS/OW permits apply; stricter escort requirements on two-lane roads.

Pilot limits:

Length >85' = 1 escort; >150' = 2 escorts. Overhang >10' front or >15' rear = 1 escort. Width >12' = 2 escorts; >14' = 3 escorts; >16' = 4 escorts; >18' = case-by-case. Height >14'-5" = 1 high-pole escort.

Superload:

Loads exceeding ~150' L, 16'+ W, or 14'-5" H may be classified as superloads, requiring route/engineering review.

Travel restrictions for OD Loads:

Sunrise-sunset only. No weekend/holiday travel. Rural 2-lane routes may impose additional restrictions or detours.

Hyperscale Example: Phoenix / Mesa, Arizona

Legal Cargo Limits:

Width 8'6", height 14', length 57'6" (truck-semitrailer), weight 80,000 lbs GVW.

Annual / Routine Permit Limits:

ADOT OS/OW permits cover up to 120' L, 14' W, 16' H, and 250,000 lbs GVW as routine. Loads above these are Class C Superloads.

Pilot Limits:

Length >120' = 1+ escorts. Overhang >20' front/rear = 1 escort. Width >14' = 1+ escort; some restricted routes require 2 escorts at >12' wide (and occasionally >10'). Height >16' requires 1+ high-pole escorts. Police escorts often required once loads approach 15'-16' wide.

Superload:

Exceeds 120' L, 14' W, 16' H, or 250,000 lbs GVW; Class C permit with ADOT engineering review.

Travel Restrictions for OD Loads:

Daylight only for oversize. Overweight-only may move 24/7. Rush-hour curfews apply in Phoenix metro (I-10, I-17, Loop 101/202) 6-9 a.m. & 3:30-6:30 p.m. weekdays; holiday embargoes apply.



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Sources

Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD)
Oversize/Overweight Permit Information & Escort Requirements
<http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov>

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV)
Oversize/Overweight Permits & Superheavy Guidelines
<https://www.txdmv.gov/motor-carriers/oversize-overweight-permits>

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
Oversize/Overweight Permit Program, Escort Requirements, & Spring Thaw Restrictions
<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/com-driv-vehs/mtr-car-trkr/osowpermits/default.aspx>

Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Oversize/Overweight Permits, Escort Requirements, and Routing Information
<https://oklahoma.gov/odot>

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Special Hauling Permits & Escort Requirements
<https://transportation.ohio.gov>

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)
Oversize/Overweight Permits, Class C Superload Guidelines, & Metropolitan Curfews
<https://azdot.gov>

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VDMV)
Oversize/Overweight Permits & Escort Requirements
<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov>

