



Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor
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MAP-21 EMERGENCY DECLARATION PERMIT

AUTHORIZING TRAVEL FOR DIVISIBLE LOADS WITHIN LEGAL LIMITS ON STATE ROADWAYS

Effective: October 26, 2012 and continuing until President Lifts the Emergency Declaration

On October 26, 2012, President Obama signed an Emergency Declaration. Due to this declared declaration, the State Massachusetts – Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be permitting for divisible loads on the State Roadways. Special care needs to be taken when utilizing the Massachusetts Turnpike Roadway – due to the roadway restrictions on size width, and height. This permit does not cover local city and town roadways.

It is the intention of these permitted loads who are responding directly to the relief efforts; that will provide necessary help to the states and individuals who are suffering a hardship due to Hurricane Sandy. By no means does this permit authorize travel of vehicles that are in excess of legal limits as specified in the Federal Highway Administration Guide on Section 1511 – Special Permits During Periods of National Emergency Implementation Guidance – Section A. Program Purpose:

Section 127 of title 23, U.S.C., establishes weight limitations for vehicles operating on the Interstate System. Those maximum weight limitations are as follows: single axle – 20,000 lbs.; tandem axle – 34,000 lbs.; and gross weight – 80,000 lbs. (or the maximum allowed by Federal Bridge Formula). Section 127 states that the overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand pounds, including all enforcement tolerances, except for those vehicles and loads which cannot be easily dismantled or divided and which have been issued Special Permits in accordance with the applicable State laws. This language establishes the State's authority to issue Special Permits to "non-divisible" loads. Examples of non-divisible loads include: bulldozers, large generators, scrapers, and modular homes.

Section 1511 of Map-21 extends the State's authority to issue Special Permits to vehicles with divisible loads that are delivering relief supplies during a Presidentially-declared emergency or major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act") (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).