

WIDER LOGGING TRUCK LOADS WILL SAFELY MEET CONSUMER & INDUSTRY NEEDS



THE ISSUE

State laws limit the width of semi-trucks to 102 inches (8½ feet). For the many reasons below, Minnesota should allow wider loads of raw timber in certain instances.

THE FACTS

- In most cases, 8½ foot truck widths suit the needs of forest products manufacturers in Minnesota. But in a small percentage of situations, wider loads would be helpful. Here's why:
 - Today's homes have taller ceilings. Eight feet used to be the norm, but that isn't the case anymore as consumers want tall ceilings. Sawmills need longer logs to meet consumer demand.
 - Longer widths enable pallet makers to get three pieces of lumber from a longer log, meaning less waste.
- Longer logs can currently be legally hauled only with "bunk" or "crib" trailers, which are heavier. This means the payload of timber is lower, resulting in more truck trips, higher emissions, and greater costs. These bunk crib trailers aren't suitable for all logging systems.
- Wider loads are routine and safe. The state allows wider truck loads in many instances, such as farmers hauling haybales or construction companies hauling equipment. In fact, trucks with haybales are allowed at widths up to 12 feet. We are seeking only 9½ foot width.
- Minnesota DOT General Provisions for Oversize/Overweight Permitted Loads already specify the following safety provisions:
 - Red or orange warning flags, 18" square, are to be displayed at widest parts and ends of load when exceeding 9 feet.
 - Movement is not allowed during hazardous weather or road conditions, or when visibility is less than 500 feet, or when winds prevent the vehicle from staying within its travel lane.
 - The hauling vehicle must be equipped with mirrors that provide the driver a rear view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet.
- Less than 4% of timber truckloads would be wider than the standard 8½ feet. The vast majority of the industry's needs can be met at that current width.

THE REQUEST

To help ensure the forest products industry's continued health and to better meet consumer demand, we're asking the State Legislature to allow logging truck loads to be up to 114" wide. During the 2023 session, please pass:

SF _____ /HF _____. *We thank you for your consideration.*



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